

**CITY OF LONG BEACH
MINUTES OF A MEETING
OF THE COMMON COUNCIL
HELD SEPTEMBER 5, 2023**

A meeting of the City Council of the City of Long Beach was held on Tuesday, September 5, 2023.

Present were Council Pres. Bendo and Council Members, Lester, McInnis, Posterli and Treston.

Corporation Counsel Dennis Cohen and Acting City Manager Ronald Walsh were also present.

Acting City Manager, Ronald J. Walsh, Jr. began his report by commending the Lifeguards, Beach Park Department and Beach Maintenance crew for a job well done for the summer season. He announced that the closing of the boat ramp and dog park would be delayed and alternatives for folks to take their dogs in the meantime was being worked on.

The public hearing was held

PUBLIC HEARING: Resolution Authorizing the City of Long Beach to Renew a Cable Franchise Agreement with Cablevision Systems Long Island Corporation to Operate a Cable System in the City of Long Beach, New York

Ms. Samantha Pardell Jerez, Manager of Government Affairs for Altice gave an overview of the agreement between the City and Cablevision Systems Long Island Corporation.

Council President Bendo noted that this was something that Cable (Altice) and the City renewed every 10 years.

The calendar items were read by the City Clerk

#1 – Resolution Authorizing the City of Long Beach to Renew a Cable Franchise Agreement with Cablevision Systems Long Island Corporation to Operate a Cable System in the City of Long Beach, New York

A hearing was held on this item already.

#2 – Resolution Authorizing the Acting City Manager to Accept a Charitable Donation.

Mr. Walsh noted that a charitable donation from former Assemblyman, Harvey Weisenberg.

Commissioner of Parks and Recreation, Joe Brand added that this donation of \$5,000.00 was donated to the Senior Center and earmarked toward senior programming.

Council Vice President Treston asked if some of the money could be used for the “Friendsgiving” program.

Eileen Hession – noted that the person who approached Mr. Weisenberg which initiated this donation was Ms. Pat McCann, and stated how grateful everyone was to her for asking him for help.

#3 – Resolution Authorizing the Acting City Manager to Enter into a Leasehold Extension Agreement

Acting City Manager Walsh that this lease extension was for the tennis courts.

Council Member Lester asked if the tenants paid any property taxes. He also asked for clarity on the money they owed to the city when they fell behind during COVID. Mr. Lester then asked how much money they received from Personal Protection Equipment and Small Business Administration and if they paid back any money to the city.

Assistant Corporation Counsel, Joseph Lupo responded to all Mr. Lester's questions.

Council Member McInnis noted that she believed the money the tennis courts received was approximately 2.5 million dollars.

A discussion ensued regarding the new lease and the yearly increases that are built into the lease.

#4 – Resolution Authorizing the Acting City Manager to Enter into a Renewal Agreement.

The Acting City Manager explained that this agreement was for Life is Sweet Media, LLC who is the consultant who provides public relations and public outreach for the city. He also noted that they seek out sponsorships for city events.

Council Member Lester asked what the city received in sponsorships last year.

Mr. John McNally, Director of Public Relations noted some of the prior year's sponsorships.

Mr. Walsh added that this was a positive effort to help create relationships with the city for sponsorships moving forward.

Mr. Lester asked who did this work before Life is Sweet.

Mr. McNally replied that some of the Events employees did it in their spare time and another consultant who was receiving 20%.

Eileen Hession – noted that she had never seen the new Consultant and questioned what she does vs. the city's Public Relations Department. She asked for examples of the sponsorships she has received and felt that the city was paying a lot of money when it could be done in-house.

Acting City Manager Walsh explained that the base salary for the consultant was based on the support she gives to the public relations department and not what she brings in with sponsorships. He added that Ms. Sweet was responsible for many of the positive articles that have been published about the city throughout the year.

Mr. McNally spoke about the lack of employees for both the Public Relations Department and the Events Department. He added that in years past, there were more employees dedicated to those departments and that this was a way to help fill that gap without having to hire a full-time person with benefits, therefore saving the city money.

Mr. Walsh added his comments and approval for this agreement.

Council Member Lester asked about the Public Relations Department budget line.

Ms. Inna Reznik, City Comptroller responded to Mr. Lester's questions.

James Hodge (95 E Fulton St) – expressed his opinion on the need for a strong and skilled Public Relations department and the importance of bringing in more funding to the city.

#5 – Resolution Authorizing Annual Allocation of Community Development Funds for the 49th Program Year

Mr. Walsh noted that this was the 49th year for the Community Development Block Grant funding which was submitted in March and was approved by the county for \$330,000.00. He added that this was more than the city received last year.

Council Member Posterli asked for an explanation on the Transit-Oriented Development project.

Ms. Patti Bourne, Director of Economic Development gave an overview of the Transit-Oriented Development Project and noted that for a number of years, the County has focused their funding around downtowns and transit-oriented development is the idea that allows people to walk or bike to get to where they need to go more safely.

Council Member Lester asked about how the funding is requested.

Ms. Bourne explained how the process and procedure works.

A discussion ensued regarding the CDBG funding and how it was broken down and what it can be used for.

Eileen Hession – asked for clarity on where and what the funding would be allocated for. .

Ms. Bourne replied to Ms. Hession's questions.

James Hodge (95 E Fulton St) – Expressed his concern that a certain percentage of funding is supposed to be allocated to low to moderate income people.

Crystal Lake – agreed with Mr. Hodge and spoke about the prior years' CDBG funding and questioned how the requests for funding was being made.

Council Member Lester added that he did not see how transit-oriented development fulfilled the needs for the people that need the money. He noted the crosswalk that was put in place did not quite fit the criteria.

Mr. Walsh explained that the crosswalk fell within the guidelines of the CDBG for public good that provided safe crossing for people who walk across there and who are primarily people living in the North Park area.

Ms. Bourne added that due to prior years neglecting to spend the money properly, the city received less than it did in the past. She noted that the County recognizes that the city is doing better so they increased the funding for this year. Ms. Bourne also added that some of the programs will be funded towards housing and the homelessness within the city.

The Acting City Manager also added that some of the money comes from donations made to the police department to help supplement these types of programs.

Council Member McInnis asked for a work session to be held on Community Development Block Grant funding since she believes there is a disconnect on where the money needs to be allocated.

Council Member Posterli agreed with Ms. McInnis.

#6 – Resolution Authorizing Budget Amendment to the Capital Projects Fund Budget.

Commissioner of Public Works, Joe Febrizio gave the reason and explanation for the amendment. He also noted that moving forward, he and Ms. Reznik would be showing the council the reimbursements that get reimbursed to the city.

#7 – Resolution Authorizing Budget Amendment to the Capital Projects Fund Budget.

Mr. Febrizio explained that this amendment reflected receipt of a recent reimbursement in the amount of \$1,104,653.96 from FEMA and again noted that the council would be seeing future resolutions showing that the city requested reimbursement and how much money was received.

#8 – Resolution Authorizing the Acting City Manager to Retain Residential Fencing Corporation to Rehabilitate Fencing at Pacific Boulevard Playground

Commissioner Febrizio gave an extensive explanation and purpose for this resolution and asked for council approval.

Council Member Lester asked about the portion of the grant that came in for the playground.

Mr. Febrizio responded to Mr. Lester's question.

#9 – Resolution. Authorizing the Acting City Manager to Enter into an Agreement for the Rehabilitation of Pacific Boulevard Playground with the Lowest Responsible Bidder

Commissioner Febrizio gave an extensive explanation and purpose for this resolution and asked for council approval.

Council Member Lester asked about what amount New York State Parks was giving the city.

Mr. Febrizio responded to Mr. Lester's question.

#10 – Resolution Authorizing the Acting City Manager to Purchase a Fully Equipped Police Vehicle from the Lowest Responsible Bidder

Acting City Manager Walsh gave the background and reason for the purchasing of the new police vehicle.

Council Member Lester expressed his concern regarding the maintenance and repair of the vehicles.

Mr. Walsh noted that when the police vehicles need to go on to the beach, they are washed down at the end of the day each time.

Tim Kramer – questioned the cost of the vehicle and expressed his concern about all the additions that were going into to the vehicle.

The Acting City Manager explained the cost and reason for additions to the vehicle.

James Hodge (95 E Fulton St) – asked about the possibility of getting the vehicle at a lower cost.

#11 – Resolution Authorizing the Acting City Manager to Increase Amount of a Previously Authorized Purchase

The Acting City Manager noted that this item was for the camera system that was installed around the city and that would allow the city to install the electrical and communications equipment that are needed. He added that these funds were already allocated and there would be no additional cost.

#12 – Resolution to Reschedule the Regular City Council Meeting Scheduled for September 19, 2023 to September 26, 2023

Mr. Walsh asked that the meeting for September 19th be moved to Tuesday, September 26th due to the majority of the administration, including some council members who would be attending the NYCOM (New York Conference of Mayors) on September 19, 2023.

#13 – Approval of Minutes of Prior Meetings of August 15, 2023

Council Pres. Bendo made a motion to approve the minutes. It was seconded by Ms. Treston and was approved by four affirmative votes. Council Member McInnis abstained.

The voting portion of the meeting was then begun.

Council Member Treston introduced and moved the adoption of the following resolution, seconded by Pres. Bendo, and it was duly adopted, all five council members present voting in the affirmative.

(RES. #161/23)

Resolution Authorizing the City of Long Beach to Renew a Cable Franchise Agreement with Cablevision Systems Long Island Corporation to Operate a Cable System in the City of Long Beach, New York

Council Member Treston introduced and moved the adoption of the following resolution, seconded by Ms. Posterli, and it was duly adopted, all five council members present voting in the affirmative.

(RES. #162/23)

Resolution Authorizing the Acting City Manager to Accept a Charitable Donation

Council Pres. Bendo introduced and moved the adoption of the following resolution, seconded by Ms. Treston, and it was duly adopted by four affirmative votes. Council member Lester voted no.

(RES. #163/23)

Resolution Authorizing the Acting City Manager to Enter into a Leasehold Extension Agreement

Council Member Treston introduced and moved the adoption of the following resolution, seconded by Pres. Bendo, and it was duly adopted by four affirmative votes. Council member Lester voted no.

(RES. #164/23)

Resolution Authorizing the Acting City Manager to Enter into a Renewal Agreement

Council Member Posterli introduced and moved the adoption of the following resolution, seconded by Ms. Treston, and it was duly adopted, all five council members present voting in the affirmative.

(RES. #165/23)

Resolution Authorizing Annual Allocation of Community Development Funds for the 49th Program Year

Council Member Ms. Treston introduced and moved the adoption of the following resolution, seconded by Mr. Lester, and it was duly adopted, all five council members present voting in the affirmative.

(RES. #166/23)

Resolution Authorizing Budget Amendment to the Capital Projects Fund Budget

Council Pres. Bendo introduced and moved the adoption of the following resolution, seconded by Ms. Treston, and it was duly adopted, all five council members present voting in the affirmative.

(RES. #167/23)

Resolution Authorizing Budget Amendment to the Capital Projects Fund Budget.

Council Pres. Bendo introduced and moved the adoption of the following resolution, seconded by Ms. Treston, and it was duly adopted, all five council members present voting in the affirmative.

(RES. #168/23)

Resolution Authorizing the Acting City Manager to Retain Residential Fencing Corporation to Rehabilitate Fencing at Pacific Boulevard Playground

Council Member Posterli introduced and moved the adoption of the following resolution, seconded by Pres. Bendo, and it was duly adopted, all five council members present voting in the affirmative.

(RES. #169/22)

Resolution Authorizing the Acting City Manager to Enter into an Agreement for the Rehabilitation of Pacific Boulevard Playground with the Lowest Responsible Bidder

Council Pres. Bendo introduced and moved the adoption of the following resolution, seconded by Ms. Treston, and it was duly adopted, all five council members present voting in the affirmative.

(RES. #170/23)

Resolution Authorizing the Acting City Manager to Purchase a Fully Equipped Police Vehicle from the Lowest Responsible Bidder

Council Member Treston introduced and moved the adoption of the following resolution, seconded by Pres. Bendo, and it was duly adopted, all five council members present voting in the affirmative.

(RES. #171/23)

Resolution Authorizing the Acting City Manager to Increase Amount of a Previously Authorized Purchase

Council Member Treston introduced and moved the adoption of the following resolution, seconded by Ms. Posterli, and it was duly adopted, all five council members present voting in the affirmative.

(RES. #172/23)

Resolution to Reschedule the Regular City Council Meeting Scheduled for September 19, 2023 to September 26, 2023

There being no further business before the Council, Council Member Treston made a motion to close the meeting. It was seconded by Mr. Lester and was duly closed, all five council members present voting in the affirmative.

Dated: September 6, 2023

David W. Fraser
City Clerk

Good and Welfare

Brian Dombrowski – 240 E Market St	Spoke about the dog park, and pedestrian safety related to the timing of traffic lights and crossing
Jim Kirklin – 164 Riverside Blvd	Spoke about conditions at the train station and the condition of sidewalks in the business district
Jennifer Sarafin – 107 Neptune Blvd	Spoke about the Wind Farm project
James Hodge – 95 E Fulton St	Spoke about pedestrian safety and conditions at the train station
Tim Kramer – 361 E Broadway	Spoke about the recent settlement with Jay Gusler and the increase in sea life mammal deaths
Christina Kramer – 361 E Broadway	Spoke about the Wind Farm project
Rob Catell	Spoke about corporate sponsorships, LED street lights, Mobi-Mats on the beach and bike lanes on the boardwalk
Kelly Martinson – 311 E Penn St	Spoke about the Wind Farm project