

**CITY OF LONG BEACH
MINUTES OF A MEETING
OF THE COMMON COUNCIL
HELD OCTOBER 15, 2024**

A meeting of the City Council of the City of Long Beach was held on Tuesday October 15, 2024.

Present were Council Pres. Finn and Council Members Bendo, Fiumara, Lester, and Reinhart.

Asst. Corporation Counsel Steven Pambianchi and City Manager Daniel Creighton were also present.

City Manager, Daniel Creighton began his City Manager's report by thanking the residents and religious leaders for attending two (2) separate October 7th remembrances and noted how important it was for communities to come together and stand up against hatred. He also added that Irish Day and the Fall festival were both successful and thanked all the city employees including CSEA, Police and Fire Departments for helping to make these events possible for the community. Mr. Creighton also reminded folks that with Halloween approaching, the city would be once again holding its Halloween House decorating contest. He added that the "Walks" water main replacement project was proceeding well. Mr. Creighton announced that in an effort help folks remove their boats for the winter, the boat ramp located at National Blvd. has re-opened temporarily through the end of October beginning of November. He concluded by commending the Long Beach Girl Scouts who are doing a gift card drive for those who have been impacted by Hurricane Helene in rural North Carolina.

The public hearing was held

PUBLIC HEARING: Ordinance to Amend the Code of Ordinances of the City of Long Beach
Re: Emergency Ambulance Services

Mr. Creighton explained that this amendment would increase the billing rate for ambulance services. He noted that rates had not been increased since 2018 in spite of the increased cost of gasoline, medical supplies and salaries.

Eileen Hession – asked for clarity on the billing and services provided in a portion of the amendment.

Commissioner Scott Kemins explained how the billing process works in accordance with treatments provided.

Sam Pinto – asked for clarity on the billing structure.

Council Member Lester asked about the need to possibly add additional language in the resolution regarding the billing structure.

Commissioner Kemins explained that it would not be necessary and explained why.

The calendar items were read by the City Clerk

#1 – Ordinance to Amend the Code of Ordinances of the City of Long Beach Re: Emergency Ambulance Services

A hearing had been held on this item already.

Editor's Note: Item #11 was called out of order after item #1

#11 – Resolution Authorizing the City Manager to Amend the Agreement for Design and Engineering Services for the Northshore Critical Infrastructure Protection Project.

The City Manager explained that this resolution would amend the design and engineering services for the Northshore Critical Infrastructure. He then invited the representatives from D&B and the Department of Public Works to give a brief update on the project.

Mr. Russel Darress, Acting Public Works Commissioner invited the representatives from D&B to give a brief overview of the status of the project.

Mr. Tom Schaefer from D&B Engineers and Architects began the presentation and update on the project.

Council Member Lester asked several questions regarding the project that included the hydrodynamic separator installation; the height of the bulkhead; the cost overruns and changes.

All Mr. Lester's questions were addressed.

Council Member Bendo asked how the additional costs would be paid and if there would be any reimbursement.

City Comptroller, Inna Reznick responded to Mr. Bendo's questions.

Council Member Reinhart asked for clarity on one of the slides that spoke about the LIRR outage first quarter 2025. He noted the importance of advance notice for the many residents that depend on the LIRR.

Mr. Schaefer responded to Mr. Reinhart's question and assured him that there would be enough notice.

Council President Finn asked about the timeframe involved in the LIRR outage.

Mr. Creighton replied that he believed it would be February 2025.

Mr. Schaefer agreed.

Council Vice President Fiumara asked about how long the LIRR would be shut down for and asked about D&B's previous experience with problems that may occur with this type of project.

Mr. Schaefer responded that it would be shut down for one weekend and noted that they will be in full contact with the LIRR and provide any support that will be necessary.

A discussion and Q&A continued regarding the project.

Eileen Hession – asked if this project was in place while Commissioner Joe Febrizio was head of the Department of Public Works and asked for clarity on the legal / lawsuit approach that would be taking place.

Mr. Darress and Mr. Creighton responded to Ms. Hession's questions.

Crystal Lake – thanked everyone who was part of this project and spoke about her experience and involvement with the project. She expressed her concern about the possibility of more redesigns down the road and asked for the council's support.

Russell Blank – expressed his concern regarding a potential storm that could delay the project.

#2 – Resolution Authorizing Transfer of Funds for the 2024-2025 Fiscal Year

The City Manager explained that this item would move funds from the Transportation Department to cover the cost associated with updating the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation State Pollution Discharge Elimination System (SPDES) permit for stormwater discharge.

Council Member Bendo asked what the permit allowed the city garage to do.

Mr. Darress replied that it would allow the garage to discharge stormwater into the city's stormwater system.

Eileen Hession – asked about the transfer of funds.

Mr. Creighton responded to Ms. Hession's question.

Council Vice President Fiumara asked the City Comptroller to explain the transfer of funds process.

Ms. Reznik responded to Mr. Fiumara's request and described the process.

#3 – Resolution Authorizing Transfer of Funds for the 2024-2025 Fiscal Year

The City Manager explained that the transfer of these funds would cover an additional part time clerical employee for the Fire Department.

Council Member Lester asked about the hours for this new position.

Mr. Creighton replied he believed it would be 8 hours per week.

Council Member Bendo asked if there was a time limit on how long this person would be employed.

The City Manager replied that he expected this position to be temporary.

Commissioner Kemins spoke about the need for the clerical position due to the increase in paperwork.

Sam Pinto – asked several questions regarding the new clerical position.

A discussion continued regarding the paperwork in question.

Council Member Bendo made a motion to table this item. It was seconded by Mr. Lester and was carried by four affirmative votes. Council Pres. Finn voted no.

#4 – Resolution Authorizing the City Manager to Accept a Grant for the Development of a Roadway Safety Action Plan

The City Manager explained that this item allowed the city to accept a grant to develop a roadway safety action plan which is required to apply for further Grants to resolve issues with roadways that are prone to accidents.

Director of Economic Development, Patti Bourne explained the funding process.

Council Member Reinhart noted that this was one of the pre-requisites for applying for future grants.

Council Member Bendo commended Ms. Bourne and the Director of Community Development, Tyler Huffman for bringing in the grants. He then asked several questions regarding the plan.

Ms. Bourne replied to Mr. Bendo's questions.

Council President Finn also commended Ms. Bourne and Mr. Huffman on their efforts in bringing in the grants.

Eileen Hession – asked for clarity on some of the language in the resolution and asked who was responsible for getting the grant.

Ms. Bourne responded to Ms. Hession's question.

#5 – Resolution Authorizing the City Manager to Accept a Grant for the Purchase and Planting of Trees

The City Manager explained that these trees will be planted in the North Park area.

Mr. Bendo asked how many trees this grant would fund and if the community would have input as to where the trees would be placed.

Mr. Huffman thought it might be a few hundred and explained the breakdown of the funding. He added that there could be a future discussion regarding where the trees will go.

A discussion continued regarding the maintenance of the trees.

Linda Giles – expressed her concern regarding the dead trees throughout the city and felt that the wrong trees were planted in Long Beach. She suggested getting trees that can survive in a salt air environment.

Mr. Darress replied that the city did have a tree planting plan that was put together about 10 years ago.

Ms. Giles also noted that it would be nice if some of the new trees could replace some of the dead trees.

Christina Kramer – informed the council that there are 2 or 3 tree specialists on the Environmental Advisory Board and perhaps it would benefit the city to reach out to them.

Jim Kirkin – suggested that the city reach out to the Cornell Cooperative for advice on what type of trees should be planted in the city and how to maintain them.

David Eldrige (Roosevelt Blvd) – suggested looking at the trees along East Park Avenue starting at Roosevelt Blvd. that are growing beautifully as an option for purchasing new trees.

Sam Pinto – expressed concern about the tree in front of his home that is growing in a bad way that could possibly affect the water and gas lines and should avoid these types of trees in the future.

Council Vice President Fiumara shared his personal experience with the trees that were planted after Superstorm Sandy. He added that it would be a good idea to put together a committee or panel that could research what type of trees would do best in this environment.

Crystal Lake – noted that the trees that were replaced after the reconstruction on East Market Street are dying and would like the council to consider replacing the dead trees on East Market Street.

Mr. Darress noted that since that project was constructed by a contractor and those trees are under a one-year warranty, he could have the company come out and take a look at them during the Spring season.

#6 – Resolution Authorizing the City Manager to Accept a Grant for the Rehabilitation and/or Replacement of the City's Drinking Water Sand Filtration Tanks Located at the Water Purification Plant

Mr. Creighton explained that the existing sand filters were approximately 35 years old and expressed the importance of this project for water quality. He noted that this would cover 2 filters.

Council Member Lester asked for clarification on the water filter process.

Council Member Bendo asked about the grant agreement.

Mr. Huffman explained what the agreement covered.

Council Member Reinhart asked about when the city could apply for future grants to replace all the other filters.

David Eldrige (Roosevelt Blvd) – asked about the type of system that would be used and how often would the flushing take place. He also expressed his concern regarding the rust that shows up in the water.

Mr. Darress and Mr. Creighton responded to Mr. Eldrige's questions.

Christina Kramer – asked about the process of the filtration system.

The City Manager and Mr. Darress responded to Ms. Kramer's questions.

Crystal Lake – asked about the Lloyd Aquifer recharge and the filtration system.

Mr. Darress responded to Ms. Lake's questions.

#7 – Resolution Authorizing the City Manager to Accept a Grant for the Replacement of Outdoor Lighting Fixtures from the United States Department of Energy

Mr. Creighton explained that most of the lights would be replaced in the area of the Ice Arena, Purification Plan and other areas, changing the existing lighting system to LED that are much less expensive to operate and better for the environment.

#8 – Resolution Authorizing the City Manager to Accept a Grant for the Replacement of Outdoor Lighting Fixtures from the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority and Authorizing Budget Amendment to the General Fund Budget

The City Manager noted that this item was the same as Item #7 but from a different grant program.

#9 – Resolution Authorizing the City Manager to Renew Barracuda Email Protection and Backup Cloud Services Software.

Mr. Creighton explained that the city was happy with the Barracuda Email Protection and Backup Cloud Services Software and noted that it was better priced than other services.

Council Member Lester asked about the total cost for all email protection services used by the city.

Mr. Al Perez, Director of Information Technology replied that he did not have that information available at the moment but would get that information to the Council.

#10 – Resolution Amending Resolution No. 114/24

The City Manager explained that this item would amend a previous resolution that would change the contract for the Pro-Shop for the Ice Arena from one year to two years and changes a personal guarantee to a corporate guarantee.

Council Member Lester questioned the revision of the contract.

Mr. Creighton explained the reason and purpose for the revision to the contract.

Commissioner of Parks and Recreation, Joe Brand added that the Pro shop was just getting started and noted that in the original RFP it indicated it was for a two-year commitment and not a one-year contract.

Council President Finn noted the importance of having a good Pro-shop at the Ice Arena.

Mr. Creighton noted that the city should honor what was in the RFP (Request for Proposal).

Council Member Reinhart added that the Pro-Shop was a very important part of the Ice Arena especially for the Hockey Players who would need their skates sharpened. Without the Pro-shop, the hockey folks would need to go out of town every time they need their skates sharpened. He also noted that the Vendor is well known and is making improvement to the area.

Council Vice President Fiumara asked if the occupant would be making any type of improvements to the area.

Commissioner Brand replied to Mr. Fiumara's question adding that this was an amenity that is very much needed and appreciated.

Council Member Bendo asked about the legal obligation from the City regarding the original vote taken for this item.

Assistant Corporation Counsel, Steven Pambianchi replied that it was the reason for this amendment.

A discussion continued regarding this resolution.

#12 – Resolution Authorizing the City Manager to Enter into an Agreement for Strategic Consulting Services.

Mr. Creighton noted that this item would allow the city to enter into an agreement with CMA for Strategic Consulting Services to assist in selling the city's debt.

Council Member Bendo questioned some of the language in the agreement.

City Comptroller, Inna Reznik replied to Mr. Bendo's questions.

A discussion continued regarding the duties of the council regarding contracts.

Eileen Hession –

Council Member Bendo made a motion to remove the wording “and subject to such other terms and conditions as the City Manager shall deem proper” from the RESOLVED clause. It was seconded by Mr. Lester and failed with only two affirmative votes. Council Members Fiumara, Reinhart and Pres. Finn voted No.

#13 – Resolution to Reschedule the Regular Council Meeting Scheduled for November 5, 2024 to November 6, 2024

#14 – A “Resolution Authorizing Publication for Hearing of a Local Law Amending the Charter of the City of Long Beach Re: Financial and Ethical Disclosure” was taken off the calendar

#15 – Approval of Minutes of Prior Meeting of October 1, 2024

Council Member Fiumara made a motion to approve the minutes. It was seconded by Mr. Reinhart and was carried unanimously.

The voting portion of the meeting was then begun.

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

(ORD. #3096/24)

Ordinance to Amend the Code of Ordinances of the City of Long Beach Re: Emergency Ambulance Services

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

(RES. #154/24)

Resolution Authorizing Transfer of Funds for the 2024-2025 Fiscal Year

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

(RES. #155/24)

Resolution Authorizing the City Manager to Accept a Grant for the Development of a Roadway Safety Action Plan

Council Member Bendo 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. #156/24)

Resolution Authorizing the City Manager to Accept a Grant for the Purchase and Planting of Trees

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

(RES. #157/24)

Resolution Authorizing the City Manager to Accept a Grant for the Rehabilitation and/or Replacement of the City's Drinking Water Sand Filtration Tanks Located at the Water Purification Plant

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

(RES. #158/24)

Resolution Authorizing the City Manager to Accept a Grant for the Replacement of Outdoor Lighting Fixtures from the United States Department of Energy

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

(RES. #159/24)

Resolution Authorizing the City Manager to Accept a Grant for the Replacement of Outdoor Lighting Fixtures from the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority and Authorizing Budget Amendment to the General Fund Budget.

Council Pres. Finn introduced and moved the adoption of the following resolution, seconded by Mr. Reinhart, and it was duly adopted by four affirmative votes. Council Member Lester voted No.

(RES. #160/24)

Resolution Authorizing the City Manager to Renew Barracuda Email Protection and Backup Cloud Services Software

Council Member Reinhart introduced and moved the adoption of the following resolution, seconded by Mr. Fiumara, and it was duly adopted by four affirmative votes. Council Member Lester voted No.

(RES. #161/24)

Resolution Amending Resolution No. 114/24

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

(RES. #162/24)

Resolution Authorizing the City Manager to Amend the Agreement for Design and Engineering Services for the Northshore Critical Infrastructure Protection Project

Council Member Reinhart introduced and moved the adoption of the following resolution, seconded by Mr. Fiumara, and it was duly adopted by three affirmative votes. Council Members Bendo and Lester voted No.

(RES. #163/24)

Resolution Authorizing the City Manager to Enter into an Agreement for Strategic Consulting Services

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

(RES. #164/24)

Resolution to Reschedule the Regular Council Meeting Scheduled for November 5, 2024 to November 6, 2024.

There being no further business before the Council, Council Member Reinhart 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: October 16, 2024

David W. Fraser
City Clerk

Good and Welfare

Ron Paganini – 62 Harmon St	Spoke about the Housing Authority
Eileen Hession – 516 W Beech St	Spoke about work sessions, increases in water bills and tax bills
David Eldridge – 308 Roosevelt Blvd	Spoke about the proposed off shore wind farm
Carin Riskin	Spoke about the proposed off shore wind farm
Kelly Martinsen – 311 E Penn St	Spoke about grants and the proposed off shore wind farm
Christina Kramer	Spoke about the proposed off shore wind farm and starting a civic association in the east end
Wanda Brooks	Asked about a speed bump on E Hudson St and about training for the Zoning board
Crystal Lake – 206 E Market St	Spoke about grants and the proposed off shore wind farm
Russell Blank – 96 Wisconsin St	Spoke about painting curb aprons
Kathleen O’Leary	Spoke about security at City Council meetings