

| Name | GOOD AND WELFARE QUESTIONS - June 16, 2020 | ANSWERS |
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| Eric Fox | <p>Please repave our street. City records indicate that our block has not been repaved since BEFORE 1986. We have numerous issues including flooding, major potholes, and an overall dilapidated surface of our street. Add speed bumps to our street to deter speeding as our block is the first left you can make coming into the West End while heading West.</p> <p>Devise a plan that upholds the city law and STOP Large Box/Tractor-Trailer commercial vehicles from using Pennsylvania Avenue as a thoroughfare.</p> <p>MANY residents have reached out to the City manager, City Hall, and the Long Beach Police Department to help us in resolving this issue. The city council has received at least a dozen letters from the following people: Karen and Leeman Adams, Teri Baker, Suzanne Katz, Eric Fox, Robert Knoop, and Brendan Sullivan, possibly more. In addition, over 75% of our block signed the petition in favor of speed bumps.</p> <p>We are asking that the above issues are RESOLVED as quickly as possible in order to have a safe, clean, street with speed bumps to deter speeding and a block that is free from commercial trucks vehicles.</p> <p>Your cooperation in attending to this matter is vital to the safety and quality of life of our residents both young and old and we greatly appreciate your assistance in this matter.</p> <p>We look forward to hearing from you!</p> <p>Eric Fox</p> | <p>Per our discussions with Mr. Fox, National Grid will be replacing their main on Pennsylvania Ave. early in 2021 and will repave the street at that time. LBPD has also stepped up enforcement with respect to truck traffic on the block and is working to alert GPS systems that trucks are not permitted on that stretch of West Park Avenue or the Avenues except for local (that particular street) delivery.</p> |
| Albert Albuquerque | <p>As a resident, I am asking why the city manager and the city council are filtering certain questions at city council meetings, while asking others, as I have asked questions that have gone unanswered while politically favorable questions were read and addressed. That violates my first amendment rights.</p> <p>I read online that the reason you eliminated youth and family services was because of the New York State FRB report. However, that same report also strongly advocated for the elimination of the paid fire department. In the q&a that appears online, you state you are negotiating with the fire union.</p> <p>Why didn't you lay off the department and then negotiate the way you did with Youth and Family Services. Speculation online is rampant that members of the paid fire department are safe because of their close relationships with members of the council, which included holding fundraisers and rebuilding Liz Treston's house for free. Can you please expel these rumors and let us know that you are actually cutting the paid fire department and not just having John McNally collude with Union president Sam Pinto on phony concessions as Jay Gusler bragged about months back at Billy's Beach Cafe prior to McNally even being hired.</p> | <p>Good and Welfare is an opportunity for Council members to give and receive suggestions/comments for improvement and/or compliments concerning City of Long Beach operations (e.g. guest speakers, acknowledgments, upcoming events, community organization/resident updates on community activities, public work project suggestions, etc.).</p> <p>Any ideas for new business that come from this segment (i.e. public works projects, commitment to participate in community events/outreach, etc.) would normally be evaluated and brought up at another meeting.</p> <p>The City Council reserves the absolute right to reject and not respond to questions, comments, concerns, etc. that do not fall under this generally accepted definition of Good & Welfare.</p> |

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| <p>Lisa Santinos</p> | <p><u>Good evening President Bendo,</u></p> <p><u>Now that Charlie Rubin is out of the running due to his NYPD disability pension, have you determined who will be the new police commissioner?</u></p> <p><u>Lisa Santinos</u> <u>West Olive St.</u></p> <p><u>PS</u></p> <p><u>You said last meeting's good and welfare q&a would be posted on the city website but it never was - doesn't that violate the city charter?</u></p> | <p>As has been stated in response to your previous questions on this subject, the interview process for a new Police Commissioner will commence shortly. Q&A from prior meetings are posted on the City's website before the subsequent meeting.</p> |
| <p>Ellen Bloom</p> | <p><u>I am thrilled with LB's response to COVID-19. You swiftly and effectively took important steps early on in the pandemic to mitigate the spread. However, as we move forward to re-open it is clear that many many residents are NOT consistently adhering to Continuing to Wear Masks. We can agree that we are fortunate to have wide open spaces however people MUST continue to wear masks - I pass people on the street, walking on the boardwalk, going on and off at booths and I'm distressed that not only are the masks not on- they're not even hanging around their necks.</u></p> <p><u>Please address these concerns- and ways/how our city can avoid a significant increase in Covid positive cases. Clearly, if we do not enforce adherence to the CDC guidelines and our Governor's direction, the result will be an increase in cases and a setback in reopening.</u></p> | <p>The Governor's Executive Order states that facial coverings must be worn when social distancing (maintaining a distance of six feet) is not possible. Our Police and Summer Specials are enforcing this to the best of their abilities.</p> |
| <p>Danielle Hallas</p> | <p><u>As noted on your Facebook post, assuming that Playgrounds will be on the table for the City Council meeting tonight. As a parent of 2 special needs children it has been disheartening to see how quickly Nassau County and 67 other playgrounds have been opened and Long Beach not only has not opened but has poorly been able to communicate a plan or estimated timeline. The people who answer the parks and rec phones should be better messaged to a community who has been on lockdown; we are used to being last in mind (the special needs community), and unfortunately in times like this the extra communication is more necessary. It is quite hard to work full time, have no childcare, schools, programs or respite help and then drive to another town when we have an easy to access/fairly easy to maintain Playground like Magnolia.</u></p> <p><u>Thanks for your attention to this matter.</u></p> | <p>Playgrounds were re-opened Friday, June 19th. Safety plans are currently being developed to enable the splash park portions of our playgrounds to begin functioning soon.</p> |

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| <p>Robert Saminsky</p> | <p><u>QUESTION #1: In that New York State Governor Andrew M. Cuomo has ordered a review and appropriate changes in ALL Police Departments across New York State, when will you set up a “committee” or “group” to study, review and propose appropriate changes in the City of Long Beach, New York’s Police Department?</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>How will you select the regular citizens to be apart of the “committee” or “group”?</u> <p><u>QUESTION #2: Will you consent to transfer funds from the “Budget of the City of Long Beach, New York’s Police Department” to help fund or better fund programs for our trouble youth and young people?</u></p> | <p>The City will work with the Police Department to make sure we comply with the State legislation, including setting up a committee to help review policies and propose changes. The process for selecting that committee has not yet been decided. It is too early to know what changes will be recommended and/or implemented. We will take your budget suggestion under advisement.</p> |
| <p>Robin Donovan</p> | <p>.Question #1: Please give us a brief report on what EFFORTS you have AFFIRMATIVELY taken thus far to recover the overpayments the City of Long Beach has made regarding the “Payments for Unused Leave Accruals” as put forth in the report from the Office of State Comptroller, Thomas P. Napoli? (See "Report Highlights" below.)</p> <p>Question #2 How much money has the City of Long Beach, New York paid to the law firm to date, June 16, 2020, INVESTIGATING such overpayments?</p> | <p>The City’s special counsel, Ingerman Smith, is in the process of investigating and analyzing the payments of monies to certain employees, as initially addressed by the New York State Comptroller’s audits. The City Council, with the assistance of special counsel, intends to pursue any and all claims to seek recoupment of any compensation overpayments and will determine if there exists any individual liability of past and current employees of the City who have authorized said payments or failed to meet their duty to protect the treasury of the City of Long Beach. As both an employer and a governmental entity the City is restricted in a very significant fashion by both state and federal law from revealing certain aspects of the employment history of current and former employees. These restrictions are for the protection of the employee. The City adheres to this responsibility even when faced with community questions and comments demanding information concerning a current or past employee. Each of your Council members take an oath of loyalty to obey the laws of the City, New York State, and most importantly, the Constitution of the United States. The protection of our current and past employee’s reputation and personal employment information is a paramount right protected by law. To date (7/7/2020), the City of Long Beach has paid the law firm investingating this matter \$153,548.76.</p> |
| <p>Karen Cybernet</p> | <p>Can you put the meeting info & link to the corresponding web page in the caption of the YouTube video? Thank you.</p> | <p>We are looking into the potential for doing this.</p> |

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| <p>Marie Brutus</p> | <p>While John McNally and the city council previously stated none of the terminated employees would be brought back, it has been announced that several employees are actually being rehired, this includes Allen Horowitz, Julie Halfon, James Hodge, Jake Jacobi, Marc Shapiro, and perhaps others as well.</p> <p>1) Why are these specific individuals being brought back after it was already determined they were not needed? 2) Since they were removed from the budget, how will you be paying these salaries? 3) Did any of these individuals receive separation pay? 4) If yes, who, and will they have to pay any of it back?</p> <p>This is a budgetary issue, and the information MUST be made public. You are also obligated by law to ask all good and welfare questions -- not just read the ones that don't make you feel uncomfortable.</p> <p>I expect these questions to be asked and answered at tonight's city council meeting. Thank you,</p> <p>Marie Brutus</p> | <p>When the City had to shut down due to Covid-19, 143 temporary workers were furloughed. Also during the budget preparation it was determined that approximately 23 full-time positions would be eliminated in the fiscal year ending June 2021. During the last few weeks, as employees left the city for other opportunities, their vacant positions have been first offered to the individuals who were terminated at the current rate of the position.</p> <p>Temporary workers which are budgeted for are called back to work as the City begins to re-open.</p> <p>All the steps that have been taken will not raise taxes for the upcoming fiscal year/budget that was passed in May 2020.</p> |
| <p>Ed Smith</p> | <p>Aside from informing council what gets transferred, will the comptroller tell the public as well with a detailed list of transfers?</p> <p>It wouldn't be transparent to keep this information from the public and I don't know why you wouldn't just vote on each transfer individually as you're supposed to by law.</p> <p>Ed Smith - 25 year resident</p> | <p>A detailed report of the transfer will be created by July 31st. All financial information is, and will continue to be, posted on the City's website.</p> |
| <p>Roy Lester</p> | <p>Several of us have been asking over the last few meetings about the outstanding foil requests that have not been answered. We were informed that the governor's office put forth an edict that they do not need to be responded to until June 1. Please tell us where we can find that edict because nobody seems to be able to find it. Please also inform us why foil Requests have not been responded to to this point, even though it is well past June 1.</p> <p>The governor has now stated that groups up to 25 people can assemble. Why are we not allowing open meetings with our government officials that can be easily limited to the governors mandate?</p> | <p>Upon the closure of City Hall due to COVID-19, the City was advised by the NYS Committee on Open Government that it was permissible to delay responses to FOI requests, as access to requested information and staffing to process said requests was severely limited. Staff are currently working to process both current and outstanding FOI requests. Governor Cuomo's Executive Order (202.1) allowing for remote meetings was recently extended through August 5, 2020.</p> |