

Name	GOOD AND WELFARE QUESTIONS - July 8, 2020	ANSWERS
Alan Smithee	<p>Dear David Fraser: As you know Good and Welfare is NOT a question and answer session. It is three minutes of uninterrupted time. Given the pandemic, you are obligated by law to READ these statements aloud. Here's my statement that does include questions...</p> <p>Dear City Council: Have the attorneys at Ingerman Smith, namely John Gross (Scott Mandel's former boss), prepared a cost-benefit analysis of suing your alleged political opponents in an effort to clawback drawdowns and payouts of accrued time? As the City's supposed financial watchdogs, have you recognized that filing certain lawsuits against targeted individuals will cost city taxpayers exponentially more than you could ever hope to recover?</p> <p>With the bad publicity you're receiving and will receive for both coordinating and facilitating the obscene 30-year tax break for the Superblock, having John Gross sue a bunch of your political enemies may be Todd's attempt to distract the public and change the news cycle. However, it would probably be wiser for you to identify how much you have spent thus far and how much you will have to continue spending on your political witch hunt.</p> <p>To the public: if Bendo has to spend \$2 million of your hard-earned money with the hopes of clawing back \$500,000, is it worth it? Especially when there's an extreme likelihood Bendo will lose?</p> <p>Why not do your jobs and enact legislation that clarifies the code to prevent these payouts from happening again? Why not take the powers away from the city manager so you can vote on each payout at a council meeting? Why not go after the hundreds of paid firemen and CSEA workers who received these same types of drawdowns and payouts for decades instead of isolating Exempts and maybe some cops?</p> <p>How much have you funneled to Ingerman Smith thus far? The invoices are public information as are all the details of your communication since you waived your attorney-client privilege. The FOIL requests have gone ignored for over six months even though the answers are clearly at your fingertips, but maybe you'll just answer something now? You're obligated to by law.</p> <p>Alan Smithee West Ender since the 50s</p>	<p>Thank you for your comments. As per an answer to a question for the 6.16.2020 G&W questions, Ingerman Smith has been paid approximately \$153,500 as of 7.7.2020.</p>
Marie Brutus	<p>Who's idea was it to schedule the IDA meeting on Tuesday? How long did the city know that would happen? Did they try to stop it?</p> <p>Exactly who moved the council meeting from Tuesday to Wednesday? Who's idea was it to move the meeting, and when did they decide to move it?</p> <p>Since I do not trust that I will get answers this week, I am FOIL requesting all emails to and from the city clerk David Fraser from Monday, June 15, 2020 through today Saturday, July 4, 2020.</p>	<p>The Nassau County IDA scheduled the meeting. The City was informed of this meeting via certified mail on June 29th. Upon learning of this, the City changed the date of its previously scheduled Council meeting to ensure our residents would have an opportunity to participate in both the IDA and Council meeting. Due to a lack of specifics on the proposed abatement, the City requested the IDA delay the hearing, which the IDA agreed to.</p>

<p>Robert Saminsky</p>	<p>Question #1 - At the last meeting, the Long Beach City Council disclosed over \$5 million dollars was owed to the City since 2012. Please explain the sources of this money and when we shall receive the funds. WHY DID WE ONLY DISCOVER THESE FUNDS NOW?</p> <p>Question #2 - Other than referring the issue of excessive separation payments to a law firm to investigate, WHAT OTHER ACTIONS HAVE BEEN TAKEN TO RECOVER THE MONEY? WHY IS IT TAKING SO LONG?</p>	<p>Currently, we are owed approximately \$3.8 million combined from the Federal and State entities. The delay in fund reimbursement is certainly frustrating in as much as all of the requisite paperwork has been submitted for the \$3.8 million on the spreadsheet. Unfortunately, we are at the mercy of the New York State Department of Homeland Security (NYSDHSES) who transmits our documentation to FEMA to obtain the remaining Fed shares (we no longer deal directly with FEMA, NYSDHSES is our liaison). NYSDHSES is also responsible for release of our State share of the funds. Please note we continue to make inquiries regarding the status of payment for the various PW's. We are currently working with NYSDHSES and our Comptroller to resolve. 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.</p>
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Michelle Knox	<p>Question #1 -Of the recent full & part time employees laid off to help with budget shortfalls, what is the total number (& names) of those rehired wheter under different titles, departments and/or salary? Why were they rehired if LB is in even worse financial shape due to in part coronavirus sales tax shortfall? Will more be rehired? Although no one wants to see people lose their job, how is rehiring and once again adding to the already bloated payroll (including benefits) helping the city's financial situation?</p> <p>Question #2 - The Budget of Actuals was supposed to be on the city websire beginning in June. It's Juyly and it is still not showing up. Will it be on the website anytime soon?</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. Monthly personnel reports are posted on the City's website, where you can see specific personnel changes.</p>
Bill Van Vort	<p>Question #1 - For more than 2 years there were 2 storage containers placed at the end of my block, greatly restricting parking, driving sight lines and the character of my community. When appealing to the City, I was told that homeowners could take out a 3 month permit. Clearly, there is little oversight of this very unsightly practice. There are more than enought storage facilities in and around our community. Why is the city allowing the rpactice of placing storage containers on city streets for indefinite lenghts of time and furthermore, not regulating it?</p> <p>Question #2 -To what extent are you prioritizing requiring contributions to health care when negotiating the police/fire contracts? As a public school teacher for more than 20 years, I have always had to contribute to health insurance and have taken zeros many times to help address the financial straits of the community. Contract negotiations int his curent climate demand concessions from all bargaining units, not just the CSEA.</p> <p>Question #3 - Please provide an update on infrastructure projects. Streets are in terrible condition.</p> <p>Question #4 - What is the rationale fo rspending millions of dollars on raising the bulkheads on one side of the canals but not on the other. If we do not have uniform heights on the bulkheads, this flood prevention is a massive waste of money and protects no one. What is the city's plan to address the homeowner portions of the canal bulkheads?</p>	<p>1. There is a 180 day limit for storage containers. Please call the City to let us know the location of the containters in question. 2. We are in discussions with both the Police and Fire Fighter unions about contact negotiations. 3/4. An extensive update on infrastructure projects, including bulkheads, was done at the 7.16.20 City Council working meeting, which is posted on the City's youtube channel.</p>
Robin Donovan	<p>Question #1 - There were two audit reports from OSC is sued to the City of Long Beach in December 2019. Can you please put the "Corrective Action Plans" that the Long Beach City Council submitted to the OSC on the City of Logn Beach Government website?</p> <p>Question #2 - Now that Governor Cuomo extended video conferencing meetings through August, how will you engage the residents of Long Beach to participate in the Town Hall Meeting, Ms. Gayden explained at the last meeting would take place in August to explain the budget and the "Multi-Year Plan?"</p>	<p>We expect a draft of our 5-year plan to be submitted to the Council within the next few weeks. The Governor's extension of his Executive Order regarding open meeting is now set to expire in the first week of August. We are hoping to hold the meeting in late August after the Order expires.</p>

Roy Lester	Why are the good in welfare questions not answered the night of the meeting even though they are put in hours ahead of time? Why are the transcripts of the meetings not given to the public in a timely fashion? The last transcript is from the meeting in the middle of May and it is now almost the middle of July? What is the delay in getting the foil information to the public since almost your entire staff is on the payroll?	There is simply not enough time to get proper answers to all questions, especially when most are submitted mere hours before the meeting. Minutes from each meeting are now being approved by the Council at subsequent meetings and will be available after approval. A significant number of staff were laid off permanently and there is a backlog of FOI requests due to COVID-related staffing restrictions. Staff are working as quickly as possible to fill said requests.
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