

THESE MINUTES ARE NOT OFFICIAL
UNTIL APPROVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL

REGULAR BUDGET MEETING OF THE
CITY COUNCIL
CULVER CITY, CALIFORNIA

May 19, 2020
3:00 p.m.

Call to Order & Roll Call

Mayor Eriksson called the regular budget meeting of the City Council to order at 3:03 p.m. in the Mike Balkman Chambers at City Hall with all Council Members present.

Present: Göran Eriksson, Mayor
Alex Fisch, Vice Mayor
Daniel Lee, Council Member
Meghan Sahli-Wells, Council Member
Thomas Small, Council Member

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Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Eriksson led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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**Community Announcements by City Council Members/Information
Items from Staff**

None.

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CC - COVID-19 Update

Mayor Eriksson invited public comment.

Mimi Ferrel, City Clerk Specialist, read public comment from:

Kelli Estes: requested an explanation for notices sent out by the City indicating that "Safer at Home" would be extended until further notice.

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Joint Public Comment - Items Not on the Agenda

Mayor Eriksson invited public comment.

Mimi Ferrel, City Clerk Specialist, read public comment submitted by:

Alan Myerson: asked that the mosque be allowed to continue sending out their calls to prayer on the loudspeaker during Ramadan.

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Receipt and Filing of Correspondence

MOVED BY COUNCIL MEMBER SAHLI-WELLS, SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER SMALL AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED, THAT THE CITY COUNCIL RECEIVE AND FILE CORRESPONDENCE.

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Order of the Agenda

No changes were made.

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Action Items

Item A-1

CC:HA:PA:FA:SA - Budget Study Session - City Manager's Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year 2020/2021: Presentation of the Proposed Budget for Each City Department by its Respective Department Head

Carol Schwab, City Attorney, discussed the City Attorney's office response to the COVID-19 emergency; impacts to the City Attorney's office; reliance on local government due to delegation by the federal government; proactive actions taken by the City; disaster management training; she provided an overview of the proposed City Attorney's Office budget for

Fiscal Year 2020-2021; discussed the base budget; proposed cuts and reductions; projects in process; and enforcement cases.

Discussion ensued between staff and Council Members regarding use of outside counsel; increased workload for staff; potential delays; appreciation for the dedication of staff; mid-year budget adjustments; increases; technical consultants; collaboration with Los Angeles; the Inglewood Oil Field Study amortization amount; overlap with other departments; and costs for the LAX and oil drilling issues.

Charles Herbertson, Public Works Director, described their response to COVID-19; thanked the Information Technology Department for their support; provided an overview of the proposed budget for the Public Works Department for Fiscal Year 2020-2021; discussed reductions and cost savings; vacant positions; previous funding sources; funding; the General Fund; and Capital Improvement Projects (CIPs).

Discussion ensued between staff and Council Members regarding seeing challenges and opportunities; the China National Sword policy; focusing on Zero Waste; long term challenges; changes in the world market; increased residential waste during the pandemic; creation of a reuse policy; addressing increased use of take-out due to the pandemic; the infeasibility of recycling; reductions to the janitorial budget; making cleaning supplies available for employees to sanitize areas that they use; other cities expediting projects due to reduced traffic; extended construction hours; the Culver Boulevard Storm Water Project; signal upgrades; pedestrian prioritization; consideration by the Mobility, Parking and Traffic Subcommittee; changes to costs for tree services; the Park to Playa Trail; the Enterprise Fund; rate increases; reserves; maintaining financial stability; the Sewer Fund; and smaller, more frequent rate increases.

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Recess/Reconvene

Mayor Eriksson called a brief recess from 5:05 to 5:10 p.m.

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Mayor Eriksson invited public input.

Jeremy Green, City Clerk, reported that no public comment had been received.

Sol Blumenfeld, Community Development Director, provided an overview of their response to COVID-19; discussed the proposed Community Development Department budget for Fiscal Year 2020-2021; cuts; enhancements; work done remotely including permitting, inspection and contract work; the public counter; case management by the Housing Department; the Economic Development Division; the Economic Recovery Task Force; the Advance Planning Division; The General Plan Advisory Committee series; and vacant positions.

Discussion ensued between staff and Council Members regarding appreciation to staff for their efforts; the General Plan Update; access issues; online meetings; ensuring broad participation; reductions to counter staff and plan check; where to place limited resources; the Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU) program; the urgency of rental assistance; the expanded Rental Assistance Program; prioritizing programs; the Parkland Fee Study; concern with deferred maintenance; expediting processes; reducing the carbon footprint; the Speaker Series; enhanced engagement; access; call-in options for meetings; compliance and enforcement; changes to public health guidelines and regulations; different phases of openings; increased Code Enforcement; augmenting the Police Department; rapidly changing requirements; enhancing accessibility for remote meetings; safe distancing; the vacant Code Enforcement position; juggling staff among divisions and departments; evolving regulations, post-pandemic; changed behaviors; disaster preparedness; the need for additional discussion with the City Manager; impacts on development going forward; contract workers doing inspections; expected downturn in plan review and building permits; decreased permit revenue; development cycles; interest rates; focusing on the need to make housing less expensive to build; providing housing for the homeless; improving the process moving forward; concern with a delay to the Reimagine Fox Hills Master Plan; the importance of continued investment in Fox Hills; affordable housing; expenditure of housing funds; Redevelopment projects moving forward; and funding.

Michelle Williams, Chief Information Officer, provided a presentation on the proposed Information Technology Department budget for Fiscal Year 2020-2021; discussed the impacts of COVID-19; telecommuting; the mission and goals of the department; enhancements; filling a gap in service for frontline support; the non-departmental communications account; elimination of payphones; the Spectrum cable agreement; and technology innovation.

Discussion ensued between staff and Council Members regarding appreciation for the work of staff; quantifying enhancements; the change-over to online meetings; benefits to converting positions to hybrid or permanent work at home positions; grants; greenhouse reductions; reductions to Vehicle Miles Travelled; YouTube usage and subscriptions; education and re-enforcement; practices to reduce vulnerability and risks; grants; connecting the school district with fiber; increased teleworking; facilitating fiber for residents; the actions of Santa Monica to provide fiber for affordable housing; equity; breaching the digital divide; video conferencing; fiber asset management; funding the fiber project; length of time to be cash flow positive with the fiber project; fiber as an infrastructure investment; and appreciation for the wisdom of putting funds into fiber.

Serena Wright-Black, Assistant City Manager and Director of Administrative Services, discussed the goals and function of the department; the impact of COVID-19; and she provided an overview of proposed Administrative Services Department budget for Fiscal Year 2020-2021.

Discussion ensued between staff and Council Members regarding election costs; pending information from Los Angeles county; Form 460; employee wellness issues; available services; the Employee Assistance Program; appreciation for the efforts of staff; availability of the Headspace app for free; unaddressed anxiety around the current situation; mindfulness and meditation; appreciation for Cultural Affairs; the importance of equity; passport services; issues with the new voting system; fairness; position of names on the list; work done by Los Angeles county to address issues; lawsuits; distribution of election costs; increased costs due to the number of candidates and measures; reduced funding for cultural events going forward; assets that could be monetized to increase funding for cultural and entertainment events; licensing the rights for the City logo; having an art competition; and careful oversight and control over the City brand.

Onyx Jones, Chief Finance Officer, provided an overview of the Finance Department budget for Fiscal Year 2020-2021; discussed direct deposits; automation; virtual budget meetings; reductions; staffing; COVID expenses; the FEMA grant update; FEMA claims and reimbursements; finance goals and objectives for 2021; training and education; confidentiality agreements; and the importance of maintaining a positive attitude.

Discussion ensued between staff and Council Members regarding appreciation to staff for their efforts; a request that the budget presentation be made available on the City website; tracking the transition to remote working; effects to the bottom line and greenhouse gas reductions; internal controls; transparency; and tools to show how money is allocated and spent.

Jesse Mays, Assistant to the City Manager, provided an overview of proposed budget for the City Manager's Office for Fiscal Year 2020-2021 and he discussed proposed reductions.

Discussion ensued between staff and Council Members regarding appreciation to staff for their efforts; the continually unfolding disaster; ongoing evaluation of ways to save money and make additional budget cuts; appreciation for the preparedness of the City; leading departments through the budget reduction process; a recent Los Angeles Economic Development Corporation comparison of area cities and their response to the pandemic; acknowledgement of the professional work being done by staff; plans by the Los Angeles County Health Department to open Los Angeles county by July 4, 2020; confidence in the prudent management of the City Manager; and appreciation for the warmth, support and leadership of the City Council.

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Public Comment - Items Not on the Agenda

Mayor Eriksson invited public comment.

No cards were received and no speakers came forward.

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Items from Council Members

None.

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Council Member Requests to Agendize Future Items

None.

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Adjournment

There being no further business, at 8:14 p.m., the City Council adjourned the meeting in honor of the work done by staff on the City budget to May 26, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.

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Jeremy Green
CITY CLERK of Culver City, California
EX-OFFICIO CLERK of the City Council
Culver City, California

GÖRAN ERIKSSON
MAYOR of Culver City