

THESE MINUTES ARE NOT OFFICIAL UNTIL APPROVED BY THE
CITY OF CULVER CITY FINANCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

REGULAR MEETING OF THE
CITY OF CULVER CITY
FINANCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
CULVER CITY, CALIFORNIA

April 8, 2026
7:00 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL

Chair Lachman called the regular meeting of the City of Culver City Finance Advisory Committee to order at 7:03 p.m. in the Dan Patacchia Room at City Hall.

Members Present: ANDREW LACHMAN, Chair
ANISSA DI VINCENTE, Member
JOHNNIE GRIFFING, Member
KEITH JONES, Member*
KEVIN LACHOFF, Member
SANTHA RAJIV, Member
VIKRAM THAKUR, Member

*Member Jones arrived at 7:12 p.m.

Absent : LEIGH AUSTIN, Member

Staff Present: Elizabeth Shavelson, Assistant Chief Financial Officer
James Lambert, Associate Analyst

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Pledge of Allegiance

Member Rajiv led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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Public Comment – Items NOT On The Agenda

Chair Lachman invited public comment.

The following members of the public addressed the Committee:

Asha Agarwal and Emalie Ahlstrom indicated being USC students; spoke in support of Culver City funding access to preventative care programs for the unhoused and calling attention to such programs; proposed that the City focus on dedicating funds to appropriate mental health care and case management services for those at risk; and expressed appreciation for being able to speak.

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Receipt and Filing of Correspondence

James Lambert, Associate Analyst, indicated that no correspondence had been received.

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Consent Calendar Items

Item C-1

Approval of the Minutes for the Finance Advisory Committee Meeting of February 11, 2026

MOVED BY MEMBER AUSTIN AND SECONDED BY MEMBER DI VINCENTE THAT THE FINANCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE APPROVE THE MINUTES FOR THE FINANCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING OF FEBRUARY 11, 2026.

THE MOTION CARRIED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: DI VINCENTE, GRIFFING, LACHOFF, LACHMAN, RAJIV, THAKUR
NOES: NONE
ABSENT: AUSTIN, JONES

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Order of the Agenda

No changes were made.

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Action Items

Item A-1

Selection of Vice Chair to Serve a Partial Term, Expiring June 30, 2026

Chair Lachman noted the need for a new Vice Chair as Vice Chair Bauer had resigned due to his concerns with a potential conflict of interest after the law firm where he works was hired by Culver City.

MOVED BY MEMBER GRIFFING AND SECONDED BY MEMBER THAKUR THAT THE FINANCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE APPOINT KEVIN LACHOFF TO SERVE AS VICE CHAIR OF THE FINANCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE THROUGH JUNE 30, 2026.

THE MOTION CARRIED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: DI VINCENTE, GRIFFING, LACHOFF, LACHMAN, RAJIV, THAKUR
NOES: NONE
ABSENT: AUSTIN, JONES

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Item A-2

(1) Review the Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Budget for the Finance Advisory Committee, and (2) Make a Recommendation Regarding the Proposed Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Budget for the Finance Advisory Committee as Appropriate

Discussion ensued between staff and Committee Members regarding cost to produce the annual efficiency awards and the meeting minutes; report generation; donations toward the awards; allocation for the awards vs. the minutes; inflation; the inability of the City to buy gift cards; increasing the budget for inflation; the intent of the City Manager to deliver a balanced budget; the ability for the department to move funds around rather than asking for a budget enhancement; and cost savings when meetings are cancelled.

Member Jones joined the meeting.

MOVED BY MEMBER THAKUR AND SECONDED BY MEMBER GRIFFING THAT THE FINANCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE: RECOMMEND THAT THE BUDGET ALLOCATED FOR THE FINANCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE GOVERNMENT EFFICIENCY AWARDS BE ADJUSTED TO \$1,100.

THE MOTION CARRIED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: DI VINCENTE, GRIFFING, JONES, LACHOFF, LACHMAN, RAJIV,
THAKUR
NOES: NONE
ABSENT: AUSTIN

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Item A-3

Receive Reports for Discussion from the (1) Structural Revenue Review Ad Hoc Subcommittee, (2) Affordable Housing Ad Hoc Subcommittee, (3) Contingency Reserve Ad Hoc Subcommittee, (4) 2026 Government Efficiency Ad Hoc Subcommittee; and (5) Provide Direction to Staff, if Deemed Appropriate

Chair Lachman indicated nothing to report from the Structural Revenue Review Ad Hoc Subcommittee; discussed his intent to meet with the new CFO (Chief Finance Officer); understanding priorities; items that could have been referred to the FAC; items that have come through the FAC; structural revenue changes; usefulness of discussion by the FAC; guidance; and suggestions provided to the City Council.

Discussion ensued between staff and Committee Members regarding lack of a report from the Affordable Housing Ad Hoc Subcommittee.

Vice Chair Lachoff indicated that the Contingency Reserve Ad Hoc Subcommittee had not met.

Member Di Vincente provided a report on the 2026 Government Efficiency Ad Hoc Subcommittee; indicated that the request for submissions would be released soon; noted that the awards were being changed from June to August this year; discussed the intent to purchase the awards before the end of the current fiscal year; and appreciation for the leadership that has kept the program going into year four.

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Discussion of May 13, 2026 Agenda

Discussion ensued between staff and Committee Members regarding upcoming agenda items; a request for a report on Culver City reserves as compared to other cities; updates from the sales consultants; sales tax updates available at the next meeting; an invitation to the City Manager and any new staff who are interested in attending the meeting to introduce themselves and learn about the FAC; and changes in the Executive Team.

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Public Comment – Items NOT on the Agenda (Continued)

Chair Lachman invited public comment.

James Lambert, Associate Analyst, reported that no requests to make comment had been received.

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Items from Committee Members/Staff

Elizabeth Shavelson, Assistant Chief Financial Officer, discussed staffing changes at City Hall; expansion of the Executive Team; department head vacancies; community budget workshops seeking feedback on budget tradeoffs; and the new Chief Financial Officer.

Discussion ensued between staff and Committee Members regarding budget issues; expansion of the new City Manager team; intent behind staffing changes reflected in the staff report that went to the City Council; the long-term plan; the ability to agendize a conversation about staffing changes; understanding how the conversation relates to the FAC work plan; flexibility built in to the work plan to consider various items; engaging in special projects; challenges created by budget and revenue impacts resulting from fluctuating economic conditions; review of budget challenges and inefficiencies for the future; whether the changes were previously planned; staff efforts to deliver a budget by May 11, 2026; requirements of the City Charter; the budget process; final adoption planned for June 8; the new budget process; the proposed Joint Powers Authority (JPA); the Strategic Planning Session held on February 14; the planned World Café style discussion; providing an opportunity for questions and answers rather than a walk through; meeting attendance; the civic assembly process to engage 30 individuals in a budget discussion handled by a consultant; and plans of the new CFO to attend the next FAC meeting.

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Adjournment

There being no further business, at 7:39 p.m., the City of Culver City Finance Advisory Committee adjourned their meeting to a regular meeting to be held on May 13, 2026.

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James Lambert
SECRETARY of the Culver City Finance Advisory Committee
Culver City, California

APPROVED

Andrew Lachman
CHAIR of the Finance Advisory Committee, Culver City, California

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that, on the date below written, these minutes were filed in the Office of the City Clerk, Culver City, California and constitute the Official Minutes of said meeting.

Jeremy Bocchino
CITY CLERK

Date