Minutes
City of Redondo Beach – Regular Meeting
Budget & Finance Commission
Thursday, June 11, 2026

REGULAR MEETING OF THE BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMISSION – 6:30 P.M.

A. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

A Regular Meeting of the Redondo Beach Budget and Finance Commission was called to order at 6:31 p.m. by Chair Woodham, in the City Hall Council Chambers, 415 Diamond Street, Redondo Beach, California.

B. ROLL CALL

Commissioners Present:	Marin, Jeste, Allen, Sherbin, Turner, Chair Woodham
Commissioners Absent:	Ramcharan
Officials Present:	Stephanie Meyer, Finance Director Jacob Kamsvaag, Administrative Analyst/Liaison

C. SALUTE TO THE FLAG

Chair Woodham led in the salute to the flag.

D. APPROVE ORDER OF AGENDA

Motion by Commissioner Allen, seconded by Commissioner Sherbin, to approve the order of the agenda as presented.

Motion carried 6-0-1 by voice vote. Commissioner Ramcharan was absent.

E. BLUE FOLDER ITEMS - ADDITIONAL BACK UP MATERIALS

E.1. For Blue Folder Documents Approved at the Budget and Finance Commission Meeting

Chair Woodham reported there was one Blue Folder Item, which were the minutes.

Motion by Commissioner Allen, seconded by Commissioner Turner, to accept and file the Blue Folder Item.

Motion carried 6-0-1 by voice vote. Commissioner Ramcharan was absent.

F. CONSENT CALENDAR

F.1. APPROVAL OF AFFIDAVIT OF POSTING FOR THE REGULAR BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMISSION MEETING OF JUNE 11, 2026

F.2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMISSION OF MAY 26, 2026

Motion by Commissioner Allen, seconded by Commissioner Jeste, to approve the Consent Calendar as written.

Motion carried 6-0-1 by voice vote. Commissioner Ramcharan was absent.

G. EXCLUDED CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS - None

H. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

H.1. For eComments and Emails Received from the Public

Liaison Kamsvaag reported no one online and no eComments.

I. ITEMS CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS AGENDAS - None

J. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION PRIOR TO ACTION

J.1. ITEMS CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS AGENDAS ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION PRIOR TO ACTION DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING THE FISCAL YEAR 2026-27 CITY MANAGER'S PROPOSED BUDGET AND 2027-2031 FIVE-YEAR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM.

Chair Woodham noted that all three items were continued from the previous meeting; spoke about what the Commission needed to accomplish that evening, stated that J.1 was regarding the fiscal year 27 budget and in the past they have always drafted a letter to the City Council; proposed they discuss any parts of the budget and determine what they think is important to send to the City Council in the letter; summarized the material they have seen up to that point, noted that the budget was close to completion, and would be voted on and approved at Tuesday's City Council meeting the following week; stated that one key factor is the General Fund is balanced by a combination of: $1.4 million carry over from fiscal year 26 and a 5% hiring freeze that reduces expenses by $2.9 million; noted that they have been told that revenue growth is weak, they see a 2% increase in tax revenue, a 1% increase in non-tax revenue, and the total expense budget is about $131 million; provided a summary of the local economies, noted that CalPERS returns were 7.9% through the end of March; stated, in regards to the Commission's report to Council, there are strategic items regarding budgeting and operation of the City that would be appropriate for them to comment on but would let the committee decide on that; opined that what they and the City Council should focus on are to remain somewhat conservative in spending over the next few years, increase the City's reserves (mentioned going to a 20% reserve) and to focus on quality of life for the residents and businesses of the community; referenced BRR 46 and asked Finance Director Meyer if he read it correctly that there is $1.5 million budgeted for four full-time employees, which is about $400,000 per employee.

Finance Director Meyer responded that she would need to look into that; asked Analyst Kamsvaag if he had an answer.

Analyst Kamsvaag provided a response, but the microphone was not on.

Finance Director Meyer reiterated that the $1.5 million are for five people; said they could look at each one in more detail; noted that the salaries are for Public Safety which tend to have a higher salary and benefits package than other departments.

Discussion followed. Director Meyer stated that sworn officers at the higher level tend to be at a significant cost with fringe.

Finance Director Meyer reported that the Police Chief did intensive research to validate the allocation of those personnel and that level of budget to the Harbor Tidelands and Uplands area; noted that the BRR references it.

Commissioner Turner asked if Redondo Beach is known to be a higher paying city or if Redondo Beach is consistent with surrounding cities.

Finance Director Meyer responded that the City's last salary schedule was three years ago, they are not known as a higher paying city, and they have actually been working to get the City's Public Safety pay on par with surrounding cities; explained that the CalPERS benefits, the retirement benefits, bonuses, and special pays associated with Public Safety makes the cost higher.

Commissioner Sherbin commented that the incoming positions they were discussing must not fall under the new benefits package the City was implementing.

Finance Director Meyer clarified that he was talking about PEPRA; explained that the retirement contributions and benefits are just higher for sworn Public Safety employees.

More discussion followed.

Chair Woodham commented that he never understood the Harbor Tidelands and Uplands; asked where the revenue comes from, what happens in the case of a deficit, and if it ever gets folded into the General Fund.

Finance Director Meyer replied that they make that decision on an annual basis; explained that the City had some challenges with both the Tidelands and Uplands the last few years due to long overdue maintenance; explained further that due to a lawsuit the City put off maintenance but once the lawsuit was resolved, capital spending occurred for the maintenance; reported that the General Fund subsidized both funds to cover the deficit; to answer Chair Woodham's question on where the funds come from, reported that the main source of revenue are the leases in the Harbor and parking revenue for both areas; stated that they are reviewing leases to make sure they are capturing as much revenue as they can, trying to have tenants sign for longer terms, and holding special events in order to get closer to balance for the Uplands.

Chair Woodham asked for a description of where the Harbor Tidelands and Uplands are located or what it encompasses.

Finance Director Meyer stated that she will send the Commission a map following the meeting; noted that they treat those two areas as an enterprise fund, running it like a business, and the revenue generated stays there and they do not use it outside of the Harbor; explained that the Harbor Tidelands are very restricted but the Uplands are more of an extension of the General Fund, although the City chooses to treat them separately.

Chair Woodham referenced DP #8 regarding an increase in fees for the Community Development Department of $1.1 million; asked if that department has cut expenses as much as they can already and, with the fee increase, would they be competitive with neighboring beach cities.

Finance Director Meyer replied that the Community Development Department runs lean on expenses; explained that the hiring of contractors for the building plan check positions has proven less expensive, increased output, and given the department flexibility in paying for that position; reported that an organizational study was done about two years ago that supports the results of the fee study; stated that she would need to confirm with the Community Development Director if the fees are in-line with other cities but she believed that the fee study report indicated they were.

Chair Woodham referenced DP #25 regarding increasing part-time pay for the Redondo Beach Performing Arts Center (RBPAC); asked Director Meyer if she had a revenue and expense cost figure for the RBPAC.

Finance Director Meyer reported that a revised version addressing his question was recently sent to the City Council as a Blue Folder item; pulled up the report for the Commission and provided a breakdown of the information; noted that personnel and operations costs were covered by the annual revenue but the cost of maintaining the building is expensive.

Chair Woodham asked what the long-term plan is for the RBPAC since it appears to be running at an $800,000 deficit.

Finance Director Meyer commented that she doesn’t know if the City’s goal is to make it a revenue generating facility; said she could bring that question to the Community Services Director and bring information back to the Commission.

Commissioner Jeste asked how many days a year that the facility is not in use or sitting empty.

Finance Director Meyer responded that it is in the BRR, which stated it is utilized 178 days and 25 days for internal events; noted that they do use the building for City events and internal events so even though it doesn't generate revenue for those it provides a value to the City.

More discussion followed.

Finance Director Meyer reported that the City has proposed changes to their insurance plan which included increasing their deductible and decreasing the insurance coverage.

Commissioner Jeste recommended the City do more promotion of the facility.

Finance Director Meyer said she would refer that to the team that handles the RBPAC.

Chair Woodham stated that the Commission needed to bring their attention to what they want in the letter to the Council; noted that the City Council meeting is on Tuesday so they would need to finish the letter by tomorrow to send it over the weekend; said that he could draft it and send it over to Director Meyer to send it to Council and appropriate staff.

Commissioner Sherbin suggested they provide a general overlay regarding the current uncertain state of the economy and the market and to recommend that they pause or slow the execution of certain projects that can be delayed.

Commissioner Jeste suggested they highlight the government efficiency; used DOGE as an example, stating it had some merit, AI tools are available, and recalled his example of Fort Wayne as being a forward thinking city; opined that every City process needs to be analyzed, simplified, streamlined, and made to be more cost effective.

Commissioner Allen agreed that staffing levels should be evaluated; commented that the Police and Public Works Departments are not support departments, so she understands why their staffing levels are big; recommended that they reduce the Finance Department by at least three people because it is merely a support department, does not bring in revenue, and is not responsible for margins; stated that she is not suggesting layoffs but that if someone leaves the department not to fill that position.

Finance Director Meyer commented that the Finance Department does collect revenue.

Commissioner Allen commented that it collects but does not generate revenue.

Finance Director Meyer agreed with the statement.

Commissioner Allen compared the private sector to the public sector, noted that in the public sector everything coming in is known.

Commissioner Sherbin disagreed that the Finance Department does not contribute to the revenue; stated that it is an important part to the whole operation; agreed that they should be judicious in filling positions as they come available and a deeper analysis could be done regarding whether the position affects the overall operation; noted that he means for all departments and not just Finance.

More discussion followed regarding the value certain positions bring to the operation, the comparison of neighboring cities in size, population, and sources of revenue, and the different dynamics of each city's operations.

Commissioner Marin provided his thoughts; agreed that all new hiring should be reviewed in light of the current economy to assess the immediate need to fill it.

More discussion followed regarding the expenses of other support departments, using IT as an example.

Chair Woodham said their comment in the letter could be they recommend a top down, bottom up analysis of all positions.

Discussion followed on whether to focus on all departments or just the support departments and to look at best practices of other cities.

Chair Woodham supported and proposed that it should be from a general standpoint and cover all departments.

Commissioner Allen opined that it would be too big to look into and would not be feasible; reiterated that the recommendation should be to only look at support departments; used the IT Department as an example and asked what value does the public receive when the IT Department received an increase of $1 million in the fiscal year 26-27 budget.

Discussion followed to determine what Commissioner Allen was asking in her recommendation; Commissioner Allen stated she wanted to know what value the increases brought to the residents of Redondo Beach.

Commissioner Turner stated there is always an underlying need in filling positions or bringing on new staff and that figuring out the rationale behind it is important.

Commissioner Allen stated that the problem is that the City's revenues are not increasing at the same rate as their expenses and the biggest expense for cities is personnel.

Chair Woodham highlighted that their discussion led to needing a review of all departments to uncover potential inefficiencies in operations across the board.

Discussion led to the topic of the hiring freeze.

Finance Director Meyer explained that as each position comes open, the City Manager will evaluate the need to fill the position at that time.

Chair Woodham commented that that analysis is specific to the 5% hiring freeze but what they are proposing is an in depth analysis of the entire operation to uncover if efficiencies have come along that would allow the City to make the 5% or even 10% permanent; noted that he does not have the knowledge to determine that but felt it was within the purview of the Commission to request it.

Commissioner Allen agreed with Commissioner Jeste for the long term but commented that it’s a big ask so she wanted to focus on the short term and look at each department one at a time.

Chair Woodham commented that each department head should already be looking at their departments to figure out if they can be more efficient.

Commissioner Allen spoke about each department getting a piece of the pie and wondered who has the biggest piece of the overall pie.

Chair Woodham said it is a question of what AI can do for the City and that no one knows yet but it does have the potential to make things more efficient.

Commissioner Sherbin used AI as an example to point out that if the IT Department hired an AI Specialist it would add staff, but the overall benefit of that hire would affect other departments in a positive way.

More debate followed regarding whether to include all departments or just support departments in the analysis and how to make departments more efficient.

Commissioner Allen commented that they are asking too much if they ask the City to evaluate the efficiencies of every department.

Commissioner Turner asked what the consequences would be to ask for a task too large.

More debate ensued.

Chair Woodham, directly speaking to Commissioner Allen, said she cannot assume that staff is not critically needed in a department from their standpoint; stated that all the Commission can do is to recommend that the City look at it, bring in best practices, and bring in AI to see if there is a way to run things more efficiently.

Commissioner Allen disagreed with Chair Woodham and stated it would never happen in El Segundo because the Mayor of El Segundo would never allow it; stated the Mayor of El Segundo would tell the departments to do better with less staff.

More similar discussion and debate followed.

Commissioner Sherbin pointed out that the Commission had a consensus on efficiency, a consensus on looking at each new hire when it comes in, and that the only area he perceived that they were differing on was looking at all departments vs. just one department at a time; suggested they could take a vote in order to move on.

Commissioner Jeste clarified it should be on all processes and not departments.

Commissioner Sherbin agreed with the clarification but agreed with Commissioner Allen’s point that personnel is the largest expense; suggested they focus on being efficient about replacing personnel; noted that the hiring freeze is a good first step and then moving into looking at the efficiencies of the job through that process.

More discussion followed on what statement they should make in their letter to the Council.

Commissioner Sherbin suggested Chair Woodham make a statement summarizing their discussion and the Commission vote on it.

Chair Woodham suggested that they recommend the analysis for the entire operation but to start with support departments first and then expand to others; noted that City Manager Witzansky will be evaluating and analyzing the need to fill positions as they come up over the next 12 months, suggested that they recommend that process of analysis is a permanent process for the City; stressed that Police and Fire ultimately need to be included in the analysis.

More discussion followed.

Commissioner Turner spoke of the City having a certain number of safety officers assigned based on the number of citizens in the City; noted that there is a possibility that the City might be in excess of police officers than are warranted and might be exceeding the budget so there is justification to analyze that department.

Commissioner Allen argued that the Finance Department has too many people.

Commissioner Turner replied that that is her opinion.

Chair Woodham said all they are saying is they want an analysis to be done on an ongoing basis.

Commissioner Allen commented that it is a very general statement to make and questioned what Council would do with it.

Commissioner Jeste stated they should be looking from the top line and not at the bottom line; mentioned if the RBPAC is sitting they need to promote its use; referenced page 30 of their packet, noted that they only have one large corporation, Northrop Grumman, in the City and that they should focus on bringing in other large non-government corporations into the City to generate revenue.

Discussion followed regarding the visit they had from the City Manager when he spoke about the marketing group the City is partnered up with.

Commissioner Allen stated that one of their proposals should be that the City actively markets for economic development.

Chair Woodham brought the focus back to their previous discussion.

Motion by Chair Woodham to make a statement related to the overall efficiency of the City, initially focusing first on support staff, to the City Council.

Commissioner Allen provided her suggestions on how to wordsmith the statement to Council; suggested to incorporate the need to actively market to bring in revenue as Commissioner Jeste stated.

Discussion followed regarding potential increases in revenue, rebalancing expense to revenue ratio, and continue to evaluate efficiencies in operations.

Commissioner Jeste highlighted that the Olympics would be coming, that the City would be attractive for Olympic events, and that the City should not miss out on the opportunity.

Commissioner Allen recalled that the City Manager stated that the private entities are handling those and not the City.

Commissioner Allen seconded Chair Woodham's motion; asked if the letter would also include that the City should be more involved in marketing and not leave it to private entities; spoke about the City of El Segundo and what that mayor had done to revitalize that city.

Commissioner Turner argued that Redondo Beach has geographic restrictions that El Segundo does not have; stated if Top Golf called the City of Redondo Beach and wanted to open up a Top Golf, where would it go; noted that he was not discrediting the work of the El Segundo mayor but that he had a different situation than that of Redondo Beach.

More discussion followed.

Chair Woodham said it is fair to say that the Commission would like to see more economic development; asked Director Meyer how many people were currently staffed in the Economic Development area and who they report to.

Finance Director Meyer responded that the City has two departments that look at economic development: 1) Waterfront and Economic Development and they have four full-time employees and 2) Community Development and they have 17 employees.

More discussion ensued about marketing and bringing in bigger corporations to the City.

Commissioner Turner stated that they seem to all be arguing the same point and it is just a matter of opinion on where funds should be allocated; stated that it is difficult to say without understanding the need.

Chair Woodham commented that the Commission would like to add the objective to improve or focus on economic development in their letter.

Commissioner Allen added that when they hire someone, they need to bring value to the City.

Commissioner Turner pointed out that it is not for a lack of great ideas that the Galleria is not being used but it is due to restrictions and financing.

Commissioner Jeste suggested three major areas for improvement be included in the letter: 1) promoting the City or marketing, 2) government efficiency, process improvement, and looking at best practices, and 3) strategic planning.

Chair Woodham supported those suggestions; told Director Meyer he would draft the letter and send it to her that evening or first thing in the morning.

Liaison Kamsvaag reported no one on Zoom and no eComments.

J.2. DISCUSSION REGARDING SENDING A LETTER TO CITY COUNCIL CONCERNING PROFESSIONAL SERVICES PROCUREMENT

Chair Woodham continued J.2 to the next meeting.

J.3. DISCUSSION REGARDING SENDING A LETTER TO CITY COUNCIL CONCERNING THE CIP PROCESS

Chair Woodham continued J.3 to the next meeting.

K. COMMISSION MEMBER ITEMS AND FUTURE COMMISSION AGENDA TOPICS

L. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Commissioner Allen, seconded by Commissioner Marin, to adjourn the meeting at 7:50 p.m.

Motion carried 6-0-1 by voice vote. Commissioner Ramcharan was absent.

The next meeting of the Redondo Beach Budget & Finance Commission will be a regular meeting to be held at 6:30 p.m. on July 9, 2026, in the Redondo Beach Council Chambers, at 415 Diamond Street, Redondo Beach, California.

All written comments submitted via eComment are included in the record and available for public review on the City website.

Respectfully submitted:

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Stephanie Meyer
Finance Director