

OPENING SESSION

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

ROLL CALL

Commissioners Present: Chun, Conroy, Johnson, Nguyen, Samples, Woodham, Chair Solomon
Commissioners Absent: None
Officials Present: Marni Ruhland, Finance Director
Eleanor Manzano, City Clerk

SALUTE TO THE FLAG

Chair Solomon led the Commissioners in a Salute to the Flag.

APPROVAL OF ORDER OF AGENDA

Finance Director Ruhland said that Item F.3., the Salary Adjustments should have been in Section I, Items Continued from Previous Agendas.

Motion by Chair Solomon, seconded by Commissioner Woodham, to move Item F.3. to Item I.1. and approve the Order of Agenda as edited. Motion carried unanimously, with the following roll call vote:

AYES: Chun, Conroy, Johnson, Nguyen, Samples, Woodham, Chair Solomon
NOES: None
ABSENT: None

BLUE FOLDER ITEMS

Motion by Chair Solomon, seconded by Commissioner Woodham, to receive and file the Blue Folder materials. Motion carried unanimously, with the following roll call vote:

AYES: Chun, Conroy, Johnson, Nguyen, Samples, Woodham, Chair Solomon
NOES: None
ABSENT: None

CONSENT CALENDAR

- F.1. APPROVAL OF AFFIDAVIT OF POSTING** for the Regular Budget and Finance Commission Meeting of September 10, 2020.
- F.2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM THE REGULAR BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMISSION MEETING OF AUGUST 13, 2020.**
- F.3. CONSIDERATION OF SALARY ADJUSTMENTS FOR MAYOR, CITY COUNCIL AND CITY ATTORNEY IN ADVANCE OF MARCH 2021 ELECTION.**
- F.4. RECEIVE AND FILE THE BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMISSION'S TENTATIVE CALENDAR FOR THE REMAINDER OF 2020.**

Motion by Commissioner Conroy, seconded by Commissioner Chun, to approve items F.1., F.2., and F.4. Motion carried unanimously, with the following roll call vote:

AYES: Chun, Conroy, Johnson, Nguyen, Samples, Woodham, Chair Solomon
NOES: None
ABSENT: None

EXCLUDED CONSENT CALENDAR – NONE

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS – NONE

ITEMS CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS AGENDAS (OLD BUSINESS)

F.3. CONSIDERATION OF SALARY ADJUSTMENTS FOR MAYOR, CITY COUNCIL AND CITY ATTORNEY IN ADVANCE OF MARCH 2021 ELECTION.

Finance Director Ruhland said neither Diane Strickfaden, nor Caitlin Antos, was available to attend the meeting, however, the salary survey that the Commission requested is included in the Administrative Report.

Chair Solomon noted that the Commission requested peer review for other cities similarly situated with elected city attorneys, and appointed city attorneys. He noted that the Blue Folder item included a representation of additional cities.

Chair Solomon commented that during a time of challenging budgetary constraints the City Attorney's compensation seems to be outside the norm. He noted that cities that have larger populations and budgets, such as Long Beach and San Francisco are compensating their city attorneys less than Redondo Beach.

Commissioner Conroy suggested a proposal is made to the current City Attorney to take a voluntary 10% pay cut in light of the dire financial straits that the City is currently in. He also proposed amending the ordinance for the next election of the City Attorney to include a 10% pay cut.

Commissioner Samples noted that the staff recommendation is to not move forward with a raise at this time. He said he did not believe the current City Attorney could take a voluntary reduction in salary and make it binding on the new incumbent. He said he would go with no raise at this time and the proposal that whoever the sitting City Attorney is in March consider taking a voluntary pay cut in order to help with the budget problems.

Chair Solomon noted that now is the time to make a recommendation to change the salary.

In response to Commissioner Woodham regarding salary, regular pay, and other pay, City Clerk Manzano said cell phone and car reimbursements, and vacation cash-out are considered other pay.

Finance Director Ruhland added that longevity-pay and professional reimbursement is included in other pay.

Commissioner Woodham said the pay looks high, however, he is uneasy recommending a 10% reduction in pay when he does not understand what makes up the other pieces.

Commissioner Johnson asked for a recommendation on what the Commission is being asked to do. Finance Director Ruhland clarified City Council will make the decision, the Commission would be providing their comments on the item.

Chair Solomon said they could accept staff's recommendation and forward it to City Council, or they could make their own recommendation.

Commissioner Conroy said his recommendation to City Council would be a 10% reduction of the annual total wages for the City Attorney.

In response to Commissioner Johnson regarding whether the City Manager, Assistant City Manager and other employees with high levels of compensation have taken pay cuts, Finance Director Ruhland said they have not taken pay cuts for a number of years.

Commissioner Chun clarified that the salary and compensation would be available up front and whoever was interested in running for the position would be aware of it. He agreed with the recommendation to leave it as is, or a 10% pay cut, to be forwarded to City Council for their decision.

Motion by Commissioner Conroy, seconded by Commissioner Chun, to forward a recommendation to City Council considering a 10% reduction for the first year, remaining flat for years 2-4, per an amendment to the ordinance affecting the next elected City Attorney, and to keep the salaries of the Mayor and City Council flat. Motion carried, with the following roll call vote:

AYES: Chun, Conroy, Nguyen, Samples, Woodham, Chair Solomon
NOES: Johnson
ABSENT: None

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION PRIOR TO ACTION (NEW BUSINESS)

J.1. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING CORONAVIRUS RELIEF FUNDS PROVIDED IN THE FEDERAL CARES ACT

Finance Director Ruhland said the City is receiving \$827,000 and reported the following:

- First reporting period is for March 2020–June 2020
- Eligible expenditures of \$525,000
 - Unemployment benefits - approximately \$200,000
 - Public Health Expenses - approximately \$180,000
 - City Council approved using \$70,000 for business assistance grants to reimburse small businesses in Riviera Village and the Artesia/Aviation commercial corridor for COVID related expenditures.

Additionally, Finance Director Ruhland said quarterly reports will be made to the State, consisting of grants and expenditures through calendar year 2020.

Finance Director Ruhland said the City has received some smaller grants to assist with Personal Protective Equipment and COVID-19 testing costs.

In response to Chair Solomon regarding the allocation of the CARES Act fund, Finance Director Ruhland said City Council adopted a budget modification for the CARES Act grant.

In response to Commissioner Chun regarding allocation of the funds to the small businesses, Finance Director Ruhland said City Council set the parameters. She said Riviera Village funds will go to the Business Improvement District and they will allocate it to individual businesses; for the Artesia/Aviation corridor, it is first come, first served, with requirements that must be met.

Motion by Commissioner Johnson, seconded by Commissioner Conroy, to receive and file the report. Motion carried unanimously, with the following roll call vote:

AYES: Chun, Conroy, Johnson, Nguyen, Samples, Woodham, Chair Solomon
NOES: None
ABSENT: None

J.2. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING CALPERS AND WORKERS' COMPENSATION SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT

Chair Solomon said that he went back to the 2018 CalPERS presentation made by a CalPERS representative, with a focus on the report, getting updated information, a methodology for the possibility of prepaids or early buyouts, and exploring PEPRAs versus classic employees.

Commissioner Conroy noted that there was information provided indicating there would be a curve in 2029, and asked if there is information that indicates that is still expected.

Finance Director Ruhland said she could reach out to CalPERS to see if they could make a presentation again.

In response to Chair Solomon regarding prepaids, or early buyouts, Finance Director Ruhland said that analysis was not done. She noted that Santa Monica did such an analysis.

IX. MEMBER ITEMS AND REFERRALS TO STAFF

Commissioner Samples stated he would like an update of revenues and expenditures as compared to what they anticipated when the budget was approved in June. Finance Director Ruhland said that is on the schedule for discussion at the November meeting.

Chair Solomon and the Commissioners thanked Commissioner Chun for his service and input during the Commission meetings, acknowledging that this was his last meeting as a Commissioner.

ADJOURNMENT OF BUDGET & FINANCE COMMISSION – 8:03 P.M.

There being no further business to come before the Commission, Commissioner Chun moved, seconded by Commissioner Johnson, to adjourn the meeting at 8:03 p.m., to a Regular Meeting to be held at 6:30 p.m., on October 8, 2020, in the Redondo Beach Council Chambers at 415 Diamond Street, Redondo Beach, California.

Motion carried unanimously, with the following roll call vote:

AYES: Chun, Conroy, Johnson, Nguyen, Samples, Woodham, Chair Solomon
NOES: None
ABSENT: None

Respectfully submitted,

Marni Ruhland
Finance Director