

**MINUTES OF THE CITY OF COSTA MESA
CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL STUDY SESSION**

TUESDAY, MAY 25, 2021 – 5:00 P.M.

CALL TO ORDER - The Special Study Session was called to order by Mayor Stephens at 5:00 p.m. via Zoom Webinar.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – Led by Mayor Stephens.

ROLL CALL

Present by Zoom: Council Member Chavez, Council Member Gameros, Council Member Harlan, Council Member Harper, Council Member Reynolds, Mayor Pro Tem Marr, and Mayor Stephens.

Absent: None.

SPECIAL STUDY SESSION ITEM:

1. FISCAL YEAR 2021-22 PROPOSED BUDGET STUDY SESSION

Presentation by Ms. Molina, Finance Director.

Public Comments:

Ralph Taboada, Costa Mesa, spoke on reducing spending and position count, recurring monies, and long term revenues.

David Martinez, Costa Mesa, spoke on budgeting for mental health and reducing the Police Department budget.

Discussion ensued on American Rescue Plan (ARP) funds, funding positions in future years, raising revenues, long term planning and budgeting, concern on revenues vs. cost, the Housing Element costs and grant funding, explanation of the fleet vehicle replacement funds, sales tax revenues, fuel comparisons, fully funding Capital Asset Needs (CAN) this year, explanation of vacancy attrition and furloughs, Measure Q tax revenue, employee recruitment and retention, funding the Arts and Culture Master Plan, IT replacement funding, reduced fees for recreation programs, a city wide Wi-Fi study, community economic profiles, increasing employees and proper staffing levels in each department, fiscal restraint and balance, economic development planning, waiving permit fees for Accessory Dwelling Units, Westside Storm Drain Improvements and Master Plan, Ketchum-Libolt and Shalimar Parks, timeline for using disaster reserves, upgrading the HVAC system in Fire Station 1, the timeline on the first time home buyer program, golf course revenues, legal expenses and case related budgets, and alternatives for not using reserves.

ACTION:

City Council conducted a Study Session regarding the Fiscal Year 2021-22 Proposed All Funds Budget of \$197.9 million, with a General Fund component of \$154.4 million, and provided initial feedback and direction to staff in advance of final adoption of the budget by June 30, 2021.

ADJOURNMENT – Mayor Stephens adjourned the Special Study Session at 7:18 p.m.

Minutes adopted on this 15th day of June, 2021.



John Stephens, Mayor

ATTEST:



Brenda Green, City Clerk