

MINUTES OF THE CITY OF COSTA MESA
FINANCE AND PENSION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
June 14, 2023
4:00 PM

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chair Tom Arnold at 4:03 PM in Costa Mesa, California.

2. ROLL CALL

Members Present: Chair Tom Arnold, Vice Chair Lisa Buchanan, Members: Jennifer Tanaka, Wendy Leece, Felice Shiroma, Ralph Taboada and Gary Craig

Members Absent: Altaf Wahid and Boris Gresely

Council Liaisons Present: Mayor John Stephens from 4:07 – 5:08 PM

Council Liaisons Absent: Councilmember Don Harper and Councilmember Andrea Marr

Staff Present: Finance Director Carol Molina, Executive Assistant Stella Giragossian, Acting Assistant Finance Director, Andrea Pham, and Acting Finance Manager, Anna Baca.

Staff Absent: None

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Meeting of May 10, 2023 – Regular Meeting

MOTION/SECOND: Wendy/ Felice

MOTION: To Approve March 8 Meeting Minutes

Motion Carried: 6-0-1-2

Ayes: Chair Tom Arnold, Vice Chair Lisa Buchanan, Members: Jennifer Tanaka, Felice Shiroma and Gary Craig

Nays: None

Abstain: Ralph Taboada

Absent: Altaf Wahid and Boris Gresely

5. NEW BUSINESS

a. FY 2023/24 Adopted Operating and Capital Improvement Budget

A PowerPoint presentation by Finance Director, Carol Molina was followed with a discussion.

Committee member Leece asked if the \$1.5 million in the 115 Trust was increasing the savings and if the rental assistance was only for Costa Mesa residents in which Director Molina responded yes.

Committee member Taboada inquired if staff will bring to FiPAC how to use the balance of the \$6 million ARPA money to which Director Molina stated that will be discussed at a later time. Committee member Taboada then asked if there

as been a discussion to finance Fire Stations 2 & 4 and will that decision be brought to FiPAC to which the Mayor responded station that decision is Council's however it should be reviewed by FiPAC.

Lastly Committee member Leece asked if any more money needed to be added to the motel conversion to which Director Molina stated that was paid by ARPA.

b. Consolidated Master Fee Schedule

The Consolidated Master Fee Schedule was also presented by Finance Director Carol Molina and a discussion ensued after the presentation.

Committee member Taboada inquired if the CPI adjustment will have to come back after LMS is implemented to which the Mayor confirmed that it will have to go back to Council as there are several factors that they would have to look at.

Committee member Leece asked when will it come back to Council to which Director Molina responded that it should be by next budget cycle or earlier if Clear Source can finalize the cost recovery review process.

c. July and August FiPAC Meetings.

A discussion took place in regards to canceling the July and August meetings to follow City Council. Committee member Wendy Leece said she doesn't have an issue canceling the two meetings but asked if the subcommittees could still meet to which Director Molina stated that since the City Council is deliberating on how the committees will proceed it's best to pause the subcommittee's for now.

MOTION/SECOND: Wendy/ Felice

MOTION: To cancel the July and August FiPAC meetings.

Motion Carried: 6-1-0-2

Ayes: Chair Tom Arnold, Vice Chair Lisa Buchanan, Members: Jennifer Tanaka, Felice Shiroma and Gary Craig

Nays: Ralph Taboada

Abstain: None

Absent: Altaf Wahid and Boris Gresely

6. COMMITTEE MEMBER COMMENTS

Committee Vice Chair Buchanan had no comments.

Committee member Leece stated that she would hate to see too many changes and limits on citizen involvement on the committees.

Committee member Taboada agreed with committee member Leece's comment and encourages the committee to attend the July 18th council meeting. Committee member Taboada hopes the subcommittee's dont get too bureaucratic and stated this is why people get frustrated with government.

Committee member Craig also agrees with committee members Leece and Taboada and would like the committee to remain more informal.

Committee member Shiroma supports all the comments and stated this is a vicious cycle that they need the information but they have to justify it before getting the information. Lastly, Committee member Shiroma mentioned that Chandler was going to send over information and asked if they sent it.

Committee member Tanaka agrees with everyone. Committee member Tanaka recommended everyone to review the April 4, 2023 Council meeting and to implore Council to take more of a role to assign projects to the committees and encourages everyone to attend the July 18, 2023 City Council Meeting.

7. CHAIR COMMENTS

Chair Arnold stated that he is looking forward to getting clear direction regarding committees. Chair Arnold mentioned knowing that this is frustrating but hopes that after the July 18, 2023 meeting it will be better. Chair Arnold hopes that through LMS that data will be more available to them without using staff time.

8. DIRECTOR UPDATES

Director Carol Molina thanked everyone for their patience and appreciated the work put into the letter written by Committee member Tanaka in regards to the Fee Schedule. Director Molina responded to Committee member Shiroma and will circle back with Chandler. Lastly, Director Molina thanked the staff for their hard work.

9. STAFF/LIAISON COMMENTS

None

10. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 5:19 PM.

Tom Arnold, Chair

Carol Molina, Finance
Director