

# City Council Hybrid Meeting (Closed Session - 5:00 PM and Open Session - 6:00 PM)

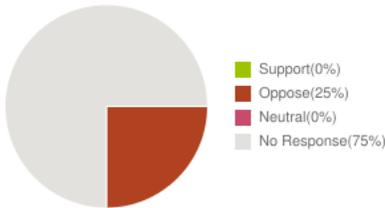
02-27-24 17:00

Agenda Name	Comments	Support	Oppose	Neutral
e) REPORT 24-0062 2022-23 ANNUAL COMPREHENSIVE FINANCIAL REPORT (ACFR) (INCLUDING REPORT FROM INDEPENDENT AUDITOR) (Finance Director Viki Copeland)	4	0	1	0

## Sentiments for All Agenda Items

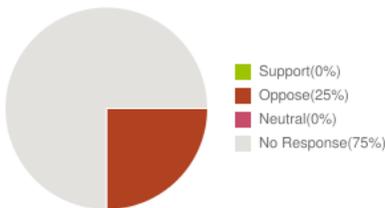
The following graphs display sentiments for comments that have location data. Only locations of users who have commented will be shown.

### Overall Sentiment



### Agenda Item: eComments for e) REPORT 24-0062 2022-23 ANNUAL COMPREHENSIVE FINANCIAL REPORT (ACFR) (INCLUDING REPORT FROM INDEPENDENT AUDITOR) (Finance Director Viki Copeland)

### Overall Sentiment



### Michele Hampton

Location: 90254, Hermosa Beach  
Submitted At: 9:00am 02-27-24

This matter should move off the consent calendar to a municipal matter. Take an example from Manhattan Beach where they just recently had an online presentation of their 2023-2024 budget so the whole community could listen and then ask questions.

<https://www.manhattanbeach.gov/departments/finance/budget-and-accounting>

ALSO they have a survey that the residents can take for the 2024-2025 budget.

"Take the Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Budget Survey and tell us your priorities."

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/LL33H58>

This is how we should present this important matter to our Hermosa Beach residents. Start doing your jobs city council members, Mayor Massey and City Manager Suja Lownethal. Stop blindsiding this community. Step up to taking our city and community to one that is informed and involved with the decision making. That is what we

want from you all and what you were told to do when taking office. Take a look at the Manhattan Beach link I posted here please and get smarter about what the City Of Hermosa Beach really needs.

**Howard Lee**

Location:

Submitted At: 2:51am 02-26-24

Council and interested others:

ABSOLUTELY! That's a very good question Councilman regarding why this important CAFR is all but hidden on the agenda's Consent-Calendar.

Btw, how did the response, "ABSOLUTELY", become such a standard and shallow first word out, when a councilman asks a highly and overpaid bureaucrat-City-Manager, one being paid by the taxpayers almost a Half-Million-Dollars in pay and benefits per year to answer questions? I can't recall such an ignorant, shallow response, ever being used in such a situation, prior to the last few years.

This issue of an important NON-ROUTINE matter, a review of the Comprehensive Annual Finance Report (aka, the CAFR), was always a Municipal Matter with a full staff presentation until after City Manager Tom Bakaly departed, and evidently Councilman Justin Massey and former Councilwoman Stacey Armato reprogrammed their hired City Manager, Sergio Gonzalez, and then later their hired current City Manager, Suja Lowenthal, to get this important stuff out of the public's eye and discussion, as like the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors does, with well over \$20 Billion worth of spending per year; i.e. by sticking the stuff on the 'Consent Calendar' and hoping no councilman dare ask for a full staff presentation, the way God intended, back when Hermosa Beach was well run previously prior to the post anti-oil, KHH clown show took over as dictators.

Instead the public gets mostly-useless fluff presentations at the front of their city council meetings, eating up more time than the far-more-useful and important public comments ever did, on average. This 2-minute nonsense and 30-minutes total garbage is what you get from 5 completely, non-informed, councilmen and an over-compensated City Manager with her most bloated city manager operation imaginable for such a tiny city as Hermosa Beach. No wonder there's such a desire for a new Net-Zero \$250 million Taj- Mahal-City-Hall and Hotel/Casino complex by these clowns for the current City owned property.

And why is the name and initials of the CAFR now changed, or is that a typo?

Bottom-line, again, don't expect any of Councilmen Deto, Jackson, Francois, or Saemann to delve into the CAFR in any significant manner. And good God, beady-eyed-Massey (see the Feb-15 city council meeting) and Lowenthal certainly wouldn't want them to, anyway. The most significant document they should fully understand, year to year, will thus be mostly, if not completely just rubber-stamped, and received and filed.

My views herein of course.

Sincerely and absolutely, most respectfully,

Howard Lee

**Maximilian Maximilian**

Location:

Submitted At: 12:29am 02-23-24

Just because the item states "receive and file" is no excuse for it not to be a Municipal Item for a staff report to be given, and for questions, and comments, from Council Members and from Public Members. The action should then, and only then, be, if appropriate, to receive and file, but only after it's understood why so much money is SPENT, or IS NOT SPENT, or rolled from last year, or rolled into next year, and yada, yada, yada.

Item should not be listed on the Consent Calendar of the agenda to be glossed over.

**Howard Lee**

Location:

Re: That this item, "The ANNUAL COMPREHENSIVE FINANCIAL REPORT (ACFR) or (the CAFR) (INCLUDING the REPORT FROM INDEPENDENT AUDITOR)" was placed on the agenda under the 'Consent Calendar', obviously for lack of transparency to the Community and for that matter, the Council.

---

City Council and others:

City Manager Suja Lowenthal controls what's on a particular agenda AND WHERE a matter is placed on the agenda.

That this item is appearing on the 'Consent Calendar' for possibly no discussion at all, unless a council member pulls the item is OUTRAGIOUS and displays how filthy, rotten, closed, and non-transparent the Hermosa Beach government operation has become since Lowenthal, and for that matter Councilman Justin Massey took over this California General Law city.

The other four council members knowing little-to-nothing about running the show, and of how it was so much better-run in years past, but instead being, for the most-part milquetoasts to Lowenthal and Massey, should speak up and state in no uncertain terms that the agenda should not have non-routine items placed on the agenda's 'Consent Calendar'.

This item absolutely should have been placed, at the minimum, under Municipal Matters, pure and simple.

It actually is probably the most important item of the year, as it shows how the money was and is actually being SPENT, or while budgeted, NOT SPENT, vis-à-vis the so-called 'approved Budget'. The 'Budget' is little more than a smoke and mirrors outline, changed all through the year. The 'Budget' is in practice, meaningless in reality.

The ANNUAL COMPREHENSIVE FINANCIAL REPORT (ACFR) or (the CAFR) (INCLUDING the REPORT FROM INDEPENDENT AUDITOR) is the real meat and potatoes of what is going on, and should have a full presentation for Council and more importantly the PUBLIC, and be reasonably and fully understood, and questioned by all five councilmembers; and not just rubber-stamped without a word being stated, as appearing on the Consent Calendar.

SHAME once again on Suja Lowenthal for knowing the city council is full of milquetoasts, not knowing what is actually important, and doing her best to take advantage of the Council, but more-so, the men, women, and children of this community; a community that so-over-richly compensates her, and in which she has no real interest in living, nor being in city during the hours that city-hall is open.

This item belongs under Municipal Matters (at the minimum), and in fact it should be a noticed Public Hearing, notwithstanding the politicians who make state law, also really don't want to ensure transparency. But there is nothing stopping the City Council from ensuring it's a Public Hearing.

My opinions herein are for a more honorable and transparent Hermosa Beach government.

Sincerely and Most-Respectfully,

Howard Lee