

City Council Adjourned Regular Hybrid Meeting (Fiscal Year 2022-23 Budget Workshop)

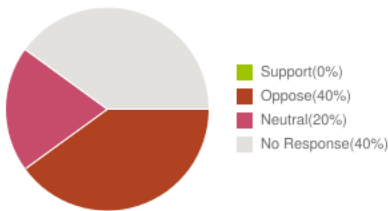
06-02-22 17:00

Agenda Name	Comments	Support	Oppose	Neutral
BUDGET LINKS · Revenue · Appropriations · Budget Balancing Actions · How the Budget is Balanced · Highlights · Capital Improvement Plan	5	0	2	1

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.

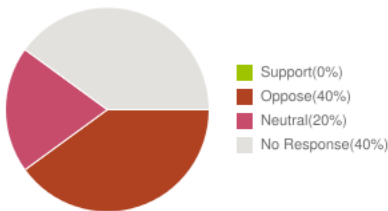
Overall Sentiment



Agenda Item: eComments for BUDGET LINKS · Revenue

- Appropriations
- Budget Balancing Actions
- How the Budget is Balanced
- Highlights
- Capital Improvement Plan

Overall Sentiment



Laura Pena

Location:

Submitted At: 2:51pm 06-02-22

Dear Mayor, Council Members, and Staff,

I have reviewed the Budget Message along with the Overview for 2022-23 and more clarification is needed. If I am correct, our city received 4.6 million from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) and transferred \$2,310,878 to the General Fund in 2021-22. If today, staff is recommending the transfer of \$1,313,877 to the General Fund for the provision of government services where is the remaining \$975,245 going to be spent? Since 80% of the

respondents in the community survey felt that "requiring public spending disclosure" was "extremely/very important," why was this outcome omitted from page 16 of the City Manager's Budget Message and more importantly where are we going to allocate these remaining funds?

I look forward to hearing more disclosure and clarification in this meeting.

Thank you.

Laura Pena

Howard Ladditional

Location:

Submitted At: 1:52am 06-02-22

The City Council and all should especially take note and be appreciative of the comments and time that Carolyn Petty and Raymond Dussault put into their testimony.

Raymond Dussault has especially well pointed out the obscene costs of the Suja Lowenthal City Manager department operation. Thank your Raymond for the comparisons which absolutely are pertinent.

And the nonsense talk of adding an increase of 3/4 of 1% to the sales tax, or even an insane increase of a 1/2% to the present sky high L.A. County and state total sales tax of 9.75% is ludicrous; just more money for the absentee City Manager Suja Lowenthal to be frittering away. For Suja this city is one big candy store. It's absolutely disgusting what Suja Lowenthal has done to this City's government since arriving here some 4 years ago. This city does not need to follow Long Beach, Santa Monica, Los Angeles, and especially Inglewood now with this sales tax increase talk.

And \$100 grand to pave a 12-foot wide granite pathway for a third of a mile on the Greenbelt. It only needed a 4 foot wide meandering path off to the side. More insanity. How about paving North Prospect before the new View School opens or is Hermosa Beach to have the worst pavement leading to its shiny new toddler school? What happened to street paving. It all but died when Suja came to town to build her bloated city manager operation.

And what's with the city paying for an open bar tab and more at these become-insane ceremonial rotation of the Mayor parties at the local watering holes. How in the world is that legal for a General Law City to be paying the liquor tab for an open bar. Will that instead soon to be paying the tab for open pot bar at a ceremonial rotation of the Mayor party?

Council you need to start auditing where Suja is as I continue to here that people seldom see her in City Hall. What in God's name does this woman do when she's out of sight with her Cell Phone in hand.

Council, you cannot save the planet, if you cannot manage this city first. First things first. Pave the streets, stop with all the waste. Get an RFP going for the trash contract. You have no one in city capable of negotiating with the ultra-smart negotiators of Athen's Services. God help us if that's in the hands of Suja Lowenthal and her hand-picked "Environmental Programs Manager", i.e., negotiating with Athen's. The cities two lightweights negotiating a 10 or even 20 year trash contract. Holy Smoke.

Never in 40 years have I seen such cavalier City Council and City Manager management of this city and its staff, that is, what's left of the cities staff, especially what's left of the Public Works Department. That department can't even get their sewer contractors to clean all the "Underground Service Alert" 'USA' graffiti markings off the sidewalks they did 6 months ago for a two-day sewer slip-lining project on my street.

Howard L

Location:

Submitted At: 1:00am 06-02-22

There is a full contiguous searchable PDF copy of the Hermosa Beach 2022-2023 Preliminary Budget on the City's website at the following link. (You may need to cut and paste this link into your browser if it won't work

from this e-comment.)

<https://www.hermosabeach.gov/home/showpublisheddocument/17262/637897035767869748>

Carolyn Petty

Location: 90254, Hermosa Beach
Submitted At: 10:30pm 06-01-22

Transparency in public spending is a top concern for the community, according to the recent (secret) survey. This survey was not attached to the May 24 agenda, yet it was agendized for discussion as a City Manager report. This was not made public for a reason – that was to prevent people from reading the results in advance and providing comment.

This is just one more example of the lack of transparency of this City Council and City Manager.

Fortunately, more and more of the community is becoming aware of what is happening in our town, and justifiably becoming concerned. This is why public spending transparency is of such concern to our community, per the survey results.

On that note, the budget does not clearly show what has actually been paid to Mike Jenkins's law firm to date in this fiscal year's payments - \$590k, spanning the billing period May 2021 to Feb 2022 (paid in this fiscal year). Our small town has become a cash cow for Mike Jenkins and BBK. Yet at the last meeting, the City Council talked about raising taxes because – in the words of one councilmember – “the city is desperate for more money”. I have a suggestion - address why so much money is going to Mike Jenkins. One of these includes Public Records Requests reviews. Those happen when people mistrust city government and when city government refuses to be honest with its residents. People are forced to do PRRs, and Mike Jenkins gets to bill hours of his time reviewing the requests and redacting.

Why is the city “desperate for money”? Well – how about unnecessary projects such as putting in bathrooms at Fort Lots of Fun and Seaview Parkette? When they were originally envisioned, they were \$250k per bathroom and I said at the time that they would never come in at budget. I never agreed with those projects, yet they moved forward anyway. Those are community parks that are visited by people who live in the surrounding neighborhood. They are not destination parks such as South Park. People can go home if they need to use a restroom. I have asked for the breakout of costs for those bathrooms, yet the information as of the time of this writing has still not been disclosed. I would guess their costs have ballooned.

Why is the city “desperate for money”? What about the city council allowing the hardscaping of our precious greenbelt? That not only will cost money, but is illegal and a violation of the land covenant. As a matter of fact, this was discussed circa 2015 when I was on council and it was made clear at that time that this was a violation of the deed restriction. No matter to this City Manager and City Council – let's spend hundreds of thousands of taxpayer dollars studying this under the guise of ADA, then spend more money hardscaping the greenbelt, then lets spend more taxpayer money in lawsuits because everyone knows this is illegal, yet the process continues.

What about the money paid to Redondo Beach due to the disastrous infiltration project fiasco? I believe that was in excess of \$400k.

The City Council has a fiduciary responsibility to the residents to spend taxpayer money wisely and respectfully. Time for a serious change, and many of us in the community plan to publicize to the community these ongoing examples of the blatant misuse of taxpayer funds. It isn't time for a tax, it is time for change.

Raymond Dussault

Location: 90254, HERMOSA BEACH
Submitted At: 2:03pm 06-01-22

In anticipation of tomorrow's budget meeting, please attach this to the agenda. I reviewed City Manager budgets and salaries for our neighbors. I used all three city websites and Transparent California.

Hermosa Beach: Manages a city of 1.4 sq. miles, 19,728 people. Projected budget (it always ends up higher) but projected salaries/benefits for City Manager/Asst. to CM is \$476, 632. Overall budget for the department is projected at \$1,445, 575 (This is a nearly 50% jump over last year, and seems like a massive jump with no new major issues on the horizon that I'm aware of.)

Manhattan Beach: Manages a city of 3.9 sq. miles and 35,135 people (roughly twice our size). Projected salaries/benefits for City Manager/No Asst is \$358,864. Overall budget for the department is projected at \$1,486,198. (Again twice our size in every metric.)

Redondo Beach: Manages a city of 6.9 sq. miles and 71,576 people (roughly four times our size). Projected salaries/benefits for City Manager/Asst. to CM is \$476,644. Overall budget for the department is projected at \$1,139,850.

While Suja is fond of saying these aren't fair comparisons, I'm not sure how we can justify this:

Redondo's City Manager office is 1.1% of the City Budget

Manhattan's City Manager office is 1.9% of the City Budget

Hermosa's City Manager office is a whopping 3.1% of the City Budget

Sincerely,

Ray