Special Joint Meeting Minutes
FINANCE COMMITTEE and/or the CITY COUNCIL
Monday, June 7, 2021 ▪ 1:30 p.m.
Videoconference/Teleconference Council Chambers Room S249, Pasadena City Hall

A. CALL TO ORDER: The special joint meeting of the Finance Committee and/or the City Council was called to order at 1:37 p.m. with a quorum of the City Council and the Finance Committee (Mayor Gordo, Vice Mayor Wilson, and Councilmembers Kennedy, Rivas, Masuda, Williams, and Madison).

Attendees:

Councilmembers	**City Staff**
Victor Gordo	Steve Mermell
John Kennedy	Michele Bagneris
Jess Rivas	Julie Gutierrez
Gene Masuda	Matthew Hawkesworth
Steve Madison	Tim Park
Felicia Williams	Brenda Harvey-Williams
Andy Wilson	Michelle Perera
Tyron Hampton (Arrived at 2:31 p.m.)	John Perez
	Michael Ross

B. NEW BUSINESS

1. **CONTINUED PUBLIC HEARING: FISCAL YEAR 2022 RECOMMENDED OPERATING BUDGET**

   - Police – Presented by John Perez, Police Chief

   Councilmember Masuda requested clarification on how the HOPE and PORT teams collaborate in dealing with a homeless person. Chief Perez responded the HOPE team is the first to arrive on seen and then hands over the call to the PORT team, who will provide information on housing and medical care.

   Councilmember Wilson had questions on staffing, both on the number of recently hired employees and on the average tenure. Chief Perez gave an overview of the staff numbers and outlined how the favorable promotion model is active when it comes to filling new positions. He added that retention continues to be a challenge facing the department and that the goal is to keep long-term officers.

Councilmember Williams asked how the HOPE and PORT teams are funded in the short and long-term and if there is a plan to extend the hours of operation. Steve Mermell, City Manager, responded that the PORT team is grant funded through the Pasadena Public Health Department and eligible to receive funding through the American Rescue Plan Act in the short-term, as well as the addition of a second PORT team; in the long term, a sustainable model will fall on the General Fund. He added, the ultimate goal is to have a 24-hour crisis response team.

Councilmember Kennedy stated his preference for hiring youth interested in the field over lateral placements as long as the proper training is provided. Councilmember Kennedy applauded Chief Perez, for his commitment to hiring more women, specifically hiring Latina and African American women and requested for the Chief to continue doing so in a speedy manner when feasible.

Councilmember Madison stated the need for additional motorcycle officers. Chief Perez indicated the post-pandemic plan is to implement collateral riders, who are part-time riders, as an alternative to hiring new officers.

Councilmember Rivas asked if the 24% reduction in the use of force translated into a reduction in claims, complaints, and lawsuits. In addition Councilmember Rivas commended the department for reallocating funds to create a second PORT Team and asked to see more of that along with continued collaboration with other departments. Chief Perez responded that it had resulted in a decrease in legal exposure and that officer involved shootings lawsuits are rare, he pointed out that due to a newly implemented protocol, all complaints are recorded and investigated; therefore, creating a spike in the number of complaints.

Mayor Gordo expressed concern over park safety and stated civilian presence such as Park Rangers was effective and should continue, as it's important for the community to meet and see a security presence. The Mayor also commented on concerns that businesses are hiring private security rather than calling for a police officer. Chief Perez agreed that a presence at City parks is important. His comment related to private securities, stated businesses feel situations they encounter do not escalate to the point of calling the Police Department. Lastly, Mayor Gordo stated more in depth discussion on the subject is needed.

PUBLIC COMMENTS - from the following individuals regarding the Police Department's FY 22 Recommended Operating Budget, were heard:

Sonja Berndt
Vincent De Stefano
Jane Ward
Breathe Justice

- Parks, Recreation and Community Services – Presented by Brenda Harvey-Williams (Director)

  Councilmember Hampton asked if the City was writing up contractors for failing to maintain the ancillary areas of City parks. Ms. Harvey-Williams responded that she is not aware of any write-ups, Steve Mermell, City Manager, requested the specifics of the contractor's failures and stated he will work with the department to resolve the problem. Councilmember Hampton suggested for staff to look at ways to secure park facilities to ensure higher attendance and suggested further discussing at a future Public Safety Meeting. Ms. Harvey-Williams responded there is ongoing collaboration with the Pasadena Police Department to ensure park safety; however, parks are safer when they are activated.

  Mayor Gordo suggested looking at the programming at the La Pintoresca Park to ensure the right programs are offered to attract young people.

  Councilmember Kennedy requested confirmation that the reading program at the Jackie Robinson Community Center will not be eliminated and that all eligible students who applied for the Rose program will be hired. Ms. Harvey-Williams confirmed, both statements are correct.

  Councilmember Masuda thanked staff for the report and asked what was being done about the gopher problem at Hamilton Park as there are safety concerns being raised by the Little League Association. Ms. Harvey-Williams responded that two owl boxes were installed and carbon monoxide was being used underground (this does not harm the water), and that placing netting underground is being considered. A combination of all methods is the best approach.

- Library – Presented by Michelle Perera, Director

  Councilmember Hampton asked if curbside pick-up and housing a mobile computer lab in trailers outside the Central Library were feasible alternatives. Steve Mermell, City Manager, responded that since the building officials asked for zero occupancy, the appropriate thing to do is move material out of the library to make it accessible elsewhere.

  Councilmember Williams requested clarification of the General Fund transfer required to cover the library this year and about funding for the Office of the Young Child including any grant funding. Mr. Mermell responded that the General Fund provides 80% of the operating budget for the library, the Library Special Tax generated 20% of the funds and that funding for the Office of the

Young Child is built-in the library fund. Ms. Perera added the Library is receiving two grants this year; however, they do not cover any library positions.

Vice Mayor Wilson was concerned about both libraries in district seven being closed at the same time and asked staff to be mindful of closing all the libraries in the same district at the same time.

Councilmember Kennedy asked if the vacant lot on the North West corner of Euclid and Walnut was considered as a temporary Library space. Ms. Perera responded that it was; however, the rent was high and the most cost effective site is what the department will settle on. Councilmember Kennedy asked Mr. Mermell to give staff some consideration who are not in a good position that there be a substantial reduction to risk possibility and thanked Ms. Perera for a job well done in handling the crisis.

C. ADJOURN SPECIAL MEETING

The meeting adjourned at 4:17 p.m.

Victor M. Gordo 8/12/21

Victor M. Gordo Date
Chair, Finance Committee

8/12/21

ATTEST: Gloria Acevedo, Date
Recording Secretary