Special Joint Meeting Minutes
FINANCE COMMITTEE and/or the CITY COUNCIL
Monday, June 14, 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 1:42 p.m. with a quorum of the City Council and the Finance Committee (Mayor Gordo and Councilmembers Kennedy, Rivas, Masuda, and Williams).

Attendees:

Councilmembers	City Staff	Guests
Victor Gordo	Steve Mermell	Michael Ross
John Kennedy	Michele Bagneris	George Falardeau
Jess Rivas	Julie Gutierrez	Christopher Miller
Gene Masuda	Matthew Hawkesworth	
Steve Madison (Arrived at 1:54 p.m.)	Tim Park	
Felicia Williams	Jon Hamblen	
Andy Wilson, Vice Mayor (Arrived at 4:33 p.m.)	Laura Rubio-Cornejo	
Tyron Hampton (Arrived at 2:13 p.m.)	Gurcharan Bawa	
	David Reyes	
	Theresa Fuentes	
	Kris Markarian	
	Chad Augustin	
	Anthony Burgess	
	Flora Karmiryan	
	Sarkis Garabedian	
	Byanca Banaga	
	Melissa Gray	

B. NEW BUSINESS

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

   - Pasadena Community Access Corporation – Presented by Christopher Miller, Chief Operating Officer

   Mayor Gordo thanked the Pasadena Community Access Corporation (PCAC) team and inquired about the future of public communication, will it be more streamlined and move from the television forum to an increased social media platform. Mr. George Falardeau, Executive Director, stated it will remain a

combination of both social media and television production. In addition PCAC will begin working on a post-pandemic strategic plan.

Councilmember Madison echoed his gratitude to the Pasadena Community Access Corporation.

- Pasadena Center Operating Company – Presented by Michael Ross, CEO

Councilmember Williams asked how the Fiscal Year 2020 shortfall was covered without the receipt of the Transient Occupancy Tax (TOT). Mr. Ross confirmed the Pasadena Center Operating Company (PCOC) covered its debt service with reserves due to the loss of TOT, no funding from the General Fund was provided and stated it will take several years before the TOT will outpace the debt service. Councilmember Williams thanked the PCOC for its structure and ability to bring back staff post-pandemic.

Mayor Gordo asked how much was contributed to the PCOC's capital improvement projects (CIP) budget and asked what the anticipated needs are. Mr. Ross indicated the $500,000 contribution is made as part of the payment and is not received when there is a shortfall. Mayor Gordo stated that once the budget is revisited this item should be reviewed to see how assistance can be provided, because there is a risk of putting the PCOC at a competitive disadvantage. Lastly Mayor Gordo, asked for Mr. Ross to work with the City Manager in investing any available federal relief funds to the PCOC's CIP Budget.

Councilmember Madison thanked the PCOC and asked if the PCOC has received any aid from the Federal Government, separate from the City. Mr. Ross indicated it had not; however, an invoice in the amount of $1 million for the temporary hospital is pending reimbursement from FEMA.

Councilmember Hampton thanked the PCOC staff for their preparation and ability to lead during the economic turmoil due to the COVID-19 pandemic, he pointed out the lay-offs were as a last resort.

- Transportation – Presented by Laura Rubio-Cornejo, Director

Councilmember Rivas asked if the reduction in contract services for parking garages was sufficient even as usage is coming to pre-COVID-19 parking levels. Ms. Rubio-Cornejo responded that staff is working to become more efficient, while providing the same type of customer service. Ms. Rubio-Cornejo added the levels are about 80% of pre-COVID-19 numbers.

Councilmember Madison asked if staff is considering keeping the lane closures in support of on-street-dining. Ms. Rubio-Cornejo responded that staff is

considering keeping them if the restaurants find it to be positive. Councilmember Madison asked how staff is preventing food delivery companies from stopping in the open lanes of traffic and suggested a strong enforcement operation. Ms. Rubio- Cornejo responded, staff continues exploring options on this topic.

Mayor Gordo suggested the City consider some recourse towards large companies who employ local drivers that are violating the public right-away and asked staff if they were aware of changes in state law that the City should advocate for to support this topic. Ms. Rubio-Cornejo agreed to provide input after reviewing the state law. Mayor Gordo added, the City should have a direct say in assuring the needs of local businesses are met.

Councilmember Kennedy asked for staff to come back and share with the City Council, the City policy addressing drivers parking in the right-of-way and any solutions or recommendations. Mayor Gordo agreed the topic should be reviewed and suggested bringing it to the Public Safety and/or the Legislative Affairs committees.

- Public Works – Presented by Kim Markarian, Acting Director

Councilmember Masuda asked if there were enough funds in the budget to increase sidewalk/street repairs. Ms. Markarian shared the budget for these type of repairs was increased.

Councilmember Hampton asked that the contracts for organic waste be made available to small businesses as well as haulers.

Councilmember Williams suggested that all departments purchasing large vehicles work with Pasadena Water & Power to develop a citywide policy regarding purchasing electric vehicles. Councilmember Williams also asked that a report be provided to the Municipal Services Committee as to the status of the City meeting its diversion rate.

Councilmember Kennedy inquired about the sidewalk Americans with Disability Act yellow pads and their failure rates. Ms. Markarian responded that all locations were surveyed and addressed, staff will provide a memo with the findings to the City Manager for sharing with the full City Council. Councilmember Kennedy also requested that all large vehicles receive the highest level of purification of air in their cabs and staff confirm to the full City Council or Committee that it's occurring. In addition Councilmember Kennedy asked that the number of sidewalk repairs should be shared with the full City Council. Lastly Councilmember Kennedy asked for the City Manager to provide a memo indicating how many full-time positions were vacant by department and

how long they have been vacant. Mr. Mermell will provide a memo to the full City Council.

PUBLIC COMMENT – Nina Chomsky spoke about the Urban Forestry Advisement Committee and the need for more watering for new trees.

- Fire – Presented by Chad Augustin, Fire Chief

  Councilmember Kennedy asked if there were any issues related to the improvements at fire station 36, if an internal planning document existed on how to recruit greater diversity, and asked that staff take a deeper dive into all diversity at the Pasadena Fire Department at a future Public Safety Committee meeting. Fire Chief Augustin will check with staff for any specific areas that need renovation of station 36 and agreed to address each issue related to diversity in the department.

  Councilmember Masuda inquired about the renovation efforts at stations 37 and 32. Chief Augustin responded station 37 is towards the top of the priority list for renovations and station 32 is not on the list.

  Councilmember Madison mentioned the scenario of a brush fire out of control coming down from the Arroyo ultimately affecting the entire City. Chief Augustin stated the department is aggressively working on an evacuation plan for this type of scenario.

  Councilmember Rivas reminded staff not to overlook veterans in the recruitment efforts.

  Councilmember Hampton asked if there were stations not on the remodel list but are in need of a remodel. Chief Augustin mentioned station 31 and 38 are on that list. Mr. Mermell reminded the Council that the $3 million previously budget for fire station upgrades was lost due to the COVID-19 and that all new federal relief money can be used for projects that were already identified.

  Mayor Gordo requested a review of the emergency response plan to be scheduled with the full City Council and expressed concern on the number of vacancies in the department. Mr. Mermell reminded the Council on a recent action of reducing the probationary period for new firefighters from 18 to 12-months in an effort to attract candidates. Mayor Gordo also asked Mr. Mermell and Chief Augustin to look into the feasibility of partnering with senior housing providers for stations that are in need of a full replacement, Mr. Mermell agreed.

C. ADJOURN SPECIAL MEETING

The meeting adjourned at 4:35 p.m.

Victor M. Gordo 8/12/21

Victor M. Gordo Date
Chair, Finance Committee

8/12/21

ATTEST: Gloria Acevedo, Date
Recording Secretary