

Harry Saltzgaver, President
Frank Martinez, Vice President
Arthur Levine, Secretary



Robert Shannon, Commissioner
Gloria Cordero, Commissioner

Christopher J. Garner, General Manager

Richard Anthony, Deputy City Attorney

SPECIAL MEETING

FINISHED AGENDA & DRAFT MINUTES

The Water Commission minutes are prepared and ordered to correspond to the Water Commission agenda. Agenda items can be taken out of order during the meeting.

The agenda items were considered in the order presented.

CALL TO ORDER

The Board of Water Commission special meeting was called to order by President Saltzgaver at 9:02 A.M. This special meeting was held via teleconference pursuant to Executive Order N-29-20 issued by Governor Gavin Newsom.

ROLL CALL

Executive Assistant to the Board, Sandra Fox took the roll call and confirmed a quorum. She noted that Commissioner Levine was absent from the meeting and would be excused.

Also present: Christopher J. Garner, General Manager; B. Anatole Falagan, Assistant General Manager; Tai Tseng, Assistant General Manager - Operations; Sean Crumby, Deputy General Manager - Engineering; Sandra Fox, Executive Assistant to the Board.

Commissioners Harry Saltzgaver, Frank Martinez, Robert Shannon and Gloria

Present: Cordero

Commissioners Art Levine

Excused:

PUBLIC COMMENT

1. [20-105WA](#) June 18, 2020 Board of Water Commission Special Board Meeting
Public Comments

President Saltzgaver opened the public comment period and asked if any written public comment had been received. Ms. Fox advised no written public comment had been received for the June 18, 2020 Special Board meeting. President Saltzgaver then inquired if there was any public on the line who would like to speak. Hearing none, he closed the public comment period.

2. [20-103WA](#) Recommendation to Adopt Resolution WD-1429, a Resolution of the City of Long Beach Board of Water Commissioners Fixing Rates and Charges for Water and Sewer Services to All Customers, subject to the Approval of the City Council by Ordinance, and subject to a public protest hearing as provided for in the California Constitution Article XIII.

BUREAU: Business - Finance

President Saltzgaver introduced agenda item 2. and called on Mr. Sorensen for a presentation.

Mr. Garner made opening comments regarding the budget, and thanked Mr. Falagan and Mr. Sorensen for their assistance in preparing the budget during these unusual times.

He provided a summary regarding the numerous budget workshops that had been held leading up to the adoption of the budget and rate setting. He also provided information regarding the budget setting process and cost reductions that had been made in finalizing the proposed budget and setting rates.

Mr. Sorensen provided a presentation regarding rates that reviewed the following: 1) Sewer Fund (Expenditures and Revenues); Projected Ending Reserves; 2) Water Fund (Expenditures and Revenues); Projected Ending Reserves; 3) Rate Comparisons; 4) Next Steps

President Saltzgaver called for any public comment. Hearing none he called for any Commission comments or questions.

Commissioner Shannon inquired about the possible legal restraints regarding transferring monies between the Sewer Fund and Water Fund.

Mr. Garner responded that per the City charter and through accounting standards these funds have to be kept separate.

Mr. Sorensen also noted that Prop. 218 also requires these funds must be kept separate.

Mr. Anthony, Deputy City Attorney, advised he agreed with the comments made by Mr. Garner and Mr. Sorensen in their responses to Commissioner Shannon.

Commissioner Martinez thanked his fellow Commissioners and staff for their work on the budget.

President Saltzgaver advised he agreed with Commissioner Martinez's comments, and noted that both the Commissioners and staff worked hard to limit the impacts to operations and ratepayers; and noted that the Board and staff are very cognizant of the economic conditions that are occurring.

Commissioner Cordero requested that staff provide a chart that could be posted to the Long Beach Water Department website that would simply outline the reasons and decisions made behind setting the budget and rates.

Mr. Garner noted that the website currently contains all the presentations and videos for each of the budget workshops that had been previously held. He advised that staff could take a look at possibly preparing the summary that was requested.

President Saltzgaver asked Mr. Garner to provide the amount of revenue targets that had been missed in the FY 20 budget.

Mr. Sorensen advised he could look up this information and provide it to Mr. Garner who could then pass it along to the Board after the meeting.

President Saltzgaver advised he thought this figure was somewhere in the

range of \$5 million to \$6 million.

Mr. Garner advised that staff was prepared to provide a report to the Board at the next Board meeting regarding the projections for revenue receipts due to the COVID crisis and the amount of revenue that has been lost due to unpaid water/sewer bills.

President Saltzgaver called for any public comment. He then called for a roll call vote.

A motion was made by Commissioner Martinez, seconded by Commissioner Cordero, to approve recommendation. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 4 - Harry Saltzgaver, Frank Martinez, Robert Shannon and Gloria Cordero

Excused: 1 - Art Levine

3. [20-104WA](#)

Recommendation to Adopt Resolution WD-1430, A Resolution of the City of Long Beach Board of Water Commissioners Adopting the Annual Budget for the Long Beach Water Department for the Fiscal Year 2020-2021 and authorize staff to transmit the resolution and the budget to the City Manager, Mayor and City Council.

BUREAU: Administration - Finance

President Saltzgaver introduced agenda item 3. and called on Mr. Sorensen for a presentation.

Mr. Sorensen provided the budget presentation that contained the following components for review:

1) Water and Sewer funds; 2) Reserve balance; 3) Revenues and 4) Expenditures.

President Saltzgaver called for any public comment. Hearing none he called for any Commission questions or comments.

Hearing no comments from the Commission President Saltzgaver called for a roll call vote.

After the vote Mr. Sorensen outlined the next steps in the budget process as follows: 1) July - August - mail out Prop. 218 notice; 2) Schedule briefings

with Mayor and City Council; 3) Prop. 218 public hearing has been set for August 27th at 7:00 P.M.

President Saltzgaver inquired if Mr. Garner would be scheduling the Mayor and Council budget briefings.

Mr. Garner responded yes. He noted that due to the COVID restrictions these briefings might need to be held via phone or conference call. He advised he would advise President Saltzgaver regarding the schedule.

Mr. Garner advised that staff is pursuing alternate ways to hold the Prop. 218 Public Hearing in case the COVID restrictions continued to mandate no in-person meetings for city departments and public meetings. He said he would keep the Board apprised of this decision.

Commissioner Shannon advised he was not clear why the public could not be allowed to meet in a room using social distancing directives to make public comments during the public hearing.

Mr. Anthony advised that staff was hoping that by August 27th the Public Hearing might be held in person. He noted it would just depend on the health directives that are in place at that time dictating allowance for in-person public meetings, and depending on number of people allowed to gather for this kind of meeting. He noted some options that are being considered for public participation, and noted it would just depend on the COVID conditions that would be prevailing by the August 27th meeting date.

A motion was made by Commissioner Martinez, seconded by Commissioner Shannon, to approve recommendation. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 4 - Harry Saltzgaver, Frank Martinez, Robert Shannon and Gloria Cordero

Excused: 1 - Art Levine

NEW BUSINESS

President Saltzgaver called for a motion to excuse Commissioner Levine from the June 18th Board meeting.

Commissioner Shannon made a motion to excuse Commissioner Levine from the June 18, 2020 Special Board meeting. Commissioner Cordero seconded the motion. The motion

carried unanimously with a 4 yes - 1 excused (Levine) vote.

President Saltzgaver advised he did not see a reason to hold the June 18th scheduled closed session.

ADJOURNMENT

President Saltzgaver adjourned the special Board meeting at 9:26 A.M. in memory of Larry Curtis, Municipal Band director, to the next teleconference/web meeting of July 2, 2020 at 9:00 A.M.

NOTE:

If written language translation of the Commission agenda and minutes for non-English speaking persons is desired, please make your request by phone to the Office of the City Clerk at (562) 570-6101, 72 business hours prior to the Commission meeting.

Kung nais ang pagsasalin ng nakasulat na wika ng agenda ng Komisyon at ang minutes para sa mga taong hindi nagsasalita ng Ingles, mangyaring isagawa ang iyong hiling sa pamamagitan ng telepono sa Opisina ng Clerk ng Lungsod sa (562) 570-6101, 72 oras ng negosyo bago ang pagpupulong ng Commission.

Si desea obtener la traducción escrita en otro idioma de la agenda y actas de la comisión para personas que no hablan inglés, haga su solicitud por teléfono a la Oficina de la Secretaría Municipal al (562) 570-6101, 72 horas hábiles antes de la reunión de la comisión.

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