

**MINUTES
WHITTIER CITY COUNCIL
WHITTIER REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY
WHITTIER HOUSING AUTHORITY
WHITTIER PUBLIC FINANCING AUTHORITY
WHITTIER UTILITY AUTHORITY
JOINT BUDGET STUDY SESSION
COUNCIL CHAMBER, 13230 PENN STREET
MAY 7, 2011**

1. CALL TO ORDER:

The Whittier City Council met in an adjourned regular session on May 7, 2011, in conjunction with the Whittier Housing Authority, Whittier Public Financing Authority, Whittier Redevelopment Agency, and the Whittier Utility Authority. Mayor Warner called the joint meeting to order at 8:08 a.m. in the Council Chamber of Whittier City Hall, 13230 Penn Street, Whittier, California.

2. ROLL CALL:

COUNCIL MEMBERS/HOUSING AUTHORITY BOARD MEMBERS/ PUBLIC FINANCING AUTHORITY DIRECTORS/AGENCY BOARD MEMBERS/UTILITY AUTHORITY DIRECTORS PRESENT:	Greg Nordbak, Council Member/Agency Member/Authority Director Joe Vinatieri, Council Member/Agency Member/Authority Director (8:35 a.m.) Bob Henderson, Council Member/Agency Member/Authority Director Owen Newcomer, Mayor Pro Tem /Vice Chair Cathy Warner, Mayor/Chair
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OTHER OFFICIALS PRESENT:	Stephen W. Helvey, City Manager/ Executive Director Kimberly Hall Barlow, Assistant City Attorney/ Assistant Authority Counsel Kathryn A. Marshall, City Clerk-Treasurer/ Secretary-Treasurer
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3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Police Captain Mike Davis led the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS:

Arthur Rock, Whittier, requested the City Council carefully study the issues as next year's budget is considered.

5.A FISCAL YEAR 2011-12 CITY, REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY, HOUSING AUTHORITY, PUBLIC FINANCING AUTHORITY, AND UTILITY AUTHORITY BUDGETS:

City Controller/Human Resources Director Hill displayed a slide regarding the FY10-11 Budget deficient and reviewed how the deficit increased from \$240,000 at the beginning of the fiscal year to the \$1.2 million anticipated as of June 30, 2011 due to decreased sales, utility user, and property tax revenues. He proposed balancing the budget through the lease of excess water rights (\$1,056,600) and a purchasing freeze (\$500,000).

Assistant City Manager Collier displayed and reviewed a slide outlining declining revenue projections for FY11-12: property tax (\$379,000), sales tax (\$141,000), utility user tax (\$574,000), and franchise fees (\$22,000). Staff was directed to consider an audit of utility user tax payments for cellular service.

Assistant City Manager Collier displayed and reviewed a slide regarding FY11-12 expenditure projection increases: CalPERS \$962,000 and Health Insurance (projected) \$237,000.

Council Member Vinatieri joined the meeting at 8:35 a.m.

Council Member Newcomer requested the \$328,381 anticipated surplus for FY10-11 be used to complete the historic building survey. The City Council concurred the survey needed to be funded and completed. Assistant City Manager Collier said he would bring back a report on completing the survey before adoption of the FY11-12 Budget.

The City Council accepted the plan for balancing the FY10-11 Budget.

Assistant City Manager Collier displayed a FY11-12 Expenditure Reductions/Revenue Enhancements slide. The City Council reviewed staff's proposals and concurred on the following:

- Reduce funding for Los Angeles County animal control services by \$50,000
- Reduce economic development newsletter funding by \$3,753
- Maintain Community Development Department part-time and temporary staff funding at the current level
- Maintain environmental review and building survey funding at the current level
- Reduce Branch Library funding during the closure for remodeling by \$63,461
- Maintain park restroom funding at the current level
- Maintain parking lighting funding at the current level
- Continue operating the Penn Park Pond
- Continue weekday morning and Saturday lap swim periods

- Continue Palm Park 4th of July Celebration
- Eliminate Summer Whittier Youth Network (WYN) Clubs at Evergreen and Laurel schools \$13,700; revisit the issue when the School District resumes summer school
- Continue Rio Hondo Symphony and reception funding at the current level
- Continue providing staffing for Pony Baseball use of York Field
- Continue subsidizing Youth Sports Team's insurance at \$1,425 per organization
- Keep Uptown Senior Center open on Sundays
- Maintain Senior Center Membership fee at \$3
- Maintain WYN Club membership rates
- Summer Concert Series vendor fees to be directed to the Whittier Community Foundation

Mayor Warner recessed the meeting at 9:30 a.m. Mayor Warner reconvened the joint meeting at 9:45 a.m. with all Council Members present.

The City Council continued its FY11-12 Budget review and concurred on the following:

- Decrease Human Resources funding for recruitments and examinations by \$28,558

Assistant City Manager Collier displayed and reviewed a slide regarding FY11-12 General Fund Budget Balancing reflecting use of water rights revenue and Expenditure Reduction and Revenue Enhancements to close the anticipated \$2,056,000 gap between revenues and expenditures. The City Council concurred to use \$1.5 million in water rights revenue to balance the FY11-12 Budget. Assistant City Manager Collier suggested re-valuation of the water rights be added to the FY11-12 Workplan.

Assistant City Manager Collier reviewed the anticipated reduction in Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and HOME funds in FY11-12, and said the HOME fund decrease will be addressed through allocations. The City Council concurred to back-fill the \$16,780 CDBG funding reduction impact on public service allocations.

The City Council continued its FY11-12 Budget review and concurred on the following:

- Extended the Local Economic Stimulus and Business Assistance Plan to June 30, 2012 and carryover funding
- Bring back the Document Imaging Program funding options with the final budget
- Defer consideration of Storage Area Network (SAN) expansion until FY12-13

- Use Designed Parkland Reserve Fund (Quimby funds) for park development not maintenance; Council Member Newcomer's recommendation to use the funds to establish a dog park did not receive consensus
- Add Parnell Park Activity Center maintenance to the budget (\$21,000) and determine if any of the design issues should be pursued against the architect; prioritize other park maintenance needs and return for future discussion
- Revisit allowing private sponsorship of scoreboards
- Approved Greenway Trail maintenance \$526,640 and capital improvement project \$182,024 appropriations
- Include 125th Anniversary Founder's Day event celebration \$3,100; staff to bring back a report on other anniversary festivities
- Include Veteran's Day program at the Peace Memorial \$5,000, Memorial Day observance \$1,000, and additional Blue Star Program \$2,500 funding
- Include funding to removal oleanders \$25,000
- Include \$25,000 funding to continue centralized irrigation system implementation
- Include \$3,000 in Parks, Recreation and Community Services Department budget for Friends of Pio Pico assistance; return a report on Pio Pico park and facility maintenance if the State decides to close the park
- Approved increasing the Qualifying Senior Citizen sewer rate discount income level to be consistent with the UUT exemption level
- Approved the Budget Increase/New Program Requests list
- Approved the Capital Improvements Summary
- Approved the City Council Sponsored Events List
- Approved the Out of State Conventions List
- Accepted the Library Holiday Closure Schedule

Assistant City Manager Collier noted a FY11-12 goal setting session was not held due to the declining economic conditions; however, a number of priority projects would move forward during the coming year: Mineral Extraction Project conditional use permit (CUP) and environment impact report (EIR), Nelles property, redevelopment agency bond projects, Uptown parking, Greenway Trail extension, Gold Line extension, Whittwood Branch Library Expansion, and Historic Building Survey.

6. COUNCIL/AGENCY/DIRECTOR COMMENTS/CONFERENCE REPORTS:

7. ADJOURN REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY, HOUSING AUTHORITY, PUBLIC FINANCING AUTHORITY AND UTILITY AUTHORITY MEETINGS:

8. CITY COUNCIL CLOSED SESSION:

Assistant City Manager Collier recommended the City Council conduct a Closed Session pursuant to:

8.A City Council – Government Code Section 54957.6 to discuss labor negotiations between negotiator Stephen Helvey, and the Whittier City Employees' Association, Whittier Police Officers' Association and unrepresented employees.

8.B City Council – Government Code Section 54957, City Manager evaluation.

Mayor Warner recessed the meeting to Closed Session and Council Member Henderson left the meeting at 11:15 a.m.

9. RECONVENE IN OPEN SESSION:

Mayor Warner reconvened the City Council meeting in Open Session at 11:58 a.m. with all Council Members except Council Member Henderson present.

10. CLOSED SESSION REPORT:

None.

11. ADJOURN CITY COUNCIL MEETING:

Mayor Warner adjourned the joint meeting at 11:58 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathryn A. Marshall
City Clerk-Treasurer/
Secretary-Treasurer