

MINUTES

Special meeting of the City Council of the City of Redlands held in the Council Chambers, Civic Center, 35 Cajon Street, on May 20, 2024 at 5:00 P.M.

Present: **Eddie Tejeda, Mayor**
 Paul Barich, Mayor Pro Tempore
 Denise Davis, Council Member
 Jenna Guzman-Lowery, Council Member
 Mario Saucedo, Council Member

Staff: **Charles M. Duggan, Jr., City Manager; Yvette M. Abich Garcia, City Attorney;**
 Jeanne Donaldson, City Clerk; Janice McConnell, Assistant City Manager; Chris
 Boatman, Assistant City Manager; Carl Baker, Public Information Officer;
 Danielle Garcia, Management Services/Finance Director; Brian Desatnik,
 Development Services Director; John Harris, Municipal Utilities and Engineering
 Director; Rich Sessler, Fire Chief; Rachel Tolber, Police Chief; Tabitha Crocker,
 Facilities and Community Services Director; Robert Meteau, HR/Risk
 Management Director; James Garland, Assistant Finance Manager

Mayor Tejeda called the special meeting to order and offered the public an opportunity to address them on any matter scheduled on this agenda or any matter within the jurisdiction of the City Council which is not already scheduled on the agenda. Public comments were presented either in-person, via Zoom, via cell phone or landline.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Budget Requests - Chamber of Commerce Executive Director, Evan Sanford requested the City Council allocate funds for the following items: 1) Creation of a freeway-oriented sign welcoming drivers to Redlands and encouraging tourism; 2) Establishment of a "new business" check list to assist business owners; 3) A reminder to set aside funds to address the downtown parking needs.

Redlands Theatre Festival - Andrew Beecho and Allan Griesemer described numerous acts of vandalism and damage that have been ongoing occurrences at the Theatre Festival, and they urged the Council to protect this long-running venue, by installing a security fence.

Thank You Job Well Done - Dennis Bell complimented staff for their hard work on the proposed budget document.

FISCAL YEARS 2025-2026 BUDGET WORKSHOP

Proposed Budget Overview

City Manager Duggan and Management Services/ Finance Director Garcia provided an overview of the Proposed Fiscal Year 2025-26 Budgets. The City Manager's budget message explained that the City has made significant strides to reinvest in community needs such as public safety, deferred maintenance of public infrastructure, and improvements to overall service levels. To plan responsibly through shifting economic patterns and resulting impacts, this budget prioritizes sustainable investments that set us up for continued stability, from supporting our City workforce

through innovative collective bargaining agreements, to multiple-year planning efforts to address long-deferred maintenance needs, to developing strategies to invest in large-scale expenditures for new Police and Fire facilities.

He stated that as in previous years, this budget proposal continues to prioritize and support the efficient delivery of core municipal services in the areas of public safety, quality of life and infrastructure maintenance. It does so by identifying the financial resources needed for the coming two fiscal years while also responsibly anticipating and ensuring the sustainability of resources to meet our community needs in the years ahead. Through a series of slides, tables and charts, they offered context and background, a Review of FY 2023, FY 2024, a Comparison of FY 2024 Mid-year Versus Updated Estimates; FY 25 and FY 26 Spending Highlights and Revenue Assumptions and provided a list of Unknowns and Risks to the Forecast.

City Manager Duggan and Director Garcia presented the long-term six-year financial forecast from FY 2026-27 through FY2029-30. Key points showed: The model projects a stable economic outlook and a 2% increase in operating expenses; the design & engineering for one new fire station is included in FY 2027, Debt service and staffing for the new fire station begins in FY 2029 and Debt service for Safety Hall begins in FY 2026. Also reviewed was a summary of Measure T revenue.

Questions raised by Council Members centered on a number of topics including, consideration of a special tax devoted to funding a new Safety Hall and new Fire Station and the merits of such a special tax, aging police and fire infrastructure, homelessness grants, accessibility and public restrooms, the City's Climate Action Plan, deficit spending and reserve funds balances,

Following the overview, department heads discussed their FY 2025-2026 budgeted revenues and expenditures requests and responded to several questions from the Council. Each Council Member expressed their appreciation for the City Manager and Director Garcia, along with all City staff. The Proposed Budget discussion will continue at its regular meeting of June 4, 2024.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further action required the special meeting adjourned at 7:02 P.M.

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