
From: Barbara LaRaia [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, May 26, 2020 12:50 PM
To: CouncilSB; Melissa Thurman; Marc Zafferano
Subject: May 26, 2020 Council Mtg. and May 27 Budget Study Session Meeting.

ITEM 4.a. on 05.27.2020

Hello Everyone. This item is for May 26 Council Meeting - Item #8, AND for May 27 Study Session Meeting - Item #4. Melissa confirmed it is ok to submit this way.

Agenda Item #8 (May 26) San Bruno Budget - Budget (in intensive care) AND Item #4 May 27 Budget Study Session: San Bruno's financial situation was already dire BEFORE COVID-19. It was in the red over \$4 million at the end of 2019 (Other cities publicly touted their great financial situation at that time.). COVID-19 exacerbated our ALREADY bad financial situation. There should be NO raises for city workers, nor should there be "raise NEGOTIATIONS" between unions and the City. As a matter of fact, I agree with Gov. Newsom's idea of CUTTING all state workers' salaries by 10%, and feel we should do the same in San Bruno (The other choice is to furlough workers or actually let go of workers.). Perhaps one of our top-level staff members can begin the process by voluntarily and publicly announcing that he/she wishes to take a 10% salary reduction to help the mess we are in in this city. Or, at the very least, announce that he/she does not want a raise. Palo Alto's city manager Ed Shikada just VOLUNTEERED to take a 20% pay CUT.....He also said he will bring 15% pay cuts for city management before the Council.

What many citizens may not realize is that the salary is just one part of it - the extremely generous health, etc. benefits add a huge percentage to the salary. According to Stanford's Hoover Institution, California government workers are paid TWICE as much as private sector workers. "Both components of compensation - pay and benefits - are higher for government workers. Benefits contribute 40% to the overhead of a public-sector employee, which reflects significant public sector pensions." Unfortunately, until very recently, our city workers contributed zero toward "benefits". Recently, it became 7% - THIS WILL NOT DO., and is still not enough. Many city employees can retire at age 50, and will collect benefits for the rest of their lives - often living well into their 80s or 90s. (Note: We need to carefully consider first responders a bit differently, due to the physical and mental stress of their jobs. They may well need to retire early and we need to assure there is protection for them if injured on the job.)

We keep kicking the can down the road on this issue, and it is hurting us taxpayers in the form of water rate raises, cable/Citi Net raises, sales tax raises, non-repaired trip-hazard sidewalks, potholes all over the city, etc. A 2018 County Grand Jury report "slammed" San Bruno and declared that "San Bruno does NOT have nor intends to seek one or more cost-sharing agreements with employees." We will NEVER balance our budget properly until we take care of this issue, and I commend Councilman Michael Salazar for having it on his "council priority list" to be reviewed with Council at a future special meeting.

Barbara LaRaia