



City of Malibu News

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Malibu City Council Approves 2020-2021 Budget Including Extending Fee Waivers for Rebuilding Homes Destroyed in the Woolsey Fire

(Malibu CA) – The City Council approved the Fiscal Year 2020-2021 Budget, extending fee waivers for residents who are rebuilding their homes destroyed in the Woolsey Fire during the Council meeting on Monday, June 22.

“While the City for years has been well positioned to handle the financial impact of major disasters by maintaining a large budget reserve, we could not have predicted the extent and duration of the impacts from the pandemic,” said Mayor Karen Farrer. “Even so, I am proud that we were able to extend the Woolsey Fire fee waivers to help residents keep rebuilding, and still maintain the core services that our community needs.”

The adopted Budget totals \$54.34 million in revenue and \$63.79 million in expenses and includes General Fund annual revenue of \$30.20 million and General Fund annual expenditures for ongoing City operations of \$30.25 million. Despite the global COVID-19 pandemic and a significant decrease of over \$2.1 million in anticipated revenue, the budget as presented is currently balanced with a transfer of \$50,000 from the General Fund Designated Reserve for Capital Improvement Projects to the General Fund Undesignated Reserve.

The adopted Budget reflects the Council’s established priorities which for the coming year are once again public safety, Woolsey Fire rebuilding and school district separation.

The City staff reached a balanced budget by using funds from the City’s portion of the settlement with Southern California Edison (SCE) for damages from the 2018 Woolsey Fire. Savings were created by reducing the number of positions by not filling unfilled vacancies, without any layoffs; reducing the use of contractors and consultants and shifting their work to regular City staff, and cutting expenditures such as travel, training, supplies and approved overtime, among others.

The Council extended for six months the permit fee waivers that the City enacted to help homeowners who lost properties during the 2018 Woolsey Fire. The deadline to apply for fee waivers has now been extended to December 30, 2020. The fee waivers include all City planning and building permit fees for properties that are being rebuilt as a “like-for-like” or “like-for-like plus 10%” rebuild and were used as a primary residence by the property owner as of November 8, 2018.

As part of the Budget package, the Council approved the Annual Work Plan for Fiscal Year 2020-2021.

The Council’s major directions to staff included, among others:

- Report back with information about placing a proposal on a special election ballot to increase the Transient Occupancy Tax (TOT) collected in the City by 15%
- Maintain the Undesignated Reserve at 65% of the annual operating budget

- Keep Charmlee Wilderness Park closed during Fiscal Year 2019-2020
- Bring an item back to the City Council to consider issuing business cards to all City Commissions
- Bring back a cost/benefit analysis of adding a fourth vehicle for the Sheriff's Volunteers on Patrol (VOP) program
- Add funding to the Budget for Fiscal Year 2019-2020 for the Work Plan items Coastal Vulnerability Assessment and Clean Power Alliance (using 100% renewable energy at all City facilities)
- Remove funding from the Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year 2019- 2020 for the City Hall Solar Project
- Bring back at the Fiscal Year 2019-2020 mid-year budget review Business Licenses and the Parking Meters Implementation Plan

The City Council also approved the following Planning Department priorities listed in the Fiscal Year 2019-2020 Work Plan:

- Accessory Dwelling Unit Ordinance
- Beachfront/Non-Beachfront Development Standards
- Total Development Square Footage Mansionization Ordinance
- Short-term Rental Ordinance and Enforcement Program
- Parking as a Stand Alone Use
- Overnight Parking Ordinance.

Council directed staff to not include creation of an Environmental Commission in Fiscal Year 2019-2020 Work Plan but defer it to a future year, and to schedule regular meetings of the Environmental Sustainability Subcommittee in lieu of creating an Environmental Commission. Numerous other items in the Fiscal Year 2019-2020 Work Plan were removed and deferred to a future year, including:

- LCP ESHA Map
- Sign Ordinance ZTA
- Wireless Communications Facilities Ordinance
- Civic Center Specific Plan
- Electric Fleet
- Balloon Ban
- Plastic Dry-Cleaning Bag Ban
- No Smoking Ordinance
- Polystyrene Ban Additions
- Single Use Plastic Beverage Containers Ban
- Legacy Park Art Enhancement Plan
- Vacant Properties
- Metro Freeway Service Patrol (FSP) Pilot Program
- Mobile Emergency Command Post
- Utilities Undergrounding Assessment District Formation / Outreach Program

To see the complete budget and staff report, visit <https://www.malibucity.org/AgendaCenter/ViewFile/Item/3789?fileID=8483>. To watch the Council meeting, including the presentation and discussion of the Budget, visit <https://www.youtube.com/user/CityofMalibu/videos>.

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