



SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

Date: 5/19/2020

Time: 5:00 p.m.

Special Meeting Location: Joinwebinar.com – ID# 371-154-995

NOVEL CORONAVIRUS, COVID-19, EMERGENCY ADVISORY NOTICE

On March 19, 2020, the Governor ordered a statewide stay-at-home order calling on all individuals living in the State of California to stay at home or at their place of residence to slow the spread of the COVID-19 virus. Additionally, the Governor has temporarily suspended certain requirements of the Brown Act. For the duration of the shelter in place order, the following public meeting protocols will apply.

Teleconference meeting: All members of the City Council, city staff, applicants, and members of the public will be participating by teleconference. To promote social distancing while allowing essential governmental functions to continue, the Governor has temporarily waived portions of the open meetings act and rules pertaining to teleconference meetings. This meeting is conducted in compliance with the Governor Executive Order N-25-20 issued March 12, 2020, and supplemental Executive Order N-29-20 issued March 17, 2020.

- How to participate in the meeting
 - Submit a written comment online: menlopark.org/publiccommentMay19*
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 - Cable television subscriber in Menlo Park, East Palo Alto, Atherton, and Palo Alto: Channel 26
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Note: City Council closed sessions are not broadcast online or on television and public participation is limited to the beginning of closed session.

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According to City Council policy, all regular meetings of the City Council are to end by midnight unless there is a super majority vote taken by 11:00 p.m. to extend the meeting and identify the items to be considered after 11:00 p.m.

Special Session ([Joinwebinar.com](https://www.joinwebinar.com) – ID# 371-154-995)

A. Call To Order

Mayor Taylor called the meeting to order.

B. Roll Call

Present: Carlton, Combs, Nash, Mueller, Taylor
Absent: None
Staff: City Manager Starla Jerome-Robinson, Interim City Attorney Cara Silver, City Clerk Judi A. Herren

C. Regular Business

- C1. Provide direction on budget balancing measures including program and service reductions for the city manager's proposed fiscal year 2020-21 budget and authorize issuance of notice of intent to layoff affected positions ([Staff Report #20-106-CC](#))

[Web form public comment for item C1.](#) (Attachment).

Assistant City Manager Nick Pegueros and Assistant Administrative Services Director Dan Jacobson made the presentation (Attachment).

- Roy Thiele-Sardiña commented on the effects of budget reduction to the community.
- Carmen Lo spoke in support of retaining childcare services.
- Lynne Bramlett spoke in support of the consideration of employee pay cuts.
- Angela Evans spoke in support of the continuation of the herbicide-free agreement.
- Cynthia Guerra spoke in opposition of service reduction in the Belle Haven neighborhood.
- Reverend Teirrah McNair spoke in opposition of service reduction in the Belle Haven neighborhood.
- Adina Levin commented on the needs of the most impacted and vulnerable to this recession.
- Andrey Konchenko spoke in support of retaining childcare services.
- Kim Morris spoke in support of protecting services to members of the community.
- Mayrin Bunyagidj spoke in support of retaining childcare services.
- Osnat Loewenthal spoke in support of retaining childcare services.
- Karen Grove spoke in support of the use of reserves to assist in balancing the budget.
- Avideh Samardar spoke in support of retaining the services in Belle Haven.

The City Council reached consensus to cut the items listed on Table 2a "Baseline budget changes, department summary" on the staff report (Administrative services summary, City Council/city attorney/city manager/city clerk/sustainability summary, Community development summary, Community services summary, Library summary, Police summary, and Public works summary) and Table 3 "Unrepresented management personnel cost reductions" (Freeze community development

director position, Freeze administrative services director position, Suspend unrepresented pay increases for 2020-21, Suspend unrepresented bonuses for 2020-21, Additional reductions to reach 25% reduction goal).

The City Council requested more discussion on the remaining budget reduction items.

D. Adjournment

Mayor Taylor adjourned the meeting.

Judi A. Herren, City Clerk

These minutes were approved at the City Council meeting of June 9, 2020.

1. Hiring freeze across the board.
2. Indefinite deferral of non-essential city policy changes which require incremental staff time/cost or consultant expense. An example of such a non-essential city policy change is the updated Heritage Tree ordinance or measure using city and volunteer resources for the establishment of a city-wide tree census, said program set to begin July 1, 2020.
Such budget balancing measures should continue until the City can afford to do non-essential work.
3. Establish a permanent employee head tax for Menlo Park employers. Model it on the one adopted by the City of Mountain View, effective Jan. 1, 2020. It uses a progressive tax rate to minimize the effect on small businesses.*

Thank you.

* reference link to SJ Mercury article on Mountain View's head tax:
<https://www.mercurynews.com/2020/01/01/mountain-views-employee-head-tax-goes-into-effect-google-to-pay-3-3-million-a-year/>

Agenda item C1

Mary Jane Davey, Menlo-Atherton Youth Lacrosse board member

Please consider the importance of the recreation department on the health and welfare of the youth in our community. Especially at this time when the community needs the children to be able to restart youth sports and recreation. The staff has worked so hard for many years to work with all the sports organizations to allow the most beneficial use of the city's fields and parks. Making any drastic cuts to this department would be disastrous in this critical time that we need all hands on deck. Please reconsider other ways to achieve the financial adjustments needed.

Agenda item C1

Todd Zeo, Menlo Park resident

Good evening Council Members. My name is Todd Zeo and I am the Recreation Supervisor for the City of Menlo Park. I have worked and lived in the City of Menlo Park for the last 10 years. I am very proud to live and work in our City. It is a an important asset to have staff work in the city that they live.

I am proud to work in a City that is financially stable during this pandemic. We currently have a projected deficit of approximately \$12 million to solve in our budget. The staff who put together the report did an excellent job detailing the sound and stable financial footing of the City. There are many options to close the budget deficit that do not include laying off staff.

My union, AFSCME did a thorough analysis of the report and detailed the City's strong financial position including \$42 million in unrestricted funds available to use. I am writing tonight to encourage the council to use a portion these funds during this emergency. Staff like myself who make Menlo Park home and staff who work here every day are one of the most valuable resources of the City. In a City that is financially stable and will still be if you use a portion of these funds to retain staff will be stronger and more resilient when we recover from this pandemic. As a union, we are willing to work with you as partners to continue to achieve financial success.

Thank you,
Todd Zeo

Agenda item C1

Mayra Lombera, Menlo Park resident

Hello, my name is Mayra Lombera and I am a Recreation Coordinator with the city. I also grew up in Menlo Park and recently moved back. I have deep roots in Menlo Park and care deeply about the community. I want you to know that recreation is essential, even more so during a pandemic. People are yearning for that community connection and we want to provide that to future generations. This includes: Affordable recreation classes, team sports, and events to look forward to. With upcoming state cuts to education and inevitable but unknown school schedule changes we need to fill that gap for our residents. I want my children to have access to ballet classes and egg hunts and everything that I remember enjoying when I was a kid in Menlo Park. I want to be clear that the union wants to work with management to figure out a solution that does not include staff cuts. The city is in a strong financial position to continue to provide these services. Mayor Taylor, you sent a message to residents at the beginning of this pandemic to please continue to pay our nannies and house cleaners and gardeners and that is what I have been doing with my nanny-even if that requires for me to dip into my savings. Won't you do the same for us with reserves and un-allocated funds? Cutting essential recreation programs is like having a house without art, is this what we want for our residents? Recreation, like the arts, is essential to the physical and emotional well being of residents. The Community Services department has been working tirelessly for the duration of this pandemic coming up with creative modifications to continue to serve the public, providing lunches to seniors, conducting well calls, activities for children, a virtual recreation center and more. Just this past Friday about 150 residents participated in our virtual Bingo Night. This is not the time to break down, it is a time to build up. Please allow us the time to bounce back instead of making preemptive cuts that will hurt the community for a long time to come.

Agenda item C1

Mayrin Bunyagidj, Menlo Park resident

Please define "essential services" to include childcare: The people of Belle Haven need the BHCDC, Onetta Harris Community Center, and BH Library to not be eliminated or proposed to have budget cuts to their programming. They are essential services for the entire community of working and multigenerational families. It is essential for the working families to have safe and effective childcare services along with after school care as well as the services the library provides. Why are only the cuts (with the exception of MCC) mainly focused on the services in BH and East Menlo Park? Why isn't it impacting the Main Library or Rec center in West Menlo Park where there is an abundance of resources/opportunities compared to BH? How can BH continue to grow and flourish when the city is looking to eliminate all our essential services from the young to the old? Is this plan fair and equitable to all the people/neighborhoods you represent?

Agenda item C1

Keiran Thompson, Menlo Park resident

Menlo Park is one of the wealthiest administrative regions in the world. It is inconceivable that our response to the coronavirus pandemic would be to close childcare centers and eliminate the most popular community activity the council runs, gymnastics. There are precious few organized activities for young children in this area, and the best amongst them is the gymnastics program. My reading of the staff report suggests the financial savings for closing this program are extremely modest, please continue to give our children access to the excellent Arrillaga facilities.

Agenda item C1

Angela Evans, Menlo Park resident

The proposal to reintroduce herbicides to save money is working with inaccurate/outdated information. Our city has a budget opportunity to reduce Parks maintenance costs further than what is proposed here *and* without herbicides, just as the City of Palo Alto has been doing for years. This will free up funds for other things we care about and protect immune systems from the toxic exposures of herbicide applications in areas where children play.

In summer 2019, I reached out to Daren Anderson, Division Manager of Open Space in Palo Alto. In an email that I have forwarded to almost all of you in the last 24 hours, he says, “We haven’t applied any herbicide on our grass fields in the last two years [note that this was last summer; now we are at three years]...the majority of our parks are maintained by a contractor...our contractor’s opinion is that there is nothing currently on the market that is as cost effective and efficient as manual weed removal...My guess is that we aren’t doing anything dramatically different than Menlo Park in terms of field maintenance. It is most likely a difference in weed tolerance.”

After this email, Menlo Park staff held a conference call with Parks staff from the City of Palo Alto. At that time, this was explained further, and technical weed management detail was provided by Palo Alto. I would imagine that there were discussions on how to optimize increased weed tolerance, like prioritizing more problematic weed types’ removal over others, removing less frequently, etc. However, none of this was written up or circulated to Council, to my knowledge, and now our City is still working under the outdated impression that herbicides save money. This is not a financial tradeoff. We need to reconnect with the City of Palo Alto, which has kindly offered to share its technical expertise so that we don’t have to reinvent the wheel and do this right. In doing so, we can save MORE money than what is proposed here.

This is especially critical because herbicides deregulate human immune systems, which is even riskier during COVID. Deregulating human immune systems will impact our most vulnerable community members – especially children without good access to quality food and medical care – the hardest. We can and should trade off less “perfect” looking landscapes in exchange for doing the right thing for public health. There will always be people who complain about weeds, but I am networked with an extremely large number of parents within MPCSD (where my kids go to school) and the Ravenswood School District (where I volunteer several times a week) who will gladly voice their opposition to reintroducing toxic chemicals where their kids play.

Thank you.

Agenda item C1

Derrik Shirley, Menlo Park resident

I strongly urge the City Council to reconsider any cuts to full time/temporary employees during the upcoming discussion on the 2020-21 budget. It is my understanding that our city is in a strong economic position and has plenty of money in the general fund to cover the projected shortfall in anticipated revenues without cutting personnel costs while focusing on non personnel costs and the delay of planned capital improvements.

I think it is our responsibility as a community to limit the damage to families already facing economic hardships, personal loss and anxiety during these uncertain times. As we slowly return to our new normal in a Covid world, it is important to maintain the vital services our community has to offer by retaining a full and robust work force. Our public safety, child care, educational as well as recreational needs are extremely valued and all efforts must be made to ensure they are provided to their fullest capacity.

This is one person's plea to reconsider the cuts to city personnel during this pandemic. One cut is one too many as we strive to support each other during these difficult times.

Thank you for your consideration and your efforts to preserve our wonderful community.

Agenda item C1

Rev Teirrah Mcnair, Menlo Park resident

If city wide equity and a healthy community are guiding principles for the proposed budget cuts then we do have a problem. A cut that would mean closure of the Onetta Harris Community Center and the Belle Haven Child Development Center is neither equitable or healthy. Entire families in the Belle Haven community will be devastated by such a move. Interesting however is the fact that there was no mention of cuts or closure of the centers in the Burgess/Arrillaga complex.

As challenging as this budget cutting business is I am hoping and praying that the City Council will send these budget recommendations back to the staff with a crystal clear definition of 'equitable & healthy' and with an additional note that says 'hands off the senior center too'.

Agenda item C1 Luz Aguilera

My name is Luz Aguilera and I am a member of the Mento Park Senior Center. Life has changed for all of us, but not as drastically as it has for the seniors at this center. For the majority, this was their place of solace. Given the circumstances, the staff continues to provide services for them. Most of the seniors face food insecurities, so now meals are delivered to them. To keep them engaged and active, the Foothill College staff is providing classes through Zoom. I personally, participated in a ceramics class. In addition, some instructors are putting together craft packets for seniors to complete at home. Through visits and calls, the staff makes sure the seniors are up to date on current health information. I urge you to please keep in mind this center, as it is a crucial support system for this low income community.

Agenda item C1 Marisela Garcia

I understand with less money coming there are programs that have to be evaluated. In making your decisions please REMEMBER the vast majority of Belle Haven residents are working class people/families that require 1, 2 even 3 incomes just to make ends meet. Families depend heavily on inexpensive child care/afterschool programs to safely watch after their children as they return to work. Most people/families here do not have jobs that allow them to work from home.

The other side of the 101 has a higher income per household, has more jobs where families can work from home, has larger lots/homes for kids to move/play around.

Bad enough ALL Belle Haven programs are listed as potential cuts for a year OR MORE. Please DO NOT CUT all child care in Belle Haven. Give us a place where our children will have a safe and educational area with great teachers/supervisors while hard working class people try to get back on their feet once schools/work opens back up.

Thank you,
Marisela Garcia

Agenda item C1 Avidéh Samardar

The Senior Accountant Position that is slated to be cut as a part of the budget reductions should not be eliminated. The Menlo Park Senior Center's transportation program is a grant-based program with a large portion of its funding coming through state and federal. The grant upkeep involves detailed accounting submitted monthly as well as an annual Close-out for both of which we have been in compliance because of Patricia Barboza, our Senior Accountant. In the past we have not been able to meet County's tight deadlines for reports, but with Patricia's extensive knowledge about grant requirements, not only we have been able to have perfect audit reports with our County auditor, but have also been able to meet our monthly reporting deadlines. Patricia has also been instrumental in accessing information required for closing the books in a timely manner with the County, and assisting with the financial details their finance department requests. Because of her extensive experience as an accountant, and her full understanding as to how grants operate, Patricia initiated setting up a secondary budget for grant related revenues and expenses, something none of the Finance personnel had done before in the past twenty years that I have been here. This tracking system has been used as an exemplary system. Thanks to Patricia for her knowledge and understanding of the accounting process. I ask the City and Council to please spare Patricia Barboza from the upcoming lay offs because she is much too valuable to all of our programs. Thank you.

Agenda item C1

Kristen Leep, Menlo Park resident

I'm really concerned that you're considering cutting childcare services. As a kindergarten teacher, I know what a complicated time it is for teachers and child care providers. However, families in Menlo Park need to have the childcare they have signed up for. While some Menlo Park families have the flexibility to keep their children at home while they work from home, many families do not have that option because they can not work from home. Please keep those families in mind.

On a related note, the suggestion of eliminating Belle Haven services while the new center is constructed is also concerning. The families that the center serves have habitually been provided lower quality services than the families who live on west side of 101. It would be disappointing to continue that trend, especially as Belle Haven families are more likely to need more services and support.

Also, leaving the PLS would be a personal blow. I love being able to get books and movies from other libraries!! Our library is wonderful but our collection is nowhere near as complete as all of the collections. I find the service especially useful in getting books to use in my kindergarten class when I am teaching about a specific topic. The Menlo Park library doesn't always have a kindergarten appropriate book about respect, for example. But there are libraries in the system that do. I know because I have used them :)

I hope that you will also continue to fund affordable housing planning. As a teacher, it is very difficult to continue living in Menlo Park. But my family is here and it is where I am from so it is where I would like to stay. Below Market Rate housing is one of the few options that may allow me to stay here. Please continue to invest in this vital service that allows engaged residents like me to stay here.

While capital projects are important, there are some that could be deferred to allow the afore mentioned projects to be funded. We definitely don't need a parking garage right now, while only few people can go downtown at once. Of course we want to be ready when shopping reopens but that's going to be a long time and the services I mentioned above are more important to people's personal welfare than the nuisance of having to park a couple blocks from where one is going.

Upgrading Bedwell Bayfront Park and other parks also sounds great but I'm guessing that people are enjoying the parks as they are (hopefully at a distance from each other).

The economic stabilization fund was created for exactly times like these. You don't want to use all of the fund right away, because this will be a long term crisis. But this is a crisis and it is what the fund was created for.

Thank you for taking my comments into consideration! Kristen Leep

Agenda item C1 Lynne Bramlett, Menlo Park resident

I read in the Daily Journal yesterday that the City of Half Moon Bay Department Heads have all agreed to take a 10% pay cut and that the City has eliminated six positions resulting in five layoffs. The Staff Report makes no mention of a similar decision in Menlo Park. I'm disappointed that the Staff Organization has not pulled together better as a team to prevent layoffs. The MP Department Heads could have voluntarily taken a 10-15% cut and then asked the individual contributors to take a 5% cut. The Department Managers could also have given up some of their pension benefits, which are extremely generous when one considers their highly paid salary.

Some general comments:

I object to the use of the "Guiding Principles" as a way to lend credibility to anything. The report referred to the Guiding Principles from the 2016 ConnectMenlo exercise with a specific reference to "citywide equity." The Guiding Principles were established and presented to the public as a form of "promises" that served to reduce opposition to the ConnectMenlo process and outcome. Unfortunately, the Guiding Principles were not followed and they lacked an accountability loop and reporting mechanism.

Instead of equity, development was concentrated in District 1 with the revenue stream mostly benefitting the rest of Menlo Park. The Belle Haven residents are also still waiting for the promised amenities from the ConnectMenlo development.

Despite public calls to fix this problem, the Guiding Principles continue to lack measurements and a reporting mechanism. The broad wording of most of the Guiding Principles also makes them unmeasurable. It more than time to fix this problem and to establish an actual accountability loop based on clearly stated values. While citywide equity is a noble idea, we need to start seeking that goal once we have an equal baseline across all areas in Menlo Park. Until we do, I think we should disproportionately deliver more and better services to the Belle Haven Community until that area is on par with the rest of Menlo Park.

I object to the cuts in services in Belle Haven. Until that area has "equity" with the rest of Menlo Park, we should not cut the City services there. Make cuts in the wealthier parts of Menlo Park where we enjoy the pleasures of more services and also a more beautiful and less crowded outdoors.

To balance the budget, my top suggestions include:

- Layoff all Department Heads with the exception of those needed for mandated or essential reasons. The latter would include the Finance Director now Assistant Administrative Services Director. Once laid off, consider where the positions could be consolidated or eliminated to flatten the organization. Establish a hiring committee and have all laid-off employees apply for any newly reconstituted positions.
- Eliminate the pension benefit for all new hires.
- Establish an inducement to retire or resign for the individual contributor. Give everyone that does so 1/2 month pay for every year as an employee. Make them decide by end of May. No pension spiking!
- Lay off most of the Community Services Department. That department has the most public-private partnerships out of the approximate 50 that the former City Attorney said existed in Menlo Park. Most of those are completely opaque to the general public. The public has called for an audit of some of these agreements due to questionable benefit to the City of Menlo Park taxpayer. For others, it's unclear who benefits beyond a small segment of the community who also might not even live in Menlo Park. The offerings need a complete review and then a determination if it would be more cost-effective to outsource them and/or eliminate them. For example, the City of Redwood City contracts with the YMCA for its fitness center. I like this model. With the COVID-19 pandemic likely lasting 18 or more months, people will be taking fewer classes. We can also take classes easily from other cities or jurisdictions, so there is no need for Menlo Park to duplicate offerings readily available nearby.
- Consolidate the Police Department into the San Mateo County Sheriff's office.

Agenda item C1
Marva Monje

Dear Council members,

As you hear staff recommendation on budget adjustment please keep in mind that families depend on the OH center for quality & affordable child care for our children after school hours. Our daughter attends Beechwood school and afterwards loves going to the center while we make it home from work. She enjoys going to ballet & swimming classes. She loves the kindness & energy of the staff there. We feel very blessed to have somewhere safe for our daughter to keep busy and engaged while she waits for us to get off from work late. The staff at Onetta Harris feels like an extended family for our daughter. It will be devastating for our daughter to not be able to attend the program in the future. Right now we have been able to leave her with an older sibling for a few hours when we work, as essential workers. But once everything returns back to the new normal we won't have anyone to help us with her child care. We understand that COVID-19 is making us all look & make adjustments to our budgets. But I can not stress enough that childcare is not the place for it. We all need a secure, safe, affordable place where our children can be watched after school while we make it home from work. It should not come at the cost of our children who are our future. We need to be able to properly take care of them today for a brighter future.

Thank you so much for your time & consideration in this very important & much needed service in our community.

-Marva

Agenda item C1

Uri Nadav, Menlo Park resident

I wish to express my strong opposition to the closure of the Menlo Children Center. I have been a Menlo Park resident for over a decade, and for the past 9 years I sent each of my three children to the MCC. I have visited many day cares and preschools before deciding to send my first child there, and this was a very easy decision, as it was clear that the level of care is of the highest standards. Having an institution like MCC played a major role in my decision to stay a resident here, even though there are cheaper options in the bay area. Looking at the detailed expenses report, it seems to me that MCC is roughly budget balanced in normal days. Throughout the years I noticed that many of the parents in the MCC come as postdocs or visiting researchers to the area, but then decide to stay in Menlo Park, and I am sure that the existence of MCC and the community it creates plays a major role in their decision. So, in the long term, MCC is creating net positive value to Menlo Park, as it attracts top talents in their fields, and that is what distinguishes Menlo Park from other towns in the bay area - MCC and the excellent public schools, much more than any park or tennis courts or any other facility. I urge the committee members to keep that in mind, and to prefer the long term value to Menlo Park and its residents over the (very) short terms savings. It takes decades to build such a respectable and successful institution.

Sincerely Yours,
Uri Nadav, Ph.D.

Agenda item C1

Noe Perez Rodriguez, Menlo Park resident

To whom this may concern,

I write this message to express my concern regarding the potential closure of the Onetta Harris and the impact it will have to our East Menlo Park Community. My concern is that you are closing a great resource to our low income community who depends on the service they provide to us such as after school programs where our children can receive help with homework, introducing our children to new activities I wouldn't have had access to. Onetta Harris has help my daughter specifically with her peer interaction. Prior to my daughter attending Onetta Harris my daughter struggled engaging with her peers. Onetta Harris has created a safe place for our children and this has help my daughter build her confidence with her peer interaction. My fear with Onetta Harris closure is that this amazing resource to our community will affect our children and will regress. It's extremely difficult as a single parent who works long hours, to be able to replace what the Onetta Harris community has established. Many of us in East Menlo Park struggle every day and I know this closure will impact our children's mental health significantly. I do understand that the city needs to come up with budget cuts due to COVID-19 but I urge you to look elsewhere for these cuts. History shows that the low income communities resource is the first to go and our children suffer for these choices. Let's refocus our attention and put our children first because our children are our future. The city staff are very welcoming and they make sure they provide good quality services it will be a complete loss to the community if the Onetta harris get closed during the construction time. The community benefits from there services so much. Thank you for you time

Agenda item C1 Carmen Lo

Dear members of Menlo Park City Council,

This letter is a submission of public comment regarding item C1, elimination of preschool child care at Belle Haven Child Development center as reflected on today's May 19, 2020 Special Meeting Agenda.

Per Table 1 on Attachment C page C1.22, the table reflect and expenditure of 2million and one million for operations excluding certificated salary. The table also reflects an amended general fund coverage of 714,860 this fiscal.

I would like to recommend council to request for the City's most recent audit completed by LCL of Belle Haven Child Development center reflecting the presented information below in detail. This City audit for the center is completed annually and sent to the State regarding the center's finances.

1) 2018-19 fiscal, the center's expenditure was 1.5million including certified teachers and aides' salaries, benefits, food services, material and supplies, utilities, etc.

Table 1 reflects this year's certified teacher salary as a separate entity to the operational cost. Operational cost shall not cost 1 million if certified teacher and aide salary is excluded. Additionally, the table reflects expenditure this fiscal to be 2 million. However, the recreation coordinator position has been vacant as of end of March and one aide funded by Big Lift has been on maternity leave without pay from Dec. to mid-May. This would reflect less use of Big Lift funding along with decrease in general funds use for City's 10% match. Furthermore, prior to my departure, the center was actively saving and tightening the food budget in comparison to previous years. With the above items, program operation expenditure shall be less than what's reflected in table 1. Food operation cost should have also decreased due to program emergency closure.

2) Last fiscal year, the center received 1.2million in revenue with a total use of about 270k from general fund.

Table 1 reflects this year's general fund use to be 714,860 despite the decrease in expenses as presented in the above paragraph.

3) C1.21, general fund support prior to Covid-19 presents the \$22,500 the center received as a quality grant. However, this is not reflected in Table 1 of the center's revenue. Additionally, the center's QRIS (Quality Rating Improvement Scale) tier is inaccurately reflected. The center is at a tier 4 quality reflecting a \$22,500 grant rather than tier 3, a \$5000 grant.

Per the May 12th Special meeting regarding item E1 tier 2, the presented 1.7million savings along with today's meeting item C1 attachment C page C1.22, the fiscal numbers presented continue to fluctuate and is conflicting. I strongly recommend the council team request for the center's LCL City audit for review and clarity. The fiscal accountant staff(P.B) from the City who worked closely with the director at Belle Haven CDC overseeing the programs full budget and grants may also be of support in clarifying possible questions.

Mayor and council, I thank you for the opportunity to submit a public comment and your consideration of the above information reflecting additional clarity of the center's financial status as the most recent coordinator of the center. I hope this information will support in redirection of the City's decision to eliminate the program.

Sincerely,
Carmen Lo