



MINUTES FINANCE COMMISSION MEETING

Wednesday, May 27, 2026 - 5:00 p.m.
City of Huntington Beach
Council Chambers
Huntington Beach, CA 92648

For the audio recording of the April 22, 2026, Finance Commission Meeting, please visit the City's website at: <https://huntingtonbeach.legistar.com/Calendar.aspx>

Chair Lo Grasso called the meeting to order at 4:55 p.m. and Commissioner LoGrasso led the Pledge of Allegiance.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Frank Lo Grasso, Chair
David Cicerone, Vice-Chair
Paul Geery, Commissioner
Dave Chennault, Commissioner
Jon Boomgarden, Commissioner
Tracey Pellman, Commissioner

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Austin Edsell, Commissioner

STAFF PRESENT

Zack Zithisakthanakul, Acting Chief Financial Officer
Robert Szilagyi, Finance Manager
Shelby Walker, Finance, Management Aide

PUBLIC COMMENTS

CONSENT ITEMS

1. Approval of Meeting Minutes

Motion: Moved by Commissioner Pellman and seconded by Chair Chennault to approve the Finance Commission Meeting Minutes dated April 22, 2026.

The motion carried by the following votes: 6-0-1

Ayes: LoGrasso; Cicerone; Geery; Chennault; Boomgarden; Pellman

Noes: None

Abstain: Edsell

DISCUSSION ITEMS AND POTENTIAL RECOMMENDATIONS

2. Discuss Special Meeting Template

Discussion occurred regarding development of a framework and template for commissioners to organize and submit budget questions and concerns ahead of the special meeting. The intent of the framework was to help identify priorities, improve organization, and provide clearer communication to City Council regarding areas of concern within the proposed budget. Commissioners discussed refining the format to focus on page references, categories, concerns, and recommendations tied directly to the proposed budget document. Staff provided clarification regarding the differences between budgeting, accounting, and budget management processes, noting that some proposed framework topics related more to accounting concepts than the proposed budget itself. Staff advised commissioners to focus questions on the proposed budget, including expenditures, revenues, reserves, staffing, and major spending categories, while also identifying specific pages or sections for reference. Commissioners discussed broader concerns related to long-term financial sustainability, organizational costs, staffing levels, reserve usage, and comparisons to other municipalities, while emphasizing the importance of understanding the larger financial picture in addition to reviewing individual budget line items.

3. Informational Discussion of Contract Review Roles and Responsibilities - Commissioner Cicerone

Discussion occurred regarding a potential ordinance that would require additional contract and lease review involvement by the City Attorney. Commissioners discussed concerns raised from recent City Council discussions involving leases and agreements and expressed interest in taking a more proactive approach by proposing solutions rather than only identifying issues. It was agreed that interested commissioners would meet with the City Attorney to discuss possible ordinance language and bring draft verbiage back to the Commission for review, discussion, and potential recommendation to City Council. Prior experience reviewing leases and agreements was also noted as beneficial to the effort.

4. Subcommittee Update – Sport Complex – Commissioner Chennault

Discussion occurred regarding comparisons between another regional sports complex model and the City's Sports Complex, including the history, operations, fee structures, concessions, and overall financial performance. Commissioners discussed how alcohol sales were reported as a significant revenue source at the comparison facility and raised concerns regarding whether Huntington Beach residents are receiving sufficient benefit from the Sports Complex compared to out-of-town users. Concerns were also expressed regarding restrictions on outside food and how that could impact local youth sports organizations and families. Commissioners discussed ongoing concerns related to concessions operations, including allegations of unpermitted construction, lack of permits for signage and barriers, and questions surrounding certificate of occupancy and compliance requirements. It was stated that City staff and the City Attorney are actively reviewing the situation and working toward remediation and compliance. Concerns were raised regarding accountability, potential liability exposure, insurance, and how operations were allowed to continue while compliance issues remained unresolved. Commissioners also discussed the importance of evaluating the current operating agreements, understanding the operator's long-term vision, and determining whether the current arrangement is financially beneficial to the City and its residents.

5. Subcommittee Update – Meadowlark – Commissioner Cicerone

Discussion occurred regarding the golf course assessment report that was prepared for review. Commissioners stated the report confirmed many of the long-standing concerns previously discussed regarding course conditions and infrastructure, including drainage, irrigation systems, fairway conditions, greens, and overall maintenance needs. Commissioners were encouraged to review the report in detail. It was also noted that the report was obtained at no cost to the City through outside support and partnerships.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Commissioner Chennault – thanked the finance team, stating great job tonight. Keep it up.

Chair Lo Grasso – Thanked everyone for making this commission effective and stated that's the best thing you can say about a commission in the city of Huntington Beach.

Commissioner Boomgarden – Thanked the finance team, they did a great job tonight. Spectacularly successful.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion: Moved by Commissioner Geery and seconded by Commissioner Pellman adjourn the meeting at 6:34 p.m.

The motion carried by the following votes: 6-0-1

Ayes: Lo Grasso; Cicerone; Chennault; Geery; Boomgarden, Pellman

Noes: None

Absent: Edsell

Submitted by:

Zack Zithisakthanakul, Acting Chief Financial Officer

By: Shelby Walker, Management Aide