

From: [Kathleen & Bill Nutting](#)
To: [Agenda Comment: CITY COUNCIL](#)
Cc: [Fikes, Cathy; CITY COUNCIL](#)
Subject: April 6, 2020 City Council/Public Financing Authority Meeting Agenda
Date: Monday, April 6, 2020 11:37:15 AM

AGENDA COMMENT

Dear Mayor Semeta, Mayor ProTem Hardy, and Councilmembers Brenden, Carr, Delgleize, Peterson, and Posey,

It is likely that you are now tired of the phrase "We find ourselves in unusual circumstances." Well, I will give you one more unusual circumstance and I hope that it at least brings a smile to each of your faces. I count almost all of you as a friend to whom I can express my opinion (aka vent) about the good and bad that is happening in Huntington Beach. I don't write letters; I pick up the phone. Today is that unusual circumstance for you and for me.

To begin, I am exceptionally dismayed that the current plan is to limit public participation to written comments received by 2:00 PM April 6, 2020. I understand that this is an attempt to respect N-29-20, but families, businesses and education institutions are using Zoom, Skype, Face Time, and telephones to communicate. Why can't the City of Huntington Beach set up sometime similar?? We could even set up a microphone and a camera in the patio area of City Hall, couldn't we??

My other major concern is Administrative Items 9, 10, and 11, the introduction of a proposed memorandum of understanding for three different employee bargaining groups. I beseech you, in light of the unexpected and critical economic changes to our City's budget, to postpone these items until a later date.

Almost all of us are making unforeseen and often drastic changes in our lives. The younger children's Little League and Softball seasons have been cancelled. CIF has cancelled all of the Spring Season. High school seniors left school in March never expecting that their on campus experience was over and that they would not have a Prom, not have a Senior Breakfast, and most likely, not have an in person Graduation. Older couples are postponing 50th Wedding Anniversary celebrations with their families and friends and are quarantining alone. That said, we are witnessing an amazing spirit of cooperation in our communities. People are helping others who might need food, supplies, medicine, or a virtual shoulder to cry on. People are supporting the local businesses that remain open and business owners are doing all that they can to survive and to take care of their employees.

All things considered, it is not unreasonable to ask our city employees to recognize that a short postponement of the increase in their wages and benefits is the right thing to do to show support for their friends, their neighbors, and their community.

Thank you for your attention and, as always, thank you for all of your efforts on behalf of the residents of Huntington Beach.

Sincerely,
Kathleen Moore Nutting

From: [Fikes, Cathy](#)
To: [Agenda Alerts](#)
Subject: FW: Agenda Items 9, 10 & 11 for 4/6/20
Date: Monday, April 6, 2020 11:58:09 AM

From: Kathy Carrick <carrick92647@hotmail.com>
Sent: Monday, April 6, 2020 11:54 AM
To: CITY COUNCIL <city.council@surfcity-hb.org>
Subject: Agenda Items 9, 10 & 11 for 4/6/20

City Council Members,

I'm sure you are all aware of the multiple posts on HB Facebook forums over the last days regarding the revelation of agenda items 9, 10 & 11. Thank goodness we have very legalistically savvy folks in our community that are willing to update the rest of us on the antics of our elected officials.

Let me remind you of a couple of facts:

In the last month there have been 1.9 million unemployment claims filed in California.
In the last month there have been 6.6 million unemployment claims filed in the US.

Now...after grasping that...can you please explain what reasonable, compassionate government employee that is currently sustained with a nice, fat, tax payer funded paycheck and cushy government benefits would consider asking for a pay increase at this time?

I could go on and on about selfishness and lack of awareness and reiterate some of the things others have written to you about, but I need to move on to other activities that take my mind off of this outrageous issue so I can curb my anger during my self isolation.

Your constituents, the ones that count on you to do the right thing, are suffering. Every day there are pleas coming from your community. Seniors, disabled and immunocompromised people do not know how or where to shop safely. People don't know how or where to exercise. People don't understand why 99.9% of our population is expected to stay indoors, wear masks, etc., all while the homeless population continues to be allowed to spread God knows what while leading their unregulated lives totally unfettered. Neighbors are yelling at and deriding neighbors for the sin of stepping outside their front door. In short, our community and our world is falling apart. And you want us to give raises to city employees? Really?

This is part of a heartless and tone deaf response one of our community members received

from a city council member:

"Is now really the time to break a deal that the council promised months ago?"

Short answer: YES!!! If ever there was a time, THIS is it!

I won't even start on why a "deal" was promised months ago without input from the community.

In conclusion, please remove item 9, 10 & 11 from tonight's agenda. We need to concern ourselves with how we're going to dig ourselves out of this mess before we start handing out raises. Lot's to consider.

Respectfully,

Kathy Carrick

From: [Fikes, Cathy](#)
To: [Agenda Alerts](#)
Subject: FW: Agenda items for tonight
Date: Monday, April 6, 2020 11:37:08 AM

From: Jen Bledsoe <jenbledsoe66@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, April 6, 2020 11:36 AM
To: CITY COUNCIL <city.council@surfcity-hb.org>
Subject: Agenda items for tonight

Hello,

My husband and I urge you to pull items 9,10, and 11 from tonight's city council agenda. We think it is unnecessary (and fiscally irresponsible) to approve any such raises until we are out of the crisis that faces our city now. If these items aren't removed from the agenda, we urge a NO vote on all 3.

Thank you.

Michael and Jennifer Bledsoe
17201 Golden View Lane
92647

From: [Fikes, Cathy](#)
To: [Agenda Alerts](#)
Subject: FW: Do the right thing
Date: Monday, April 6, 2020 11:37:53 AM

From: dianaleten@aol.com <dianaleten@aol.com>
Sent: Monday, April 6, 2020 11:20 AM
To: CITY COUNCIL <city.council@surfcity-hb.org>
Subject: Do the right thing

Tonight you all need to oppose Agenda Items 9,10 and 11. Now is NOT the time for pay increases. Seriously. Please represent our city and do not give the citizens another reason to distrust our City Council. Mr. Chi should not be working for HB. Thank you, Diana

From: [Fikes, Cathy](#)
To: [Agenda Alerts](#)
Subject: FW: Employee raise
Date: Monday, April 6, 2020 11:46:36 AM

From: Ron Taylor <cscron@verizon.net>
Sent: Monday, April 6, 2020 11:46 AM
To: CITY COUNCIL <city.council@surfcity-hb.org>
Subject: Employee raise

So our city council and Mayor want to give our city workers a raise in this time of uncertainty. I for one am totally against this at this time as the city has many and I mean many family's that are not working at all. No money for rent, utilities or food. What kind of message does this relay to them that only a few here important and that that kind of money could be spent on family aid.

I feel that this item can be delayed until we get out of this medical emergence and see where we as a community stands budget wise. So this is a NO vote on our family's part. I will not get into a political campaign at this time but be assured that if the council votes on this today there will be hell to pay down the road.

Thank you

Ron Taylor & Margaret Coleman

From: [Fikes, Cathy](#)
To: [Agenda Alerts](#)
Subject: FW: Mayor Semeta, HB City Council and Mr. Chi - Vote No on Agenda Items 9, 10 & 11
Date: Monday, April 6, 2020 11:58:55 AM

From: Richard Thiel <rthiel@socal.rr.com>
Sent: Monday, April 6, 2020 11:54 AM
To: CITY COUNCIL <city.council@surfcity-hb.org>; Chi, Oliver <oliver.chi@surfcity-hb.org>
Subject: Mayor Semeta, HB City Council and Mr. Chi - Vote No on Agenda Items 9, 10 & 11

Dear Mayor Semeta, HB City Council and Mr. Chi,

I am shocked and very disappointed that in these uncertain financial times you would take this time to sneak in a bill as important as this is. Businesses are closing and/or losing money. Potentially even losing their businesses; People are losing their jobs, with what consequences to follow; business support personnel could lose their apartments because they couldn't pay their rent. A time that you know full well that people who opposed these items are prohibited from assembling in large groups. Which means that there will be fewer people that will risk attending the City council Meeting and oppose your actions.

Please oppose Agenda Items 9, 10 and 11 and stop any further contract negotiations and pay increases during this unprecedented time of crisis. We rely on our city council and city manager to properly manage our city through good times and bad, and we know, without question, that the city will be suffering serious financial losses as a result of this shut down. Now is not the time for pay increases or ANY contract negotiations. Please put all future contract discussions ON HOLD for at least one year until we know the complete financial impact of the COVID19 shutdown to our city.

Sincerely,
Richard Thiel,
20822 Hunter Lane, Huntington Beach, CA, 92646

From: [Fikes, Cathy](#)
To: [Agenda Alerts](#)
Subject: FW: NO to Agenda Items 8, 9 and 10
Date: Monday, April 6, 2020 12:38:27 PM

From: Daniel Savard <dgsavard@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, April 6, 2020 12:37 PM
To: CITY COUNCIL <city.council@surfcity-hb.org>; olive.chi@surfcity-hb.org
Subject: NO to Agenda Items 8, 9 and 10

Dear City Council,

My name is Daniel Savard and I have recently become unemployed after many years of being employed. I am also a homeowner in Huntington Beach. I still need to pay my bills property tax, mortgage, utilities, food, and car expenses. I need to balance my budget. To do so, I need to make painful cuts and a city should be no different. I do not believe this is the time to approve pay raises as much as the hard-working city employees may deserve them. Layoffs, from personal experience, are not pleasant and should be implemented as a last resort but, given the choice of pay freeze or a layoff. I would think the unions would accept a freeze in wages. We have so many people in Huntington Beach that are not working or businesses closed or have reduced hours and we don't know how long this unprecedented event will drag on. Have compassion for your fellow citizens that are in distress. We have put our trust in you and voted you in office, please do the right thing and revisit agenda items 8,9 & 10 when the city will be in a better financial position. Thank you for attention regarding this matter.

Best Regards,

Daniel Savard

From: [Fikes, Cathy](#)
To: [Agenda Alerts](#)
Subject: FW: OPPOSE AGENDA ITEMS 9, 10, 11
Date: Monday, April 6, 2020 12:25:28 PM

From: Margaret Arnold <margaret.arnold8@verizon.net>
Sent: Monday, April 6, 2020 12:13 PM
To: CITY COUNCIL <city.council@surfcity-hb.org>; Chi, Oliver <oliver.chi@surfcity-hb.org>
Subject: OPPOSE AGENDA ITEMS 9, 10, 11

Dear Mayor Semeta, Council Members and Mr. Chi,

Please oppose Agenda Items 9, 10 and 11 and stop any further contract negotiations and pay increases during this unprecedented time of crisis. We rely on our city council and city manager to properly manage our city through good times and bad, and we know, without question, that the city will be suffering serious financial losses as a result of this shut down. Now is not the time for pay increases or ANY contract negotiations. Please put all future contract discussions ON HOLD for at least one year until we know the complete financial impact of the COVID19 shutdown to our city.

It is disturbing that these Agenda items would even be considered with so many individuals and families in the City of Huntington Beach suffering through loss of jobs/businesses.

Sincerely,

Roy & Margaret Arnold
16262 Wishingwell Lane
Huntington Beach, CA 92647

From: [Fikes, Cathy](#)
To: [Agenda Alerts](#)
Subject: FW: OPPOSE AGENDA ITEMS 9, 10, 11
Date: Monday, April 6, 2020 12:00:00 PM

From: Tom Laughlin <999toml@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, April 6, 2020 11:59 AM
To: CITY COUNCIL <city.council@surfcity-hb.org>; Chi, Oliver <oliver.chi@surfcity-hb.org>
Subject: OPPOSE AGENDA ITEMS 9, 10, 11

SUBJECT: OPPOSE AGENDA ITEMS 9, 10, 11

Dear Mayor Semeta, Council and Mr. Chi,

Please oppose Agenda Items 9, 10 and 11 and stop any further contract negotiations and pay increases during this unprecedented time of crisis. We rely on our city council and city manager to properly manage our city through good times and bad, and we know, without question, that the city will be suffering serious financial losses as a result of this shut down. Now is not the time for pay increases or ANY contract negotiations. Please put all future contract discussions ON HOLD for at least one year until we know the complete financial impact of the COVID19 shutdown to our city.

Sincerely,

Thomas Laughlin

From: [Fikes, Cathy](#)
To: [Agenda Alerts](#)
Subject: FW: OPPOSE AGENDA ITEMS 9, 10, 11
Date: Monday, April 6, 2020 11:43:17 AM

From: Elizabeth Pedley <elzbts@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, April 6, 2020 11:41 AM
To: CITY COUNCIL <city.council@surfcity-hb.org>; Chi, Oliver <oliver.chi@surfcity-hb.org>
Subject: OPPOSE AGENDA ITEMS 9, 10, 11

Dear Mayor Semeta, Council and Mr. Chi,

Please oppose Agenda Items 9, 10 and 11 and stop any further contract negotiations and pay increases during this unprecedented time of crisis. We rely on our city council and city manager to properly manage our city through good times and bad, and we know, without question, that the city will be suffering serious financial losses as a result of this shut down. Now is not the time for pay increases or ANY contract negotiations. Please put all future contract discussions ON HOLD for at least one year until we know the complete financial impact of the COVID19 shutdown to our city.

Like many of us....I have lost my job. It's a scary time. Please work on things that help....not pay raises while we all struggle.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Pedley
16571 Bordeaux Ln
Huntington Beach, CA

From: [Fikes, Cathy](#)
To: [Agenda Alerts](#)
Subject: FW: OPPOSE AGENDA ITEMS 9, 10, 11
Date: Monday, April 6, 2020 11:59:18 AM

From: Jon Koskoff <jkoskoff@aol.com>
Sent: Monday, April 6, 2020 11:53 AM
To: CITY COUNCIL <city.council@surfcity-hb.org>
Subject: OPPOSE AGENDA ITEMS 9, 10, 11

Dear Mayor Semeta, Council and Mr. Chi,

Please oppose Agenda Items 9, 10 and 11 and stop any further contract negotiations and pay increases during this unprecedented time of crisis. We rely on our city council and city manager to properly manage our city through good times and bad, and we know, without question, that the city will be suffering serious financial losses as a result of this shut down. Now is not the time for pay increases or ANY contract negotiations. Please put all future contract discussions ON HOLD for at least one year until we know the complete financial impact of the COVID19 shutdown to our city.

From: [Fikes, Cathy](#)
To: [Agenda Alerts](#)
Subject: FW: Public Comments on Council Agenda Items
Date: Monday, April 6, 2020 11:49:36 AM

From: agendacomment@surfcity-hb.org <agendacomment@surfcity-hb.org>
Sent: Monday, April 6, 2020 11:44 AM
To: Agenda Comment <agendacomment@surfcity-hb.org>
Cc: Fikes, Cathy <CFikes@surfcity-hb.org>; CITY COUNCIL <city.council@surfcity-hb.org>
Subject: Public Comments on Council Agenda Items

AGENDA COMMENT

Subject Pay Increases
Name Eric Halsey
Email ehalseyhb@gmail.com

Comments

This can't be true. If so, it is shameful. You should be considering furlough and pay decreases like the people you are supposed to be representing are experiencing.

Please do not pass any pay increases.

From: [Fikes, Cathy](#)
To: [Agenda Alerts](#)
Subject: FW: Public Comments on Council Agenda Items
Date: Monday, April 6, 2020 12:48:47 PM

From: agendacomment@surfcity-hb.org <agendacomment@surfcity-hb.org>
Sent: Monday, April 6, 2020 12:46 PM
To: Agenda Comment <agendacomment@surfcity-hb.org>
Cc: Fikes, Cathy <CFikes@surfcity-hb.org>; CITY COUNCIL <city.council@surfcity-hb.org>
Subject: Public Comments on Council Agenda Items

AGENDA COMMENT

Subject Payraises
Name Natalia Porter
Email longhairmom@yahoo.com

Comments

Please table the discussions and vote on these items for 4-6 months as we are in unprecedented times with unpredictable future revenues. It would be irresponsible to enter into contracts at this time. Thank You for your time.

From: [Fikes, Cathy](#)
To: [Agenda Alerts](#)
Subject: FW: Remove Raises
Date: Monday, April 6, 2020 12:34:03 PM

From: Lowell Pierce <47dad.pierce@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, April 6, 2020 12:26 PM
To: CITY COUNCIL <city.council@surfcity-hb.org>
Subject: Remove Raises

Mr. Chi and Council Members,

Be decent! Remove the horrible agenda items about giving raises. You should not have promised anything! Quit kicking us when we are down. I appreciate the workers who are still working but **THEY HAVE A JOB!** They don't have to work if they don't want, it's up to them. Many of us are struggling, which is an understatement.

Get real and be selfless. You probably ran on how much you loved the citizens of HB>

Prove it,

Lowell Pierce

From: [Fikes, Cathy](#)
To: [Agenda Alerts](#)
Subject: FW: Staff_raises_-_Noth_the_right_time!
Date: Monday, April 6, 2020 11:59:33 AM

-----Original Message-----

From: TonyToniToeKnee <nncoco@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, April 6, 2020 11:53 AM
To: CITY COUNCIL <city.council@surfcity-hb.org>
Subject: Staff_raises_-_Noth_the_right_time!

Staff_raises_-_Noth_the_right_time!

From: [Fikes, Cathy](#)
To: [Agenda Alerts](#)
Subject: FW: Today's agenda!!
Date: Monday, April 6, 2020 12:25:50 PM
Importance: High

From: Gary Tarkington <garytarkington@msn.com>
Sent: Monday, April 6, 2020 12:13 PM
To: Chi, Oliver <oliver.chi@surfcity-hb.org>; CITY COUNCIL <city.council@surfcity-hb.org>
Subject: Today's agenda!!
Importance: High

I did not write this letter myself, but it explains my feelings to the tee! This is NOT THE TIME to be doing any of this when so many of our lives are totally upside down!!

Dear Mayor Semeta, Council Members and Mr. Chi,

I am writing to oppose Agenda Items 9, 10 and 11.

Honestly, I am struggling with a way to start this email. You have seen me at council meetings many times over the past several months. I've written many emails. But this is very, very different. We are in scary and difficult times. I don't think it's an exaggeration to say we are possibly facing the worst recession any of us have ever lived through (and I've survived two BIG recessions). In my immediate circle of family, friends, and neighbors I can point to people who have lost jobs, businesses hurting to the point they may never recover.... I fear every day that this COVID19 situation continues we are looking at exponentially larger and larger devastation.

I was in utter disbelief when I saw the agenda for the upcoming council meeting. I thought surely there must be some mistake. Who on EARTH would be seeking raises or ANY contract provisions during this crisis? Meanwhile, news reports are trickling in reporting on cities that are looking at layoffs and other cutbacks as they prepare for the impending reality we will be dealing with in the weeks ahead. You may have seen the recent articles about Santa Barbara and Pasadena, and I'm sure we will see many more very soon:

Even more alarming, a few days ago I heard an interview with a CEO of a leading national hotel who said he's cut 95% of his 7,000 employees and that this crisis will take MUCH LONGER to recover than either 9/11 or the financial crisis that took 5 & 8 years respectively....I can't even begin to imagine the impact this will have on our TOT.

At this point, I still have a job (thank God!), but my 401K that finally got "whole" after 12 years has tanked again.

Last week I listened to a few council members making impassioned arguments for the city to offer added support/enforcement to protect renters from eviction. Why?? Out of concern for the vast number of HB residents who will be in danger of losing their housing due to lost jobs and income. Contrast the situation facing our residents with the fact that EVERY SINGLE CITY EMPLOYEE still has a job, guaranteed pay, and stable pension. No city employee is at risk of losing their house, the ability to put food on the table or losing their entire financial net worth. Wouldn't it be wise to put all contract actions "on ice" for at least a year until we assess the revenue losses? These are uncharted waters and we simply cannot proceed "business as usual". I understand that these MOU's have been in the works and represent likely weeks/months of negotiations. But just like the robust economy we were all enjoying....all bets were off the day this crisis shut down all business in our city and state. I would suggest to you that the best outcome we can even expect would be to hold on to current employees and avoid layoffs, but we must be open to this possibility as well.

The bottom line is that NOW IS NOT THE TIME FOR RAISES OR CONTRACT COMMITMENTS. The citizens are 100% dependent on you, the council and management, for fiscal responsibility.

Under the best of circumstances I could appreciate a robust debate on this subject....but right now IS NOT THE TIME! At this point, I BEG: PLEASE DO NOT MOVE FORWARD with these MOUs.
Respectfully,
Ann Tarkington
Huntington Beach

From: [Ray Raines](#)
To: [Agenda Comment: CITY COUNCIL](#)
Cc: [Fikes, Cathy: CITY COUNCIL](#)
Subject: Please oppose agenda items 9, 10 and 11
Date: Monday, April 6, 2020 11:39:42 AM

AGENDA COMMENT

I strongly oppose agenda items number 9, 10 and 11 on the April 6 city council meeting. While the whole world is suffering and making sacrifices due to the coronavirus pandemic, is no time to take advantage of our citizens. Please do the right thing by the people who elected you and vote no on these items or at least postpone them until the public can attend a future meeting and express their opinion..

Thank you,
Ray Raines

From: agendacomment@surfcity-hb.org
To: [Agenda Comment](#)
Cc: [Fikes, Cathy](#); [CITY COUNCIL](#)
Subject: Public Comments on Council Agenda Items
Date: Monday, April 6, 2020 11:43:40 AM

AGENDA COMMENT

Subject Pay Increases
Name Eric Halsey
Email ehalseyhb@gmail.com

Comments

This can't be true. If so, it is shameful. You should be considering furlough and pay decreases like the people you are supposed to be representing are experiencing.

Please do not pass any pay increases.

From: barankatz@aol.com
To: [Agenda Comment](#)
Cc: [Fikes, Cathy](#); [CITY COUNCIL](#)
Subject: Staff Raises
Date: Monday, April 6, 2020 10:29:34 AM

AGENDA COMMENT

NO raises, we are in the middle of a worldwide crisis and even the mention of city staff, public works , police and fire raises is morally irresponsible.

Private sector are being laid off or taking pay cuts. The city asset portfolio has to be taking a huge hit due to lost tax dollars from the empty hotel rooms and city owned properties that were rightfully given rent abatement not to mention the stock market. This is beyond irresponsible of Mr. Chi!!

This is irresponsible, insensitive and it is fiscally irresponsible for raises to be given when the tax paying citizens of Huntington Beach are in the middle of this crisis. It will be at best months before our community rebounds from this.

And

Many city employees are already sitting at home getting paid during this crisis and raises should not be approved.

This is not the time for raises!

Barbara Katz