

**2020 INCO COMMUNITY BUDGET PRESENTATION:  
PARTICIPANT QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS**

<p>What is the Zocalo concept at the Centerpoint mall and what the investment \$\$ for the City?</p>	<p>To create and build a Zócalo at Centerpoint Mall. City investment would be approximately \$5M+.</p>
<p>Does the city own properties that are open to public sale?</p>	<p>Yes. Staff are evaluating properties owned by the City of Oxnard and developing strategies for their sale.</p>
<p>[City] Manager said there was a budget decrease for all [departments] since 2015. He included the number for Cultural &amp; Commission (5 Million since 2015) but not for OPD. What was OPD's reductions since 2015?</p>	<p>In the past five years the City has cut more than \$10M across all departments.</p> <p>The most significant impacts include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Cultural and Community Services: \$5.4M in net reductions</li> <li>● Police: \$3.75M in net reductions</li> <li>● PW: \$2.1M in net reductions</li> </ul>
<p align="center"><b>VOLUNTEER QUESTIONS</b></p> <p>#1 Is it possible to come up with a volunteer group to fix potholes in the city?</p> <p>#2 When Detroit declared bankruptcy, the citizens formed a "mower gang" to support the city with mowing overgrown public areas by volunteering their time and tools. Might be an option here as well</p>	<p>Staff is in the process of streamlining the City's volunteer program, making it easier for residents to contribute their time and efforts to enhance the appearance of their City.</p> <p>Improvements include an easy access online form that will be posted on the City's website (in addition to the paper form) that will match residents into areas of interest such as Cultural &amp; Community Services, Public Works, etc. This form will be available this summer.</p>
<p>I'd like to know why the city hasn't considered allowing employees that are willing and able to, to take an unpaid leave of absence so they could apply for Unemployment benefits and be home with their children or high risk family member?</p>	<p>The City did consider this option, but especially during a public health emergency the City needs as many employees as possible working on the job, either at a City worksite, or from home.</p> <p>Under state law, all government employees are declared Disaster Service Workers who can be called upon in an emergency. It is vital for City employees to continue to work to provide essential City services to our community.</p> <p>An employee planning to take an unpaid leave of absence and file for unemployment benefits is slightly misleading because it sounds as if there is no cost to the City. The City is self-insured and pays</p>

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	<p>100% of unemployment benefits. This means that the City covers all of the costs for each City employee that signs up to receive unemployment benefits.</p>
<p>Is there a significant tax increase on the table (as well as water utility increase)?</p> <p>How does the city expect citizens to be burdened with this when many were "just getting by," and prior to this were already at individual financial peril?</p>	<p>Any tax increase would have to be approved by the voters. There's no water utility rate increase scheduled. The last one was in 2017. There is one more wastewater rate increase scheduled: 5.25% in January.</p> <p>If voters approve a sales tax, tourists, out-of-town shoppers and other visitors to Oxnard would also pay the higher sales tax. Not all of the burden will fall on Oxnard residents, but all of the benefit will.</p> <p>A local sales tax would require all of the money generated to stay in Oxnard. The County of Ventura and the State of California would not have access to the money raised by a local sales tax.</p>
<p>Why were we told that we needed a social media specialist signed on with a 6 figure salary who is out of touch with Oxnard Residents and we had a truly atrocious lack of access to information and distribution of vital information regarding Covid-19 to our community after the hiring of this specialist?</p>	<p>We did not ask for, and we did not hire a "social media specialist." Rather, we hired an experienced professional Communications Manager to help us cover the entire spectrum of communication channels, of which social media is one.</p> <p>The City has provided excellent communications, especially regarding the COVID-19 pandemic.</p>
<p>What's the revenue for the Golf Course? Is 1 million dollars worth investing?</p>	<p>Total projected revenue for the Golf Course Operating Fund is \$4.5 million, which includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● \$4.0 million from the new golf course operator (American Golf Corporation),</li> <li>● \$520K from golf course development fees, and</li> <li>● \$15K of interest earnings</li> </ul>
<p>I have a question regarding education. I would like to know what portion of the city's budget is allocated towards education and where one would be able to find a detailed report on this.</p>	<p>The City does not have a budget dedicated solely to education because in the state of California education is the responsibility of public agencies other than cities.</p> <p>However, the City's Cultural and Community Services Department does spend several million</p>

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	<p>grant dollars on the After School Education and Safety program with many schools within the City.</p>
<p>Why is the city managers budget going up by 2 million?</p>	<p>The City Manager's General Fund budget is holding steady at \$1.9 million in both FY 2019-20 and FY 2020-21, down \$0.1 million from FY 2018-19 actuals.</p> <p>For FY 2020-21, there is a proposed one-time capital improvement project of \$1.3 million in Fund 311 PEG Fees Capital Improvement, for improvements to the City Council Chamber.</p> <p>PEG Fees are Public--Educational--Governmental fees allowed by Federal and State law, and paid by residents on their cable television bills. Those fees can only be used for capital projects (not for operating purposes) to improve public, educational and governmental access.</p>
<p>Why is the golf course budget up by 360%?</p>	<p>For the first time in several decades, beginning with the FY 2019-20 Revised Budget and continuing with the FY 2020-21 Proposed Budget, gross expenditures for the Golf Course Operating Fund are included -- both those paid by the new golf course operator (American Golf Corporation) and those paid directly by the City.</p> <p>In prior fiscal years, only the <u>net</u> expenditures of the previous golf course operator (revenues minus expenditures) were included in the budget, as well as those expenditures paid directly by the City.</p> <p>Including gross, not net, expenditures of the new golf course operator makes reported total expenditures look much higher than they appeared before. The same change has been applied to Golf Course Operating Fund revenue, as well.</p>
<p>On mention the golf course, the city just recently purchased equipment for \$200,000 if we are in budget cuts why was this a need</p>	<p>All Golf Course Operating Fund expenditures -- personnel, operations &amp; maintenance, debt service, capital outlay -- are paid with revenues from the Golf Course Operating Fund, not by the General Fund or any other fund.</p>
<p>What percentage of funds is spent on PD?</p>	<p>As a percentage of just the General Fund totaling \$140.8 million, the Police Department's General Fund budget of \$62.8 million is 45 percent.</p>

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	As a percentage of all City funds totaling \$537.5 million, the Police Department's all-funds budget of \$74.8 million is 14 percent.
Why did city manager budget go from \$1.9 to \$3.3?	The City Manager's General Fund budget is holding steady at \$1.9 million in both FY 2019-20 and FY 2020-21, down \$0.1 million from FY 2018-19 actuals. For FY 2020-21, there is a proposed one-time capital improvement project of \$1.3 million in Fund 311 PEG Fees Capital Improvement, for improvements to the City Council Chamber.
Why aren't the legal settlements due to police murders, misconduct and negligence paid with the police budget??? Last year they had a budget of 73 millions	<p>General liability claims against the City are paid out of the City's Public Liability &amp; Property Damage Fund.</p> <p>That fund gets its revenue by assessing every department's operating budget, including the Police Department, for that department's fair share of all liability and property damage claims that result in payout. (Not every claim, of course, ends in a payout.) Each department's fair share is determined by a combination of the department's payroll size and recent experience with liability and property damage claims. In other words, departments with a lot of valid claims against them pay more into this fund than departments with few valid claims against them. This allocation method includes the Police Department, and all other City departments.</p> <p>So, the Police Department budget does, in fact, include the costs of paid claims against it. Just like other City departments' budgets.</p>

<b>Police</b>	
<b>Question</b>	<b>Response</b>
Due to a decrease in crime, why can't we defund the police even more to save general funds? A 0.4 million immediate budget cut is nothing to 62 million.	<p>The Oxnard community generates approximately 100,000 calls for police service each year.</p> <p>The majority of PD's calls for service are actually not crime related. For example, officers are most frequently sent to respond to disturbances and suspicious circumstances that ultimately are determined to not involve crimes.</p>

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<p>Can we get a clarification on how the \$62.8M budget is being allocated throughout the police department?</p>	<p>The Police Department’s budget is allocated into five (5) budget divisions. They are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Community Patrol (field services) with \$41M;</li> <li>2. Criminal Investigation (detectives) with \$9.4M;</li> <li>3. Support services (Records and Property, Professional Standards, and other support services) with \$6.3M;</li> <li>4. Emergency Communications (dispatch) with \$4M, and</li> <li>5. Animal Safety \$2.1M.</li> </ol> <p>Field services is the largest budget division, since it includes Patrol Services, Traffic, Special Operations, School Resource Officers, and Neighborhood Policing.</p>
<p>Is there any actual evidence to back up the statement "good police work reduced the crime rate" seen in Oxnard? Any studies done before vs after increases in police budget to crime rate changes?</p>	<p>There is plenty of evidence to show a connection between an emphasis on frequent offenders/hot spots and reduced crime rates.</p>
<p>Is there a publicly accessible breakdown of police expenses?</p>	<p><a href="https://www.oxnard.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/FINANCE_proposed_budget_book_20_21.pdf">https://www.oxnard.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/FINANCE_proposed_budget_book_20_21.pdf</a> The Police Department Proposed Budget begins on page 146</p>
<p>Looking at the transparent California website, I'm noticing that in 2018 there were multiple OPD officers who earned close to or over \$100,000 in overtime. Are there plans to be more fiscally responsible with police overtime given the other urgent needs in our city? Speaking as an Oxnard teacher, I find this overtime disturbing given the fact that our school is lacking basic resources.</p>	<p>In FY 2019-2020, the Police Department incurred the lowest overtime costs since before 2010. We have implemented several overtime cost saving measures to accomplish this.</p> <p>(School districts are a separate government entity and are not connected to municipal budgets)</p>
<p>In the wake of the George Floyd killing there is a national outcry for the change in police departments across the country, from defunding the police , oversight committees, public review of police complaints, transparency, etc, Has there been a discussion with staff on possible financial support for any oversight programs or any possible affects on police departments if there is any forced legislation?</p>	<p>No.</p>

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<p>With crime rate dropping 14% for 4th year in a row is it possible to have a bigger cut for OPD and still have progressive number?</p>	<p>As previously stated above, the majority of the demands placed on the police department are not related to Part I crime rates, which are murder, manslaughter, sex offenses, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, motor vehicle theft, and arson.</p>
<p>Why increase sales tax for Oxnard's residence when Oxnard police sees an obscene piece of the pie (chart) at 60+%</p>	<p>As a percentage of just the General Fund totaling \$140.8 million, the Police Department's General Fund budget of \$62.8 million is 45%. This is comparable to other cities and is not out of the norm. If the City is going to get beyond the bare minimum in terms of services, more revenue is essential. In other words, things cannot improve unless additional revenue is generated.</p>

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**PUBLIC WORKS**

If we don't have the funding for regular landscaping maintenance, why do we still build medians with landscape areas? For example Victoria south of Gonzales RD. We can't even maintain what we already have and we keep adding areas without proper landscape maintenance. When planning don't you think it would of been better to just build medians with just cement or stamped concrete, instead of leaving areas for weeds to grow since there is no plants or trees.

The City currently does not have plans to build new landscaped medians that would have to be maintained by the City.

For the section of Victoria between Gonzales and Teal Club, no irrigation lines were installed during construction. Current staff does not know why it was done this way, but if the City can get the funds, staff would hardscape that section.

In general, most of the medians were installed a long time ago, and some were originally going to be maintained by Landscape Maintenance Districts, and not the General Fund.

If the City had the funding, staff would be able to design and install some decent hardscaping. While this would save money long-term, it does take a significant investment up front to create something that looks acceptable.

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### Comments

- Prioritizing restoring reserves is smart!
- I believe it will be very important for voters to know the new proposed sales tax increase stays in Oxnard!
- Muchisimas gracias a nuestras interpretes!
- #defundthepolice We want more funds going to minority communities.
- If the police chief's reason to why PD budget is a big chunk of the overall budget is true, then virtually every city in America is poor. Might be right though.
- An increased S&P rating goes hand in hand with positive and well managed buget.
- Lancaster has a size of close to 200,000 people like Oxnard and used only 21%of their total budget in 2018 on public safety.
  - (Lancaster's 2019's population was actually estimated at 157,601)
  - Lancaster's General Fund budget is significantly greater than Oxnard, with \$187M in FY 17-18 and \$188M in FY 18-19
  - Their Department of Public Safety budget for FY20-21 is \$32.85M, including a contract with LASD for \$25.99M
  - Unclear what services are/are not provided by LASD (do not have contract details)
  - Unclear if Lancaster is bearing other costs (e.g. vehicles, capital items)
- Thank you all for this!
- The City of Lancaster is similar sized to Oxnard and spends just 25% of its budget [on police].
- Yes and same with Fairfield, CA (same as Lancaster).