



**LAKWOOD CITY COUNCIL
STUDY SESSION
MEETING SUMMARY
[YOUTUBE VIDEO LINK](#)**

7:00 p.m.

February 1, 2021

ITEM 1 – CALL TO ORDER – (7:31 of video)

Mayor Paul called the virtual meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

ITEM 2 – ROLL CALL (7:40 of video)

Those present were: Mayor Adam Paul, Presiding; Charley Able; Sharon Vincent; Dana Gutwein; Mike Bieda; David Skilling; Anita Springsteen; Ramey Johnson; and Barb Franks.

Absent: Jacob LaBure; Karen Harrison.

Staff in attendance: Kathy Hodgson, City Manager; Ben Goldstein, Deputy City Manager; Alison McKenney Brown, City Attorney

Full and timely notice of this study session was given, and a quorum was present.

ITEM 3 – FINANCIAL UPDATE – (10:46 of video)

Holly Bjorklund, Director of Finance – gave an overview of what would be covered in this presentation, which is where the city unofficially stands financially at the end of 2020 and expected in 2021. None of these numbers are official until the official audit has been completed in 2021.

Councilor Bieda, Chairman of the Budget and Audit Committee – gave a summary of the meeting last week.

Councilor Gutwein – asked if there were any new updates regarding 2021 funding, to which Ms. Bjorklund stated that there are none so far this year.

ITEM 4 – REVIEW OF SALES TAX EXEMPTIONS (24:00 of video)

Bjorklund – Finance had the task of trying to find possible revenue sources from current sales tax exemptions.

Erin Nordmann, Revenue Manager, and Nicole Stehr, Revenue Supervisor – discussed the timeline, which led to tonight's discussion. Electric vehicles, cigarettes, non-essential items for fast food restaurants, pass-through exemptions to contractors.

Bieda – explained that the committee did not reach a consensus on most of these suggested exemptions.

The Mayor and Councilmembers asked the finance staff questions and gave their input regarding how they feel regarding the different proposed exemptions. Consensus to remove medical from the list and wait for the State to decide on this issue. Everything else will move forward for a second reading and public input.

Nordmann – (1:06:50 of video) discussed potential administrative changes to increase revenues and align the language.

Council reached a consensus to move these ideas forward.

Nordmann – (1:13:17 of video) identified opportunities that would require a citizen vote to raise taxes.

Consensus to move forward for more research and discussion with an additional tax on cigarettes and like products, potential marijuana taxation, and TABOR base modification.

There also is consensus from the council to learn more about a potential commercial vacancy tax, Certificates of Participation (COP), and bonded indebtedness.

PUBLIC INPUT

Public comments (1:42:10 of video):

Natalie Menton - Ward 5 – suggested furloughs and salary reductions to save money. They did this at RTD, where she served two terms on their Board. She believes a cigarette tax is a penalty for those adults who smoke.

Anonymous, a citizen of Lakewood – orders medical supplies from Amazon because it is not stocked locally in Lakewood. Amazon collects the tax, so he is paying \$32 a month, which he shouldn't be paying, but Amazon doesn't know any different,

Note: One comment was received on Lakewood Speaks on this specific item. Anyone can view it at lakewoodspeaks.org.

ITEM 5 – REPORTS (1:50:24 of video)

Mayor Paul and City Council Members reported their attendance at previous meetings and events and announced upcoming neighborhood meetings and events.

ITEM 6 – ADJOURNMENT (2:01:42 of video)

There being no further business to come before the Council, Mayor Paul adjourned the study session at 8:55 p.m.

Submitted by:

Bruce Roome, City Clerk