



CITY OF COSTA MESA

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FROM THE OFFICE OF THE INTERIM DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS

PRESS RELEASE

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Costa Mesa schedules two months of public budget meetings

COSTA MESA, CALIF. - The City of Costa Mesa will be holding a series of public meetings in May and June to give its citizens an unprecedented level of information and input on the proposed budget for the 2011-2012 fiscal year.

“In these meetings, we will take the public through our proposed budget in great detail,” said Tom Hatch, the city’s chief executive officer. “And we will leave ample time for public questions and feedback during each of these sessions.”

The Council meetings and study sessions are scheduled for each Tuesday through June 28 and will cover, among other items:

- How the City arrived at its revenue projections.
- Exactly what was cut to bridge the \$5 million gap the City faced after city departments submitted their original budgets.
- The projected 5-year cost of the City’s pension plan and the assumptions behind the estimates).
- Presentations on the City’s \$35.4 million unfunded retirement health benefit liability and the purpose for the Equipment Replacement Fund.
- An update on the City’s use of consultants, including costs and services delivered.
- A detailed review of the organizational restructuring report for the Police Department.
- A presentation of a new 5-year financial forecast that will include a Capital Reinvestment Plan.

The meeting schedule is below. The dates for various topic discussions are subject to change. All meetings will be held in the Council Chambers at City Hall and will broadcast live on CMTV and the Internet. The meetings can also be watched on videotape anytime on the city website.

May 3, City Council meeting, 6 p.m.: City CEO Tom Hatch will give a general update on the state of the budget process, along with a detailed report on the city's use of consultants, their cost and the services delivered.

May 10, City Council study session, 4:30 p.m.: City CEO Tom Hatch will give a general update on the state of the budget process. In addition, three budget-related presentations will be made: one on the City's Equipment Replacement Fund, one on the City's \$35.4 million unfunded retirement health benefits liability and the third on the city's projected future CalPERS costs and on its \$130-million unfunded liability. Continuing the City's new format, the public will be able to ask questions at the end of each presentation.

May 17, City Council meeting, 6 p.m.: City CEO Tom Hatch will present the preliminary 2011-2012 budget. There will also be a detailed presentation on sales tax, property tax and transient occupancy tax projections and assumptions.

May 24 and May 31, City Council study sessions, 4:30 p.m.: City CEO Tom Hatch will detail his recommended additions and reductions to the City's budget and respond to questions from City Council members and the public. This review will include a detailed presentation of the organizational restructuring report of the Police Department.

June 7, City Council meeting, 6 p.m.: City CEO Tom Hatch will detail the City's new 5-year revenue and expenditures forecast, including a Capital Reinvestment Plan for needed street repairs, technology upgrades and reserve replenishment.

June 14, City Council study session, 4:30 p.m.: City department directors will provide details on their budgets and discuss what items were cut or reduced to eliminate the \$5 million gap originating from their first proposed budgets.

June 21, City Council meeting, 6 p.m.: This date is reserved for resolving any outstanding issues arising from the two months of public hearings about the budget. The City Council may vote to adopt the 2011-2012 budget.

June 28, special City Council meeting, 6 p.m.: The date is reserved for resolving any final issues. The City Council may vote to adopt the 2011-2012 budget.