

ALL FUNDS

All budget changes made since the Preliminary Budget was presented are printed in red ink to highlight the line items that have changed. The budget calendar has been revised to move the date of the Council meeting from November 15 to November 14 (Monday) for approval of the 2023 Operating Budget and the 2023-2027 Five-Year Capital Improvement Plan, to include public hearing and adoption.

PERSONNEL

A 3% cost-of-living increase was added per City Council request. The total impact to the budget is \$129,417 as follows: General Fund = \$69,432; Water/Sewer Fund = \$6,367; Harbor = \$51,746; and Delong Dock = \$1,872.

The City Manager requests Council not remove the final step of the exempt pay scale as was initially proposed, to encourage staff longevity and improve competitiveness of Whittier's ability to attract exempt-level positions in the future. Thus, the exempt pay scale is proposed to start at one range higher than previously recommended.

HARBOR FUND

Harbor Moorage, Hoist, Grid, Dry Storage Rates were increased 4.9% based on 2021 cpi rather than 1.7%, at Council request. No change to annual launch fees or parking.

Removed \$275 annual trash dumping fee entirely.

Removed \$75 per month refuse charges for restaurants and hotels, requiring them to purchase waste management services sufficient to accommodate 100% of their trash and establishing fines of \$500 per occurrence for disposing of trash in any public trash receptacle.

Staff did not make a decision on how best to assess higher trash fees on those users (primarily vessels) carrying numerous passengers, as requested by Council. We welcome any suggestions or input.

Harbor Launch Fees increased from \$20 to \$22 per Council request.

Increased revenue estimate for daily parking based on 2022 actuals and better enforcement and new payment kiosk and app options.

Fees to be approved by Ordinance rather than Resolution to allow for public hearing.

The Fee Schedule and the Operating and Capital Budgets have been reviewed by the Port & Harbor Commission in work sessions and regular meetings and the Commission will forward resolutions to the City Council.

Funding for repair of Harbormaster Building heating system removed from operating budget due to Council approval to spend in 2022, with approval offered at October Council meeting.

WATER/SEWER FUND

Increased water service charge revenues to reflect 1.7% tariff change based on 3-year average CPI.

CPV ITEMS

Added waterfront/HOB master planning and potential traffic study, per Council request.

Added purchase of benches/bike racks/interpretive signs/beautification per Council discussion.

BUDGET POLICIES

Council requested the addition of new budget policies as follows:

New policy for updating Enterprise Fund Depreciation values based on replacement cost of assets versus historic cost. This will provide a more meaningful and appropriate benchmark for determining how much annual funding should be set aside to ‘fund’ depreciation or accumulate sufficient funds to replace existing capital assets and infrastructure at the end of useful life.

Amends policy to annually consider whether to adopt a cost-of-living-increase and amend the Pay Plan, to prevent the pay plan from becoming less competitive in order to attract and retain staff.

New policy to establish appropriate levels of Reserves for the Enterprise Funds.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN

Added Residential Housing for resident and employee housing. The intent is not for the City to pay or to construct housing, but to take steps to obtain developable land, to encourage private development, and to seek any funding necessary to move toward increasing the availability of housing in Whittier.

Added Harbor Float and Launch Ramp lighting improvements.

Performed housekeeping to renumber certain items, with most changes related to Parks and Recreation.