



MINUTES FINANCE COMMISSION MEETING

Wednesday, July 22, 2026 - 5:00 p.m.
City of Huntington Beach
Council Chambers
Huntington Beach, CA 92648

For the audio recording of the June 24, 2026, Finance Commission Meeting, please visit the City's website at: <https://huntingtonbeach.legistar.com/Calendar.aspx>

Chair Lo Grasso called the meeting to order at 3:54 p.m. and Commissioner LoGrasso led the Pledge of Allegiance.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Frank Lo Grasso, Chair
David Cicerone, Vice-Chair
Dave Chennault, Commissioner
Jon Boomgarden, Commissioner
Tracey Pellman, Commissioner

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Paul Geery, Commissioner
Austin Edsell, Commissioner

STAFF PRESENT

Zack Zithisakthanakul, Acting Chief Financial Officer
Robert Szilagyi, Finance Manager
Shelby Nobles, Finance, Management Aide

PUBLIC COMMENTS

CONSENT ITEMS

1. Approval of Meeting Minutes

Motion: Moved by Commissioner Pellman and seconded by Chair Chennault to approve the Finance Commission Meeting Minutes dated May 27, 2026.

The motion carried by the following votes: 4-0-3

Ayes: LoGrasso; Chennault; Boomgarden; Pellman

Noes: None

Abstain: Cicerone; Geery; Edsell;

DISCUSSION ITEMS AND POTENTIAL RECOMMENDATIONS

2. Subcommittee Update – Sports Complex – Commissioner Chennault

Discussion was held regarding the status of the project and ongoing efforts to bring it into compliance with required permitting requirements. Staff reported that the current approach is to work with the project representatives to obtain the necessary permits and achieve compliance with legal questions regarding lease requirements to be reviewed by the City Attorney. The Commission discussed the need for improved project oversight, including the development of standardized project workflows and timelines that could be incorporated into future leases and agreements to strengthen accountability and compliance. The discussion also included concerns regarding how unpermitted work is identified, noting that enforcement is generally complaint-driven rather than through proactive inspections. The Commission discussed the potential transfer of oversight responsibilities to staff with specialized real estate and property management expertise, requested documentation related to recurring project meetings and oversight activities, and emphasized the importance of establishing stronger oversight processes for future City-owned asset projects. The Commission also requested that the Community Development Director attend a future meeting, or provide a formal response, to address outstanding questions on the record. Staff indicated that efforts are underway to bring the project into compliance and that no penalties are anticipated while the project continues working with the City to resolve outstanding issues.

3. Subcommittee Update – Meadowlark – Commissioner Cicerone

The Commission received an update on the Meadowlark Golf Course Task Force recommendations and discussed the lack of progress in implementing previously identified improvements. Discussion focused on the need to address drainage concerns before the upcoming rainy season, develop a long-term master plan, improve oversight of the City's golf course asset, and communicate the Commission's concerns to the City Council. The Commission also discussed the next potential steps to advance the project and emphasized the importance of addressing identified infrastructure issues in a timely manner.

4. Audit of City Assets – Commissioner Chennault

The Commission discussed a proposal to recommend comprehensive operational and financial audits of several City-owned assets to the City Council. The proposed audits would evaluate compliance with lease agreements, operational performance, financial accountability, community benefit, and applicable licensing requirements, with oversight provided by the Finance Commission in collaboration with City staff. The Commission also discussed excluding one asset from consideration due to procedural requirements and forwarding the remaining audit recommendations to the City Council for consideration.

Motion: Moved by Commissioner Pellman and seconded by Chair Chennault to request an Audit of Sports Complex, Yacht Club and Equestrian to City Council

The motion carried by the following votes: 5-0-2

Ayes: LoGrasso; Cicerone; Chennault; Boomgarden; Pellman

Noes: None

Abstain: Geery; Edsell

5. Budget 26/27 Questions and Responses – Commissioner Chennault

The Commission discussed staff responses to previously submitted budget questions and reviewed the differences between the budget document and audited financial statements, including the use of budget projections, audited actuals, fair market value adjustments, reporting methodologies, and non-departmental allocations. The Commission discussed the presentation of historical expenditure data, the allocation of citywide costs, vacation cash-out budgeting, and the level of detail included in budget footnotes. Staff explained the purpose of the budget as a planning document and the audited financial statements as historical financial reporting, including the methodologies used for each. Additional discussion included the budgeting and oversight of the Navigation Center, uncollected receivables, funding for future audits, and the use of reserves for unforeseen emergency expenditures. The Commission expressed interest in continuing discussions regarding budget presentation, transparency, and potential improvements to future budget documents.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Commissioner Cicerone – Would like to put two items on the agenda for next month's agenda, a discussion of different aspects of the budgeting process. Perhaps we could suggest improvements and changes to doing this. Make the format a little easier for the public to follow. Also, five-year projection on the budget and UAL.

Commissioner Boomgarden – Been noticing Public Works have been painting green squares all over the city, starting to look like Long Beach. Thinking about all the money being spent on this, it's a huge expense. The paint is going to have to be replaced on a yearly basis and it's going to cost the City a tremendous amount of money. Think it would be the revenue spent here and could be used to fix our roads. There is a lot of maintenance that needs to be done to our blacktop roads, they wear out. Thinks it's a complete waste of revenue for the city and wishes something can be done about it.

Commissioner Chennault – Happy to work with Jason on a few items coming up. There are going to be things coming in the next months. Thinking about invoicing and maybe some stuff around AI.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion: Moved by Commissioner Pellman and seconded by Commissioner Chennault adjourn the meeting at 5:04 p.m.

The motion carried by the following votes: 5-0-2

Ayes: Lo Grasso; Cicerone; Chennault; Boomgarden, Pellman

Noes: None

Absent: Geery; Edsell

Submitted by:

Zack Zithisakthanakul, Acting Chief Financial Officer

By: Shelby Nobles, Management Aide