



MINUTES FINANCE COMMISSION MEETING

Wednesday, May 13, 2026 - 5:00 p.m.
City of Huntington Beach
Council Chambers
Huntington Beach, CA 92648

For the audio recording of the April 22, 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 4:55 p.m. and Chair LoGrasso led the Pledge of Allegiance.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

MEMBERS ABSENT:

NONE

STAFF PRESENT

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Pat Goodman - A resident provided comments regarding the proposed budget presentation and requested additional clarity and transparency in the budget documents. Requests included separating Library and Community Services budget and FTE information, providing a schedule showing adjustments from the original proposed budget to the balanced budget, and presenting non-personnel litigation costs over the past five years. Questions were also raised regarding increases in the refuse collection service fund and library impact fee revenues.

Robin Braithwaite - A resident expressed concern regarding the increase in the projected budget deficit from approximately \$9 million to \$15 million and requested clarification regarding the causes of the increase and how the shortfall would be addressed. Additional questions were raised regarding budgeted attrition and what impacts or reductions may occur within the General Fund budget.

DISCUSSION ITEMS AND POTENTIAL RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Review and Discussion of the Proposed FY 2026/27 Budget and Vote on Recommendations to City Council

The Finance Commission reviewed and discussed multiple budget-related items and operational concerns related to the proposed City budget. Topics included the structure and responsibilities within the Finance Department, the number and purpose of City funds, pension liabilities and long-term sustainability of CalPERS obligations, and oversight of non-professional service contracts. Commissioners discussed improving transparency, tracking of revenues and expenditures, and providing more detailed budget information for public understanding. Discussion also focused on Public Works contract services, including refuse and janitorial contracts, and concerns regarding increasing outsourced service costs. Staff explained that some increases were tied to rebidding contracts and rising service costs. Additional discussion centered on how contracts are approved, procurement processes, and efforts underway to update procurement policies and improve reporting detail. The Commission also reviewed Sports Complex capital projects, including proposed sports lighting improvements and potential reconstruction of batting cages. Concerns were raised regarding the closure and removal of existing batting cage equipment, future use of the space, and prioritization of funding. Commissioners expressed interest in further evaluating return on investment and community benefit before proceeding with certain capital projects. Additional discussion included replacement of docks near the Yacht Club, including maintenance responsibilities, lease obligations, useful life of the docks, and potential opportunities for cost-sharing or partnership contributions. Commissioners also discussed infrastructure needs, lease revenues, and evaluating future funding obligations. The meeting concluded with broader discussion regarding budget transparency, invoice detail, oversight of contract services, operational tracking, and improving public access to detailed financial information. Staff noted efforts are underway to provide more itemized budget appendices and enhanced reporting in future budget cycles

Motion: Moved by Chair LoGrasso and seconded by Commissioner Chennault to send the recommendations/concerns of the Proposed Budget Book FY 2026/27 to Council.

The motion carried by the following votes: 6-0-1

Ayes: LoGrasso; Cicerone; Geery; Esdell; Chennault; Boomgarden

Noes: None

Abstain: Pellman

ADJOURNMENT

Motion: Moved by Commissioner Geery and seconded by Chair LoGrasso adjourn the meeting at 7:03 p.m.

The motion carried by the following votes: 7-0-0

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

Noes: None

Absent: None

Submitted by:

Zack Zithisakthanakul, Acting Chief Financial Officer
By: Shelby Walker, Management Aide