

CITY OF VENTURA
CITY COUNCIL AGENDA

Supplemental Information Packet

**Public Communications Received by 4 p.m.
June 21, 2021**

Meeting of June 21, 2021

Supplemental Information:

Any agenda related public documents received and distributed to a majority of the City Council after the Agenda Packet is printed are included in Supplemental Packets. Supplemental Packets are produced as needed. The Supplemental Packet is available in the City Clerk's Office, 501 Poli Street, Room 204, Ventura, during normal business hours as well as on the City's Website – www.cityofventura.ca.gov
<https://www.cityofventura.ca.gov/1236/City-Council-Public-Hearing-NoticesSuppl>

AGENDA ITEM 12A

**ADOPT RESOLUTION FOR FISCAL YEAR 2021-2022
OPERATING AND CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT BUDGET AND
SALARY RESOLUTIONS FOR 2021-2022**

Antoinette Mann

From: Mike McCaslin
Sent: Tuesday, June 15, 2021 2:03 PM
To: Council
Subject: -EXT- BUDGET

City of Ventura Council Members,

I have lived in this city for over 40 years. The last 10 has been the most volatile of all previous 30. This email would be way too long if I detailed all the current issues in my hometown. An obvious challenge is homelessness which has progressed into criminal activity throughout the city. Businesses are challenged to remain open and most often close permanently, creating vacant buildings. All the challenges lead to more responsibilities pressed onto our Public Safety people. Most of these Public Safety employees reside here and choose to take an active role in the improvement of their city. The Fire Department has dilapidated buildings, an increase in call volume, equipment in need of repair and greater training needs than ever before. The lack of support from our local government is perplexing. The Ventura Fire Department has done MORE WITH LESS for far too long. It's time we publicly support the improvement of our fire department. They cannot sustain this current workload without your help. Make the decision to improve our Fire Department in order to improve our city. My hope is that Ventura will some day regain its previous position as a safe, family friendly place to live.

Mike McCaslin

Sent from my iPad

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Antoinette Mann

From: Cathy Gonzales
Sent: Tuesday, June 15, 2021 12:57 PM
To: Council
Subject: -EXT- Fire dept budget

Please support the fire Dept and spend the money needed to bring their equipment and station up to date to be able to serve Ventura in times of need.

Vote to spend what is necessary for our faithful firefighters.

Cathy Gonzales

Sent from my iPhone

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Antoinette Mann

From: Linda Tucker
Sent: Tuesday, June 15, 2021 5:09 PM
To: Council
Subject: -EXT- Fire department

I have lived in Ventura for 30 years. For the past 10 I have lived in Casitas Springs. In the past year I have had to call them twice. They were the nicest people you could find. They bandage my leg and I was put in an ambulance. The ambulance was so old and rattling. It was a disgrace to are neighborhood. These people need resources. They are better than this Linda Tucker

Sent from my iPhone

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Tracy Oehler

From: Heather Garcia Curtis ·
Sent: Tuesday, June 15, 2021 9:27 PM
To: City Clerk
Subject: -EXT- Ventura County Fire Department

Hello,

We need to better fund and care for our fire stations, and fire fighters. We need more trucks, and more fire fighters - and more benefits and funding for them. After reading more about this issue I am truly worried for my family's safety. They are not making it to calls in a timely manor. This is terrifying! The ratio of fire fighters and trucks, to fire calls, is astonishing.. it's so much lower than regional average! We need to fix this. Especially while CA is in this drought. We need fire professionals and better equipment, especially now. Please find a good way to allocate more funds for our fire stations and fire fighters. They need more trucks, more benefits, and more staff. They are overworked and under-equipped. I beg you please find a way. 🙏

Thank you in advance,

A wife, mother, and daughter of people in Ventura County - Heather Curtis

[Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone](#)

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Tracy Oehler

From: Antoinette Mann
Sent: Wednesday, June 16, 2021 8:54 AM
To: Tracy Oehler
Subject: FW: -EXT- Fire Department Budget

-----Original Message-----

From: Julie Walker
Sent: Wednesday, June 16, 2021 12:27 AM
To: Council <council@cityofventura.ca.gov>
Subject: -EXT- Fire Department Budget

Please fund our wonderful firefighters! I am a 8 year VENTURA resident and the fire fighters were there fir me when I needed them last year to transport my neighbor to the ER. Their living conditions were not ideal but they treated him with respect and great kindness. Any support you can give them is greatly appreciated.

Julie Walker

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Tracy Oehler

From: Peggy Wenzel
Sent: Monday, June 21, 2021 8:37 AM
To: City Clerk
Subject: -EXT- Unfreeze 6 police position in the New budget.

We need our police! Please vote to unfreeze these 6 positions in tonight's budget.

[Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android](#)

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Antoinette Mann

From: Cindy
Sent: Saturday, June 19, 2021 11:21 AM
To: Council
Subject: -EXT- Budget - Fire Department

All,

I was very concerned to learn that the funding necessary to adequately safeguard the citizens of Ventura from fire is in jeopardy. This is particularly frustrating when we are receiving mixed messages regarding fire danger.

As an example, we have a family-held property on Strathmore in Ventura. This property is currently a rental. For those of you unfamiliar with where Strathmore is, it's in what's considered the Lemon Grove area, south of the Pacific View Mall.

This house has never been threatened by a wildfire in the past.

However, we were told that we had to prune bushes around the property, to reduce wildfire threats, or face having the policy cancelled. What is the message here?

What has increased the risk of fire in a previously unthreatened area of Ventura? Global warming and lack of rain are certainly factors. What else? Could it be that insurance carriers are concerned with the funding policies related to the VFD?

I would really like to understand how, when the increased risk of drought is in the news almost daily, in a town that has suffered greatly with the Thomas Fire, adequate funding for the fire department is even is question.

Thank you,

Cindy Cook

Sent from my iPhone

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Antoinette Mann

From: David Grau
Sent: Monday, June 21, 2021 11:55 AM
To: Council; Sofia Rubalcava; Jack Breuker; Joe Schroeder; Lorrie Brown; Jim Friedman; Doug Halter; Mike Johnson; Jeannette Sanchez-Palacios
Subject: -EXT- June 21, 2021 City Council Meeting Agenda Item 12A

Council members,

June 21, 2021 Ventura Budget

Agenda Item 12A

Ventura County Taxpayers Association mission is to promote the wise use of public funds, oppose waste and to advise public officials regarding issues of concern to taxpayers.

It should not have been a surprise, when City Manager Alex McIntyre's told City Council during the June 14 budget discussions that the city is "not on very solid financial ground".

We also suggest Council keep in mind the report issued two years ago by California State Auditor Elaine Howle on the fiscal health of 470 California cities based on each city's liquidity, debt burden, financial reserves, revenue trends and ability to pay for employee retirement benefits.

According to the California State Auditor, the City of Ventura ranked near the bottom 20 percent of all California cities.

Locally, Ventura's overall fiscal health ranked substantially below Simi Valley, Ojai, Fillmore, Port Hueneme, Thousand Oaks and Camarillo. Only Oxnard and Santa Paula ranked below Ventura in overall fiscal health.

Fire Services

Despite the backdrop of the city being on "not very solid financial ground" Councilman Friedman and others pressed staff to find ways to add \$2.2 million to the FY2021-22 budget for up to 9 new Fire Department positions based on a Fire Study that had yet to be fully reviewed.

Staff made clear the expectation was that the Fire Department would complete a Strategic Plan that, would inform thoughtful and studied investment into future Fire service.

In other words, a wise and fiscally responsible use of public funds.

Councilman Friedman, the most vocal proponent of immediate funding, would wait for. "Why a whole layer of discussions? That part I don't understand."

What's the rush?

VCTA agrees with McIntyre. City Council should wait for the Fire Department to complete the Strategic Plan before committing taxpayers funds the city, whose fiscal health is ranked far below most California cities, does not yet have and possibly cannot afford.

Police Services

We were hard pressed to find information in the budget, but it appears the same City Council members pushing to fund 9 new positions in Fire Services may be withholding funding for 6 new sworn police positions. Those previously approved police positions were placed on temporary hold “frozen” in order to balance the FY2020-21 budget.

During last years budget discussion, City council voiced its support for the police department and indicated the 6 positions would be “unfrozen” once the cities fiscal situation improved.

From what we can tell, it appears the funding for those “frozen” police positions from the FY2020-21 budget are now being diverted to other new positions elsewhere in the FY2021-22 budget.

We do not remember if Council ever engaged in an open and transparent discussion with residents of Ventura about what can only be called a partial defunding police services.

It should do so.

Rushing to fund 9 positions in Fire Services that lack justification, while quietly withholding funds for 6 previously approved positions in Police Services is not what taxpayers of the City of Ventura expected when we elected you.

Keeping in mind Ventura ranks near the bottom of all California cities based on fiscal health, VCTA urges Council that it fulfill its earlier commitment to fund additional Police Service positions while committing to study the needs for additional Fire Services.

David Grau
President,
Ventura County Taxpayers Association

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