The following meeting was held pursuant to the Governor's Executive Orders N-25-20 and N-29-20 and fully teleconferenced from various locations during the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic.

MEETING CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Farrer called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m.

ROLL CALL

The following persons were recorded in attendance via teleconference by the Recording Secretary:

PRESENT: Mayor Karen Farrer; Mayor Pro Tem Mikke Pierson; and Councilmembers Rick Mullen; Skylar Peak; and Jefferson Wagner

ALSO PRESENT: Trevor Rusin, Assistant City Attorney; Reva Feldman, City Manager; Lisa Soghor, Assistant City Manager; Heather Glaser, City Clerk; Jesse Bobbett, Community Services Director; Yolanda Bundy; Environmental Sustainability Director; Bonnie Blue, Planning Director; Rob DuBoux, Public Works Director; Kelsey Pettijohn, Deputy City Clerk; Katie Gallo, Recreation Supervisor; Kristin Riesgo, Community Services Deputy Director; Susan Dueñas, Public Safety Manager; Adrian Fernandez, Principal Planner; and Justine Kendall, Associate Planner

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION Councilmember Mullen moved and Mayor Pro Tem Pierson seconded a motion to approve the agenda. The question was called and the motion carried unanimously.

REPORT ON POSTING OF AGENDA

City Clerk Glaser reported that the agenda for the meeting was properly posted on May 28, 2020.

ITEM 1 CEREMONIAL/PRESENTATIONS

None.

ITEM 2.A. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Jo Drummond discussed the geologic stability and dewatering system of the Big Rock Neighborhood. She stated expanded or new onsite wastewater treatment systems (OWTS) could contribute to a landslide. She requested the Council put a
moratorium on construction in the Big Rock area until the dewatering system could be studied and improved.

Colin Drummond discussed the need for backup generators for water supply to the Big Rock area during a disaster. He discussed the importance of having sufficient water supply in the event of a fire. He suggested the Council create a program to fund fire-safe initiatives throughout the City. He stated the City’s undesignated reserve had enough funds to purchase generators and maintain the City’s high credit rating.

Lynn Norton discussed the importance of regulating short-term rentals. She requested an item be brought back soon to approve a short-term rental ordinance.

Kian Schulman stated she would speak on Item No. 4.F.

Hashi Clark expressed concern that if a fire started during a Public Safety Power Shutoff (PSPS) the Big Rock neighborhood would not have sufficient water supply. She stated investing in generators would save money in the long run since it would save houses from burning.

Kraig Hill indicated support for electing an at-large mayor if the City switched to district elections. He stated an elected Mayor would unify the City.

Andy Lyon indicated support for allowing residents to continue participating in public meetings via teleconference once in-person meetings resumed. He requested the Council work with Los Angeles County to reopen Santa Monica beach parking lots to reduce crowds at Malibu beaches. He indicated support for a strong mayor.

Norman Haynie stated some complicated development projects needed to be heard at in-person meetings. He suggested holding in-person public meetings with social distancing and an outdoor waiting area for people queued up to speak. He stated any additional costs for the meeting format could be charged to the applicant.

Marilou Hamill discussed the importance of installing generators in the water pump stations for the Big Rock area.

Rosie Strickland indicated support for creating a grant program for fire resiliency projects.

Hamish Patterson indicated opposition to stay at home orders. He stated the Los Angeles County Public Health Officer was not an elected official or a doctor. He stated stay at home orders contributed to the recent riots.

Georgia Goldfarb expressed concern that if a fire started during a PSPS the Big Rock area would not have sufficient water supply unless the water pumps had generators. She requested the City contribute funds to the purchase of generators.
Robert Wolff expressed concern the Big Rock area had a lot of brush that could contribute to a wildfire. He stated the Big Rock neighborhood was coming together to work on the generator project and it needed help from the City. He stated fire resiliency projects could be started in many neighborhoods.

ITEM 2.B. COMMISSION / COMMITTEE / CITY MANAGER UPDATES

City Manager Feldman discussed the recent civil unrest in the County of Los Angeles (County) and throughout the country. She stated the County had issued a county-wide curfew that was observed in the City. She stated discussions would continue between law enforcement agencies and the California Contract Cities Association. She stated the most recent Los Angeles County Safer at Home order on May 29, 2020 moved the County into Phase Two of reopening. She stated there were 832 new cases of COVID-19 in County today. She stated there were 39 reported cases of COVID-19 in Malibu. She stated the City’s Emergency Operations Center (EOC) continued to operate remotely. She stated City staff was primarily working remotely. She stated staff was pushing out COVID-19 messaging as-needed. She announced a red flag warning for the week and reminded residents to complete their brush clearance. She stated brush clearance inspections began on June 1, 2020. She stated Los Angeles County Department of Public Works Director Mark Pestrella would discuss Big Rock area water pumps during Item No. 4.F. She discussed the pending Local Coastal Program Amendment (LCPA) to prohibit pesticides and rodenticides going before the California Coastal Commission (CCC). She stated the CCC had request clarifying information from the City after receiving application and, due to staff turnover, the City’s response had been delayed. She stated she was having internet connectivity problems and would resume her update later in the meeting.

Scott Dittrich indicated support for holding commission meetings via teleconference. He discussed the importance of public safety and water flow in the event of a fire.

ITEM 2.C. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS / COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilmember Peak stated he attended a Clean Power Alliance (CPA) meeting and discussed eligibility during COVID-19 for the Southern California Edison (SCE) California Alternate Rates for Energy (CARE) program. He stated approximately 155 customers in the City participated in the CARE program. He stated leaders needed to stand up for justice and an end to police brutality. He suggested sending a letter to the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors and the Los Angeles County Sheriff Alex Villanueva reaffirming the City’s opposition to the use of excessive force.

Councilmember Wagner stated he planned to attend a Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission meeting via teleconference. He stated staff was addressing issues in processing the LCPA to ban pesticides and rodenticides. He suggested considering electing four Councilmembers by district and an at-large
mayor. He indicated support for placing the City Managers annual performance review on an upcoming agenda. He indicated support for creating an Environmental Sustainability Commission. He stated the case against him from the Los Angeles County District Attorney’s Office had been dropped. He stated the remaining funds he received for his legal defense fund would be returned.

Councilmember Mullen indicated support for Councilmember Peak’s comments on the recent civil unrest. He stated demonstrations in the City were peaceful. He indicated support for the short-term rental ordinance moving forward as soon as possible. He thanked Environmental Sustainability Director Bundy for her work on rebuilding after the Woolsey Fire. He suggested considering holding some Commission meetings via teleconference. He discussed the Big Rock area generator project. He expressed optimism that the Los Angeles County Department of Public Works would be able to assist with the project. He indicated support for reopening businesses as soon as possible.

Mayor Pro Tem Pierson discussed the importance of fire preparedness and the Big Rock area generator project. He discussed correspondence he received from residents of the Big Rock area regarding a development moratorium. He stated he had spoken to other cities with a strong mayor form of government and found it had pros and cons. He stated teleconferenced meetings served a purpose but could not be the same as in-person meetings. He stated he was working with the County to reopen businesses. He indicated support for sending a letter to the Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department in support of Black Lives Matter. He stated he helped retailers in neighboring cities clean up after the recent protests and riots. He stated he attended two peaceful protests in the City. He stated he was working with The Change Reaction and Malibu Chamber of Commerce to offer 0% interest loans to small businesses. He apologized for not working proactively on the pesticide and rodenticide ban. He stated only 35.2% of households in the City had responded to the 2020 Census. He discussed the possibility of using vacant lots in the City for restaurant take out locations. He expressed concern that high winds during the week presented increased fire danger.

Mayor Farrer stated the City and partner agencies were committed to public safety. She thanked the Malibu-Lost Hills Sheriff Station for increasing staffing during the recent civil unrest. She thanked the young Malibu community members for their commitment to social justice. She thanked local protestors for demonstrating peacefully. She stated the City was a member of California Contract Cities Association, which had been founded to negotiate with law enforcement. She stated law enforcement agencies saved money on liability trust fees when good policies were implemented. She suggested sending a letter to the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors and Los Angeles County Sheriff Alex Villanueva opposing use of force.

Mayor Pro Tem Pierson indicated support for sending a letter to the Los Angeles County Sheriff Alex Villanueva.
Councilmember Mullen indicated support for bringing back options for a letter. Councilmember Wagner indicated support for a discussion item on sending a letter to the Los Angeles County Sheriff Alex Villanueva. He suggested bringing back an item to elect an at-large Mayor.

CONSENSUS
By consensus, the Council directed staff to bring back an item for discussion about language for a potential letter to the Los Angeles County Sheriff regarding the topic of use of force/excessive force and related issues.

Assistant City Attorney Rusin stated if the Council wanted to direct the City’s demographer to create four-district maps, an item should be brought back soon.

CONSENSUS
By consensus, the Council directed staff to bring back an item for discussion about whether to direct the City’s demographer to draft a map for by-district elections that reflects four districts and an at-large Mayor.

Mayor Farrer stated she had participated in County of Los Angeles briefings on COVID-19. She stated she and Meril May had met the Acting District Director for Los Angeles County Beaches and Harbors Operations. She commended the Big Rock Mesa neighbors for their work on a generator project.

ITEM 2.B. COMMISSION / COMMITTEE / CITY MANAGER UPDATES (continued)
City Manager Feldman stated she had relocated to a better internet connection. She stated staff had been delayed providing clarifying information to CCC regarding the LCPA banning pesticides and rodenticides. She stated the CCC had not had time to hear the LCPA item since it had been submitted. She stated 240 Woolsey Fire rebuild projects had been approved through Planning, 106 had been issued building permits and four had completed construction. She stated trash haulers had returned to normal collection and were collecting trash and recycling separately.

She announced the nomination period for the November 3, 2020 General Municipal Election was July 13, 2020 through August 7, 2020. She announced the City implemented the NextRequest portal to manage public records requests and provide the public with better access to records. She stated staff was working on a system to open City Hall by appointment only. She stated all City services, except for passport services, were still being provided while staff was working remotely. She stated trail improvements were underway at Charmlee Wilderness Park. She stated the temporary skate park project would be completed soon but the opening would be delayed until the Los Angeles County Safer at Home order allowed skate parks to reopen.

In response to Mayor Farrer, City Manager Feldman stated she would check if information about the recycling programs of waste haulers operating in the City were linked on the City’s website. She stated her employment contract required an annual performance review and her last review was in November 2019. She stated
the Council could request an additional review be scheduled.

In response to Mayor Farrer, Assistant City Attorney Rusin stated the City Manager’s employment contract would take precedence over a City policy governing reviews but he would look into any conflict.

Councilmember Wagner stated is was important the City Council Policy Review Ad Hoc Committee address outdated policies.

City Manager Feldman stated the Los Angeles County Safer at Home order revised on May 29, 2020 limited gatherings to 10 people or less. She stated limiting City Council meetings to 10 people would be in conflict with the Brown Act.

In response to Councilmember Mullen and Mayor Farrer, City Manager Feldman stated the Council directed the short-term rental ordinance back to the Planning Commission.

Assistant City Attorney Rusin stated staff had held off hearing legislative items that would have large amounts of public participation while holding meetings via teleconference. He stated the short-term rental ordinance could be scheduled at direction of the Council.

Mayor Farrer she stated there were tradeoffs to holding a Public Hearing via teleconference.

Councilmember Wagner indicated support for moving forward with the Planning Commission hearing on the short-term rental ordinance.

Mayor Pro Tem Pierson expressed concern that people may have trouble participating in a teleconference meeting. He suggested considering directing the Planning Commission to schedule a special meeting to hear the short-term rental ordinance. He stated it was important things that things continue to move forward. He suggested encouraging people to submit public comment via email.

Councilmember Peak indicated support for moving forward with the Planning Commission hearing on the short-term rental ordinance via teleconference and then considering feedback from the public on that format.

Assistant City Attorney Rusin suggested using the Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU) item as a legislative item test case in a teleconference meeting.

Councilmember Mullen indicated support for directing the Planning Commission to schedule the short-term rental item to move forward first.

Mayor Pro Tem Pierson indicated support for holding the short-term rental ordinance hearing at the Planning Commission via teleconference and then considering feedback. He expressed concern future outbreaks of COVID-19 could
delay important items further.

City Manager Feldman suggested holding a Planning Commission Special meeting to hear the short-term rental ordinance as soon as noticing and scheduling allowed. In response to Councilmember Peak, City Manager Feldman stated the short-term rental item would need a 21-day Public Hearing notice.

Councilmember Wagner indicated support for directing the Planning Commission to hear the short-term rental item. He stated it was more significant to the community than ADUs.

CONSENSUS

By consensus, the Council directed the Planning Commission to hold a Public Hearing in July 2020 regarding Local Coastal Program Amendment No. 19-003 and Zoning Text Amendment No. 19-005 – an amendment to the Local Coastal Program and to Title 17 (Zoning) of the Malibu Municipal Code modifying regulations pertaining to the rental of residential units for 30 days or less (Short-Term Rentals) to require the presence of an on-site host during short-term rental, and other restrictions.

ITEM 3  CONSENT CALENDAR

Item No. 3.B.4. was pulled by the public.

MOTION Councilmember Peak moved and Councilmember Mullen seconded a motion to approve the consent calendar, except for Item No. 3.B.4. The question was called and the motion carried unanimously.

The Consent Calendar consisted of the following items:

A. Previously Discussed Items
   None.
B. New Items
   1. Waive Further Reading
      Recommended Action: After the City Attorney has read the title, waive full reading of ordinances considered on this agenda for introduction on first reading and/or second reading and adoption.
   2. Approve Warrants
      Recommended Action: Allow and approve warrant demand numbers 60362-60629 listed on the register from the General Fund and direct the City Manager to pay out the funds to each of the claimants listed in Warrant Register No. 661 in the amount of the warrant appearing opposite their names, for the purposes stated on the respective demands in a total amount of $1,151,288.18. City of Malibu payroll check number 5102 and ACH deposits were issued in the amount of $210,675.03.
3. Approval of Minutes
   Recommended Action: Approve the minutes for the May 11, 2020 Malibu City Council Regular meeting.

5. Award 2020 Street Maintenance Contract to Toro Enterprises Inc.
   Recommended Action: 1) Approve the award and authorize the City Manager to execute a construction contract with Toro Enterprises, Inc. in the amount of $508,800 for the construction of the 2020 Street Maintenance Project, Specification No. 2078; and 2) Authorize the Public Works Director to approve any potential change orders up to 18% of the contract amount.

   Recommended Action: Authorize the City Manager to execute Amendment No. 2 to the Professional Services Agreement with Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc. in the amount of $40,000 for a total not to exceed $561,840 and extend the term of the agreement for additional engineering design services for the Civic Center Way Improvements Project.

7. Community Facilities District No. 2006-1 (Carbon Beach Utility Undergrounding) – Levy of Special Tax for Fiscal Year 2020-2021
   Recommended Action: Adopt Resolution No. 20-22 of the City Council of the City of Malibu acting in its capacity as the legislative body of Community Facilities District (CFD) No. 2006-1 of the City of Malibu (Carbon Beach Utility Undergrounding) authorizing the levy of a special tax for Fiscal Year 2020-2021.

The following item was pulled from the Consent Calendar for individual consideration:

   Recommended Action: 1) Adopt Resolution No. 20-27 calling and giving notice of the holding of a General Municipal Election to be held on Tuesday, November 3, 2020, for the election of certain officers as required by the provisions of the laws of the State of California relating to general law cities; and 2) Adopt Resolution No. 20-28 requesting the Board of Supervisors of the County of Los Angeles to consolidated a General Municipal Election to be held on November 3, 2020, with the Statewide General Election to be held on the date pursuant to California Elections Code Section 10403.

City Clerk Glaser presented the staff report.

Kraig Hill thanked the Council for directing staff to bring back an item to consider an at-large Mayor.

MOTION Councilmember Peak moved and Councilmember Wagner seconded a motion to: 1) adopt Resolution No. 20-27 calling and giving notice of the holding of a General Municipal Election to be held on Tuesday, November 3, 2020, for the election of certain officers as required by the provisions of
ITEM 4 ORDINANCES AND PUBLIC HEARINGS

A. Appeal No. 19-007 - Appeal of Planning Commission Resolution No. 19-20 (21490 Paseo Portola Street; Appellants: James E. Moore, Tracy E. Moore and Rody Castroll; Applicant: Jose Fulginiti; Property Owners: Richard K. Perrin)

Recommended Action: Adopt Resolution No. 20-23 determining the project is categorically exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act, denying Appeal No. 19-007 and approving Coastal Development Permit No. 16-038 for the construction of a new 2,963 square foot, two-story single-family residence with a 434 square foot attached two-car garage, spa and associated equipment, decks, pile-supported retaining wall, landscaping, hardscaping, grading, and construction of a new alternative onsite wastewater treatment system, including Variance (VAR) No. 16-017 for construction on slopes steeper than 1.5 to 1 and VAR No. 18-045 for height of retaining wall in excess of six feet for up to nine feet located in the Single-Family Medium zoning district within the La Costa Overlay District at 21490 Paseo Portola Street (Perrin).

Principal Planner Fernandez presented the staff report.

Alan Block, on behalf of the appellant, stated the retaining wall for the project would be visually obtrusive in the scenic corridor. He stated the applicants were requesting a variance for wall heights over six feet, which was not considered until the second Planning Commission hearing. He stated walls needed to be sighted to minimize impacts and alternatives should be considered. He stated the staff report included an alternative that should be studied. He stated the retaining wall did not meet the findings necessary for the variance.

James Moore, appellant, discussed his correspondence and renderings of the project he submitted to the Council. He stated the applicant had not provided a rendering of the retaining wall and story poles were not placed to represent the wall. He stated the trees on the property that were intended to mask the wall were recently planted and presented a fire danger. He expressed concern the project may not be geologically stable. He discussed historic landslides in the area.

Rody Castroll, appellant, stated she owned the house below the project. She stated the new house would be 70% bigger than the original and the retaining wall would be too large. She expressed concern if the caissons collapsed the new house would crash into her house.

Don Schmitz, on behalf of the applicant, discussed the footprint of the old house...
destroyed in a fire. He stated modifications were made to the project based on the feedback of neighbors and the Planning Commission including eliminating the basement, reducing the bulk of the project, and modifications to landscaping. He stated the appellant’s house was significantly larger than the project being considered. He stated the Fire Department required a 5-foot walkway around the house. He discussed the geology and slopes of the project that required grading for the OWTS micro-dosing field. He stated micro-dosing would keep the project from adding water to the ancient landslide. He stated the project was consistent with required codes and the neighborhood character. He stated this project would be significantly safer geologically than the old house.

Sandra Martin stated she was the architect for the project and was available to answer questions.

Duane King expressed concern that the project’s retaining wall would negatively impact views from Pacific Coast Highway (PCH).

Mr. Block stated the alternatives to the retaining wall were never studied and story poles for the wall were never posted.

Mr. Moore stated the project may not need such a large leech field if the number of bedrooms or fixtures were decreased. He questioned if the walkway around the property was required. He discussed the renderings submitted by the applicant team. He stated the structures on his property were planters and not retaining walls.

Mr. Schmitz stated the sole purposed of the retaining wall was to create the OWTS system and meet the Fire Department walkway requirements.

Councilmember Peak disclosed he spoke with the applicant but did not learn anything not included in the staff report.

Councilmember Mullen disclosed he met with Mr. Schmitz but did not learn anything not included in the staff report. He stated he received a copy of the applicant’s PowerPoint presentation before the meeting. He stated he would like to see a rendering of the retaining wall. He stated the applicant designed the project so it would not impact the neighbor’s view.

Assistant City Attorney Rusin recommended giving the applicant and appellant an opportunity to comment on the Councilmember disclosures.

Councilmember Wagner stated he drove by the property but did not speak with the applicant.

Mayor Pro Tem Pierson stated he lived in the neighborhood as a teenager. He disclosed he met with the applicant but did not learn anything not included in the staff report.
Mayor Farrer disclosed she met with the applicant but did not learn anything not included in the staff report.

Mr. Block stated he did not have concerns regarding any of the disclosures.

Mr. Schmitz stated he provided the PowerPoint he presented to Councilmember Mullen in advance of the meeting.

In response to Councilmember Peak, Mr. Schmitz stated he did not have a rendering of the retaining wall available to present.

Mayor Pro Tem Pierson stated it was hard for neighbors when vacant properties were developed. He stated new technologies allowed formerly undevelopable properties to be developed. He stated landscaping could help break up the visual massing of the wall. He stated some grading violations would need to be corrected but that was not a reason to deny the project. He stated he did not see a case for reducing the size of the house to reduce the OWTS. He stated the Planning Commission closely scrutinized the size of buildings and had approved the project. He stated variances served a purpose. He stated he believed the single retaining wall would have less of a visual impact than two retaining walls.

Mayor Farrer indicated support for Mayor Pro Tem Pierson’s comments. She stated the project was approved by Geology, Planning Department staff, the Planning Commission, and the Fire Department. She stated she used to live in the neighborhood.

Councilmember Peak moved to adopt Resolution No. 20-23 determining the project is categorically exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act, denying Appeal No. 19-007 and approving Coastal Development Permit No. 16-038 for the construction of a new 2,963 square foot, two-story single-family residence with a 434 square foot attached two-car garage, spa and associated equipment, decks, pile-supported retaining wall, landscaping, hardscaping, grading, and construction of a new alternative onsite wastewater treatment system, including Variance (VAR) No. 16-017 for construction on slopes steeper than 1.5 to 1 and VAR No. 18-045 for height of retaining wall in excess of six feet for up to nine feet located in the Single-Family Medium zoning district within the La Costa Overlay District at 21490 Paseo Portola Street (Perrin).

Councilmember Wagner stated the retaining wall was a large engineering project. He stated the micro-dosing field was better for the landscape than a traditional OWTS system. He stated the landscape plan needed deep root plants that could screen the retaining wall from PCH.

In response to Councilmember Mullen, Principal Planner Fernandez stated the retaining was mostly six feet high but there was a section that was taller than six feet. He presented a wall rendering submitted by the applicant. He stated the height
of the retaining wall was measured from the bottom to the top including the freeboard on top of the retaining wall.

In response to Councilmember Wagner, Mr. Schmitz stated the property owner was open to additional landscape screening. He stated bushes or plants that did not require significant irrigation and complied with Fire Department requirements could be planted.

Councilmember Wagner stated it was important not to add too much water to the landscape and suggested using native plants for screening.

Councilmember Mullen commended the property owner for revising the design so the neighbor could maintain their views.

In response to Councilmember Wagner, Mr. Schmitz stated he would work with Planning Department staff to identify more ways to soften the visual impacts of the retaining wall.

Jacob Holt, project geologist, stated the only screening that could be done was vegetation. He stated no additional dirt could be added down slope of the wall.

Councilmember Wagner indicated support for adding strategic vegetation to soften the visual impacts of the wall.

Assistant City Attorney stated Condition No. 18 required visual screening of the retaining wall.

Councilmember Wagner stated that condition was sufficient.

Councilmember Wagner seconded the motion.

Mr. Moore suggested building two retaining walls with one of the walls being shorter. He stated this option had not been studied. He stated the renderings submitted by the appellant were based on the view from PCH. He stated reducing the number of fixtures should allow the micro-dosing field and retaining wall to be reduced.

Mayor Pro Tem Pierson stated he believed landscaping could significantly reduce the visual impacts of the retaining wall.

Councilmember Peak stated it was possible that houses below the project would add a second story sometime in the future, which would further block the retaining wall.

Mayor Pro Tem Pierson stated it was important to consider each project individually.
Councilmember Peak indicated support for Mayor Pro Tem Pierson’s comment.

Mayor Pro Tem Pierson stated it was a tricky neighborhood to build in, and he recommended staggered plantings to reduce visual impacts of the retaining wall.

FRIENDLY AMENDMENT
Councilmember Wagner moved to amend Condition of Approval No. 18 to also require staggered plantings in front of the wall.
The amendment was accepted by the maker of the motion.

The question was called and the motion carried unanimously.

RECESS
At 9:41 p.m., Mayor Farrer called a recess. The meeting reconvened at 9:47 p.m. with all Councilmembers present.

Mayor Farrer suggested moving the budget item to be heard next.

In response to Councilmember Peak, City Manager Feldman the budget item may be a long item with significant public interest.

MOTION
Councilmember Peak moved and Mayor Farrer seconded a motion to hear Item No. 4.F. before Item No. 4.B. The question was called and the motion carried 4-1, Mayor Pro Tem Pierson dissenting.

F. Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year 2020-2021
Recommended Action: 1) Conduct the Public Hearing; and 2) Provide direction to staff on the Proposed Budget and Annual Work Plan for Fiscal Year 2020-2021.

Assistant City Manager Soghor presented the staff report. She thanked Finance staff and the Department Heads for their work on the budget.

Mark Pestrella, Los Angeles County Public Works Director, stated Los Angeles County Waterworks District No. 29 (District 29) was working hard to serve customers during the COVID-19 emergency. He stated District 29 was working closely with partners, including SCE, to make infrastructure improvements. He discussed water systems that relied on pump stations and their vulnerability to power outages. He stated there were many emergencies that could cause power outages and it would be challenging for residents to shelter in place without functioning pump stations. He stated domestic water systems were built to deal with structure fires and not wildfires, but stated it was still important to improve the water system resiliency. He stated District 29 was working with multiple neighborhoods on resiliency plans, including Big Rock. He stated the Big Rock neighbors had been educating District 29 staff on the needs of a canyon community in a disaster. He stated he would like to do a study throughout the City to identify locations for permanent generators to be funded by the District 29. He stated District No. 29 had acquired mobile generators that could be deployed during the upcoming fire season. He discussed Las Virgenes Municipal Water District
improvements. He stated District 29 would study Australia and recent events in the area, like Woolsey Fire, to assess operational needs during an emergency. He stated he had instructed his staff to complete the report analyzing generator needs by August 14, 2020. He recommended the City wait to dedicate any funds to purchasing generators until District 29 completed its analysis.

Kraig Hill stated the water tanks in Big Rock only held four hours’ worth of water. He stated Big Rock needed three permanent generators urgently. He stated infrastructure to prevent fire damage would save the City money in the long run. He stated the City should use money from the undesignated reserve for new projects while maintaining a 65% reserve. He suggested hiring a consultant to review efficiency in the City.

Andy Lyon was not present at the time of the hearing.

Kian Schulman stated enforcing the dumpster lid ordinance was a public safety issue. She stated fines from non-compliant properties would help cover the costs associated with inspections. She stated an Environmental Commission could track projects like the LCPA ban on pesticides and rodenticides to make sure they stayed on task.

Jo Drummond thanked Mr. Pestrella for his comments and support of the generators. She requested the view preservation permit fee be reduced.

Doug Stewart stated the budget for this fiscal year presented a significant challenge. He commended staff for its work on the budget. He stated the budget for the next two fiscal years would be very constrained. He stated it was important to have a meaningful conversation with the residents on their values and how the budget should be spent. He suggested the Administration and Finance Subcommittee could be the appropriate body for outreach.

Scott Dittrich expressed concern a citywide project from Los Angeles County Public Works could not be implemented before fire season. He stated the City should contribute the funds to purchase generators now. He stated CalPERS should have more than a 1% return.

John Mazza was not present at the time of the hearing.

Georgia Goldfarb stated the City Manager’s salary was larger than salaries of city managers of similarly sized cities. She suggested hiring a firm to analyze the efficiency of the City. She stated other cities were cutting staff salaries.

Ryan Embree stated the current payroll costs were not sustainable. He stated if some revenue streams like licensing were down that also reduced staff activities. He indicated support for reducing staff salaries. He stated many other cities were reducing staff. He stated there were financial savings for employees working from home. He recommended hiring a consultant to identify inefficiencies in the City. He suggested reviewing cost sharing agreements with other agencies.
Councilmember Peak suggested considering a retirement incentive program, eliminating positions, and consolidating functions. He thanked Mr. Pestrella for considering the public safety needs of the community.

Councilmember Mullen left the meeting at 10:54 p.m.

Councilmember Wagner stated he was participating via phone since his power was out.

Mayor Pro Tem Pierson stated the City faced significant budget challenges. He stated the SCE Woolsey Fire settlement funds were able to cover a budget deficit for the upcoming fiscal year but that would not be an option in future years. He discussed unfunded items including California Highway Patrol (CHP) support during a PSPS. He suggested taking some funding the Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department contract to fund staffing from CHP for busy times on PCH. He stated additional homelessness programs were unfunded but expressed hope that grant funding may be available.

Councilmember Mullen returned to the meeting at 10:59 p.m.

Mayor Pro Tem Pierson stated there were costs involved in creating an Environmental Commission. He stated plans for outreach on vacant land, a hydrology study, the dumpster lid ordinance, the dark sky ordinance, department audits, the IT strategic plan, the Malibu Canyon Road traffic study, and Big Rock generators were all unfunded. He thanked Mr. Pestrella for his comments. He expressed concern that there was significant fire danger in the City. He requested more information on a retirement incentive program for City staff. He stated staff salaries were in line with other cities and it could be difficult to attract and maintain good employees because of the commute. He stated staffing had already been reduced in the proposed budget. He expressed interest in consolidating positions to be more efficient. He indicated support for funding tree maintenance. He stated community programming had already been reduced by cancelling programs due to COVID-19. He stated debt service would be increasing in the next year. He indicated support for a measure to raise Transient Occupancy Tax from 12% to 15%. He suggested property tax revenue may be up 1% next year. He indicated support for contributing towards generators for the Big Rock area. He stated it was important to move environmental programs forward. He indicated support for the dumpster lid and dark sky ordinances. He indicated support for funding departmental audits. He indicated support for reducing the view preservation permit fee.

Councilmember Wagner stated the Council served the needs of the community. He stated school district separation was moving forward but would not be completed quickly. He indicated support for implementing the dumpster lid ordinance and dark sky ordinance. He stated District 29 did make improvements to infrastructure. He stated the Big Rock area needed water pump generators now. He stated the City should support the Big Rock neighbors.
Councilmember Mullen thanked Mr. Pestrella for participating in the meeting.

In response to Councilmember Mullen, Mr. Pestrella stated he was very familiar with the Big Rock neighborhood and had been working closely with the residents. He stated Big Rock needed a community emergency management plan. He stated he planned to work with the Fire Department on system hardening. He stated the Big Rock residents were very proactive. He stated the Big Rock residents were paying District 29 fees and should be able to rely on the district to pay for high priority improvements. He stated he also wanted to identify and fund permanent generators in other key locations in the City. He stated District 29 was committed to identifying funding to make improvements to Big Rock pump stations and other resiliency improvements in the Malibu area.

Councilmember Mullen thanked Mr. Pestrella for his commitment to installing permanent generators in the Big Rock area quickly. He stated his fire station had a generator maintained by the County that was very reliable. He stated District 29 would be better positioned to identify and purchase generators to be maintained as part of the County system.

In response to Councilmember Mullen, City Manager Feldman stated her compensation rate on the State Controller’s website included benefits. She stated she made a salary in line with other Las Virgenes-Malibu Council of Governments city managers. She stated her salary was comparable or less than city managers for other beach cities. She stated Malibu had complex issues and could not be compared to an average city with 13,000 residents. She stated Malibu had a visitor population of 15 million. She stated the proposed budget did not include a pay raise for her and she did not receive a cost of living increase.

Councilmember Mullen stated the Council considered comparable cities when considering salary ranges. He suggested going through the list of items that could be considered to reduce expenditures. He stated the City was recovering from the Woolsey Fire and in the middle of the COVID-19 crisis. He indicated support for focusing on the top three priorities of the Council. He indicated support for saving money and reassessing the budget in a few months.

Mayor Farrer stated there was a global recession. She stated Santa Monica had laid off hundreds of staff members. She stated debt service would be increasing and the SCE settlement funds provided a one-time fix. She stated it was important to save money for future fiscal years. She stated open positions were not being filled and contract staff was being reduced, which increased the burden on existing staff. She thanked Mr. Pestrella for participating in the meeting.

In response to Mayor Farrer, Mr. Pestrella stated the Los Angeles County Department of Public Works was actively making improvements for disaster resiliency. He stated District 29 had already acquired mobile generators. He stated he was working with the Fire Department to identify high risk areas, like Big Rock, and pre-deploying equipment that would be needed in a fire ahead of fire season.
He stated he would come back in August 2020 with an emergency management plan. He stated he wanted to partner with the City’s Public Safety staff, the Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department, and the Fire Department to education the public on emergency plans.

Mayor Farrer thanked Mr. Pestrella for his comments.

City Manager Feldman stated she would work with Mr. Pestrella to schedule an update for the City Council.

Mayor Farrer stated increased layoffs and unemployment would contribute to homelessness. She suggested considering an early retirement incentive package for City staff. She suggested reducing or eliminating the joint use agreement with Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District (SMMUSD). She stated most of the funding as part of that agreement was for adult recreation activities. She indicated support for a measure to raise Transient Occupancy Tax. She suggested looking at combining positions or departments. She questioned if any positions could be eliminated.

Councilmember Mullen expressed optimism things would get back to normal but stated he did not know when.

In response to Councilmember Mullen, City Manager Feldman stated public safety was important and expressed concern regarding cutting funding for the Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department. She stated staff could look at using some Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department funding for CHP instead. She stated it was painful to have to consider cutting any services.

Councilmember Mullen indicated support for fully funding the Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department contract.

City Manager Feldman indicated support for the Council considering a measure to increase Transient Occupancy Tax. She stated property tax revenue projections were conservative. She stated April 2020 property taxes had been paid late and not yet been received by the City. She expressed concern regarding the loss of sales tax from businesses closing permanently. She stated she could provide more information on a retirement incentive program for City staff. She stated there was a $65,000 designated reserve for capital improvements but it could be undesignated and used for the implementation of the dumpster lid ordinance.

Councilmember Mullen indicated support for a measure to increase Transient Occupancy Tax.

City Manager Feldman stated she was very concerned about revenues for the next fiscal year and stated there could be another disaster.
CONSENSUS

By consensus, the Council directed staff to bring back item to place a measure on the November 3, 2020 ballot to increase Transient Occupancy Tax from 12% to 15%.

Councilmember Peak suggested bringing back analysis of all items that could increase savings. He indicated support for reducing Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department expenses by 5-10%.

City Manager Feldman stated she could meet with contract law at the Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department to try to identify options to reduce costs without risking public safety.

In response to Councilmember Peak, City Manager Feldman stated the City had been requesting the County of Los Angeles contribute to funding the beach team for many years and she would continue asking.

Councilmember Mullen indicated support for Councilmember Peak’s comments.

Mayor Pro Tem Pierson indicated support for considering using some CHP officers in place of Sheriff’s Department officers.

Councilmember Peak indicated support for considering a contract for some CHP officers. He stated Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department costs kept increasing.

Councilmember Mullen and Mayor Farrer indicated support for considering a contract for some CHP officers.

CONSENSUS

By consensus, the Council directed staff to bring back: 1) options for reducing Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department cost to the City; and 2) options to replace law enforcement services currently provided by the Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department with the California Highway Patrol.

In response to Councilmember Peak, City Manager Feldman stated staff needed to bring back a final budget at the next City Council meeting. She stated she would need more direction on how the Council would like new cost cutting measures to be studied and presented. She stated she did not know how popular the retirement incentive program would be but stated it could save hundreds of thousands of dollars. She stated staff could eliminate positions based on direction from the Council. She stated the tree maintenance program was $45,000 and had the benefit of decreasing fire danger.

In response to Councilmember Peak, City Manager Feldman stated other cities offered a lump sum payment based on years of service for a retirement incentive program. She stated more senior staff could use the program and a more junior staff member could be hired lower on the pay scale.
Councilmember Peak indicated support for eliminating one to two positions from each department.

Mayor Pro Tem Pierson expressed concern layoffs would delay services. Councilmember Mullen indicated support for a hiring freeze instead of layoffs.

City Manager Feldman suggested identifying a dollar amount to save costs by eliminating positions or consolidating functions.

Councilmember Peak suggested aiming for $500,000-$1,000,000 reduction in expenses related to staff costs.

Mayor Pro Tem Pierson stated he needed more information before making a recommendation.

City Manager Feldman stated staff would study eliminating $500,000 in staffing costs.

Councilmember Peak stated the City could try to be more efficient in operations. He indicated support for funding the annual tree maintenance contract.

In response to Mayor Farrer, City Manager Feldman stated the tree maintenance contract was $45,000.

Councilmember Wagner expressed concern CHP officers would not be familiar with the needs of Malibu.

Mayor Pro Tem Pierson stated the Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department had other priorities and he was trying to get more focused attention on PCH since it was a problem area.

Councilmember Wagner indicated support for waiting to see how the Malibu-Los Hills Sheriff Station staff was managed under the Captain Becerra.

In response to Councilmember Peak, City Manager Feldman stated special events were an area where cuts might be possible since many events may need to be cancelled or reduced in size to reduce the spread of COVID-19.

Assistant City Manager Soghor stated cuts were already made to events budgets based on a best guess of reduced events revenues. She stated it was unknown if large gatherings like Chumash Days would be permitted.

In response to Councilmember Peak, City Manager Feldman suggested considering a revised budget in August 2020 with additional analysis for potential cost saving measures. She stated funding was in the budget for law enforcement services and staff could work with the Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department and CHP to identify options for allocating the funding.
Councilmember Mullen indicated support for considering funding CHP.

Councilmember Wagner stated a CHP officer would need to call another CHP officer if they needed backup. He expressed concern there would be delays in service.

Mayor Pro Tem Pierson indicted support for funding departmental audits.

Councilmember Wagner indicted support for departmental audits. He stated audits improved public confidence in government.

In response to Mayor Farrer, Mayor Pro Tem Pierson stated the Council would be considering cutting many items and indicated support for funding departmental audits.

City Manager Feldman stated considering a revised budget in August or September 2020 would allow the Council to reconsider items with much more information.

CONSENSUS

By consensus, the Council 1) directed staff to bring back to the June 22, 2020 Council meeting a substantially similar Proposed Budget and Annual Work Plan for Fiscal Year 2020-2021, including transfer of $50,000 for the General Fund Designated Reserve for Capital Improvement Projects to the General Fund Undesignated Reserve to fund enforcement of the Dumpster Lid Ordinance; and 2) directed staff to bring back the following: a) a retirement incentive program; b) options for reduction of $500,000 in City staff positions; c) options for reduction in Community Services programs and activities; and d) options for reduction in sustainability programs.

MOTION

Councilmember Peak moved and Councilmember Mullen seconded a motion to hear Item Nos. 4.B., 4.C., and 4.D. concurrently. The question was called and the motion carried unanimously.

Items Nos. 4.B., 4.C. and 4.D. were heard concurrently.

B. Assessment District 98-1 (Big Rock Mesa)
Recommended Action: 1) Conduct the Public Hearing; and 2) Adopt Resolution No. 20-24 levying an assessment for the maintenance, repair, and improvements works, systems and facilities pertaining to Assessment District 98-1 (Big Rock Mesa) for Fiscal Year 2020-2021.

C. Assessment District 98-2 (Calle Del Barco)
Recommended Action: 1) Conduct the Public Hearing; and 2) Adopt Resolution No. 20-25 levying an assessment for the maintenance, repair and improvements works, systems and facilities of Assessment District 98-2 (Calle Del Barco) for Fiscal Year 2020-2021.
D. **Assessment District 98-3 (Malibu Road)**

Recommended Action: 1) Conduct the Public Hearing; and 2) Adopt Resolution No. 20-26 levying an assessment for the maintenance, repair and improvements works, systems and facilities of Assessment District 98-3 (Malibu Road) for Fiscal Year 2020-2021.

Public Works Director DuBoux presented the staff report.

Jo Drummond stated the Big Rock ground dewatering system needed more study. She stated there were too many OWTS systems in Big Rock. She expressed concern the current dewatering system was not fully functioning. She stated Fugro Consultants was not studying enough risk factors.

Kraig Hill stated no expert had been tasked with determining if the Big Rock neighborhood was safe each year. He stated there was land movement in the Big Rock area. He indicated support for a moratorium on development that would add more water to the hillside. He stated some of the dewatering system equipment was non-functioning and the system needed improvements.

Hank Corwin was not present at the time of the hearing.

Georgia Goldfarb indicated support for halting development in Big Rock. She stated the dewatering system needed improvements.

In response to Mayor Pro Tem Pierson, Public Works Director DuBoux stated Fugro Consultants had been the consultant for several years. He stated staff had requested proposals for a new consultant. He stated two Big Rock residents reviewed the proposals and participated in interviews with staff and a new consultant had been selected. He stated a contract with the new consultant would be coming to the Council on June 22, 2020. He stated the new consultant would study the whole system and provide comprehensive reports to address concerns. He stated the ground water levels for the area were low partially due to improvements to the pumping system. He stated Fugro Consultants had reported ground water had been stable and there was not significant land movement. He stated some of the equipment had a short lifespan and needed to be replaced. He stated he was working with the new consultant on the deadline for the report. He stated there would be community meetings with Big Rock residents on next steps.

**MOTION**

Councilmember Peak moved and Councilmember Mullen seconded a motion to: 1) adopt Resolution No. 20-24 levying an assessment for the maintenance, repair, and improvements works, systems and facilities pertaining to Assessment District 98-1 (Big Rock Mesa) for Fiscal Year 2020-2021; 2) adopt Resolution No. 20-25 levying an assessment for the maintenance, repair and improvements works, systems and facilities of Assessment District 98-2 (Calle Del Barco) for Fiscal Year 2020-2021; and 3) adopt Resolution No. 20-26 levying an assessment for the maintenance, repair and improvements works, systems and facilities of Assessment District 98-3 (Malibu Road) for Fiscal Year 2020-2021.
Councilmember Wagner stated he visited the neighborhood and met with homeowners association representatives. He stated the new consultant need to thoroughly study the dewatering system.

Councilmember Peak stated any necessary improvements to the system could be discussed after further study.

In response to Mayor Pro Tem Pierson, Public Works Director DuBoux stated he hoped the consultant would have a report by September 2020.

The question was called and the motion carried unanimously.

E. Temporary Restaurant Recovery Program During COVID-19 Pandemic

Recommended Action: Adopt Ordinance No. 465U enacting a temporary restaurant recovery program to expand outdoor seating, finding the same exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act and setting forth the facts constituting such urgency; a four-fifths vote of the City Council is required and, if approved, it will take effect immediately.

City Manager Feldman presented the staff report.

Mayor Farrer thanked staff for bringing this item forward.

John Mazza was not present at the time of the hearing.

MOTION Councilmember Peak moved and Mayor Pro Tem Pierson seconded a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 465U enacting a temporary restaurant recovery program to expand outdoor seating, finding the same exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act and setting forth the facts constituting such urgency.

Mayor Pro Tem Pierson stated the Council had received correspondence from Mr. Mazza on this item.

Councilmember Wagner stated the ordinance included a sunset clause. He stated bollard restrictions needed to be followed.

City Attorney Rusin stated the ordinance was flexible to consider each case individually. He stated the ordinance should be amended to follow bollard regulations at all times if that was important to the Council.

Councilmember Wagner indicated support for requiring all outdoor seating to be behind bollards.

City Manager Feldman stated the application process included a review for public safety and applications could be denied if safety was compromised.

Planning Director Blue stated many shopping centers did not have bollards and it
may not be a frequent issue in application review.

Assistant City Attorney Rusin stated the ordinance included provisions to allow seating in parking lots that not be protected by bollards. He stated the applicant would be required to indemnify the City against liability.

Councilmember Wagner stated it was important seating areas be protected.

Assistant City Attorney Rusin stated staff would work with applicants on a site by site basis to create a safe seating plan.

Mayor Pro Tem Pierson stated he had spoken to restaurant owners who appreciated the ordinance.

In response to Councilmember Wagner, City Manager Feldman stated the ordinance included regulations requiring the extra seating be removed when the emergency was lifted.

The question was called and the motion carried unanimously.

ITEM 5  OLD BUSINESS

None.

ITEM 6  NEW BUSINESS

None.

ITEM 7  COUNCIL ITEMS

A.  **2020-2021 Harry Barovsky Memorial Youth Commission Appointments**

   **Recommended Action:** Appoint Commissioners to the 2020-2021 Harry Barovsky Memorial Youth Commission.

   Community Services Director Bobbett presented the staff report.

   **MOTION** Councilmember Peak moved and Councilmember Mullen seconded a motion to appoint the following 23 applicants to the 2019-2020 Harry Barovsky Memorial Youth Commission:

   Jaz Abbey  
   Eden Amar  
   Garrett Button  
   Tyler Button  
   India Cortese  
   Jaden Fisher  
   Mia Foster
Councilmember Wagner stated the new commissioners were a diverse group.

The question was called and the motion carried unanimously.

B. Extension of Woolsey Fire Fee Waiver Deadlines (Councilmember Peak)
Recommended Action: At the request of Councilmember Peak, consider whether to extend the fee waiver deadlines for residents rebuilding property damaged or destroyed by the Woolsey Fire.

Councilmember Peak presented the report. He stated he wanted the deadline extended for Woolsey Fire victims who were dealing with circumstances beyond their control that were delaying their rebuild.

Vince Muselli stated some victims of the Woolsey Fire had issues beyond litigation with insurance companies that delayed rebuilding. He indicated support for extending the deadline for all rebuilds.

John Mazza was not present at the time of the hearing.

Geoffrey Von Oeyen indicated support for extending the fee waiver program to help long-term residents rebuild.

Councilmember Wagner indicated support for extending the Woolsey Fire fee waiver deadline. He thanked the speakers for their comments and stated he understood their challenges.

Councilmember Mullen stated the fee waiver program was intended to motive people to rebuild quickly.
In response to Councilmember Mullen, City Manager Feldman the current fee waiver program had been budgeted in the current and next fiscal year budgets. She stated she had some concerns about extending the fee waiver program but stated she understood the Council wanted to extend for hardship cases.

Assistant City Attorney Rusin stated the Council should direct staff to come back with specific criteria for people who would be eligible for an extended deadline or extend it for all qualifying property owners.

City Manager Feldman indicated support for Assistant City Attorney Rusin’s comments.

Councilmember Mullen stated it was simpler to extend the deadline for all qualifying property owners.

Mayor Pro Tem Pierson indicated support for extending the fee waiver program for all qualifying property owners.

In response to Councilmember Peak, City Manager Feldman stated if the program was going to be extended another year, she would need to bring back more information on budget impacts.

Councilmember Mullen indicated support for extending the deadline six months to keep people motivated to rebuild quickly.

Councilmember Peak indicated support for extending the deadline six months.

City Manager Feldman stated budget impacts could be revisited in August or September 2020 and staff could provide more information when the resolution extending the deadline was brought back.

**MOTION** Councilmember Peak moved and Councilmember Wagner seconded a motion to direct staff to bring back a resolution extending the fee waiver deadlines by six months for residents rebuilding property damaged or destroyed by the Woolsey Fire. The question was called and the motion carried unanimously.

**ADJOURNMENT**

At 1:17 a.m. on Tuesday, June 9, 2020, Mayor Farrer adjourned the meeting.

Approved and adopted by the City Council of the City of Malibu on July 13, 2020.

MIKKE PIERSON, Mayor
ATTEST:

HEATHER GLASER, City Clerk
(seal)