

City Council Hybrid Meeting (Closed Session at 5:00 p.m. and Open Session at 6:00 p.m.)

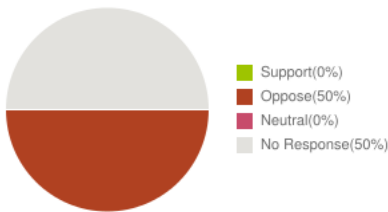
01-23-24 17:00

Agenda Name	Comments	Support	Oppose	Neutral
d) REPORT 24-0050 CITY MANAGER CONTRACT AMENDMENT AND AWARD OF PERFORMANCE BONUS (City Attorney Patrick Donegan)	4	0	2	0

Sentiments for All Agenda Items

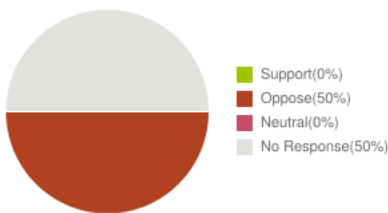
The following graphs display sentiments for comments that have location data. Only locations of users who have commented will be shown.

Overall Sentiment



Agenda Item: eComments for d) REPORT 24-0050 CITY MANAGER CONTRACT AMENDMENT AND AWARD OF PERFORMANCE BONUS (City Attorney Patrick Donegan)

Overall Sentiment



Howard L

Location:

Submitted At: 2:56pm 01-23-24

The people are worn out discussing the "obscene contracts" given to obviously-greedy, control-freak Suja Lowenthal. They know this will be just a rubber-stamp approval and that their comments mean absolutely nothing. My views. Please see my additional supplemental as submitted by email due to the weak-as-water utility of this e-Comment ability, but also as to be attached at meeting time for this item. Howard L.

Megg Sulzinger

Location: 90254, Hermosa Beach

Submitted At: 12:19pm 01-23-24

I agree with the previous comments. There is absolutely no reason to give another salary increase to our city manager after she has received one in every year since she started while our city has seen no visible

improvement. While I appreciate the job of a city manager is not an easy one, as far as I know we have never had such reckless spending, past deadlines & an inflated staff in the city managers office. The community opposed awarding her 5 year contract but it was done despite the overwhelming amount of our city disagreeing with this proposal. Generally in order to get a raise you have had to shown you have gone above & beyond in your position. I am not seeing this here. Our neighbors cities do not have a city manager while multiple assistants despite being substantially larger than ours. Please do not put another tax increase on those who live & rent in Hermosa who can barely get by.

Raymond Dussault

Location: 90254, HERMOSA BEACH
Submitted At: 11:30am 01-23-24

I am writing to express my vehement objection to the proposal for yet another salary increase and bonus for City Manager Suja Lowenthal. Her sixth such increase and bonus in as many years. Where else in the world is this even possible? In light of her performance and the fiscal landscape of our beloved city under her stewardship, such considerations are not only unwarranted but also represent a disconcerting misalignment with the principles of responsible governance.

It is disheartening to note that, despite consistent issues such as projects running over-budget and past deadlines, hindrances to community engagement, and a continuous rise in staff costs and consulting fees, there is a persistent push for salary increases and bonuses. She is already paid almost double what the next highest paid City Manager the city has ever had was paid. As residents who deeply care about the well-being and prosperity of Hermosa Beach, we cannot ignore the evident discrepancies between the outcomes of Ms. Lowenthal's tenure and the rewards she is seeking.

The escalation of administrative costs during Ms. Lowenthal's leadership, coupled with the addition of personnel, including an Assistant City Manager never before needed, raises significant concerns about the fiscal prudence exercised in the management of taxpayer funds. Awarding bonuses without clear and tangible evidence of substantial contributions to cost-effectiveness and efficiency is both fiscally irresponsible and fundamentally unfair.

The decision to grant Ms. Lowenthal a 5-year contract and a bonus despite overwhelming public opposition was based on the premise that her continued leadership was vital for the city's welfare. However, this contract should not be interpreted as a blank check for recurrent salary increase until the city is completely broke.

As residents, we call for accountability, transparency, and the prioritization of the city's fiscal health over unjustified salary increases. We urge the City Council to carefully evaluate the performance metrics and financial impacts associated with Ms. Lowenthal's tenure before endorsing any further financial rewards. The community deserves a City Manager whose leadership aligns with the values of our community, responsible governance and prudent financial management.

Even if you, as individuals, believe that she deserves a \$400,000 compensation package, which boggles any reasonable person's mind, at least consider the difficult economy that is facing our city, our state and the nation. An economic downturn that will almost certainly get worse.

Thank you for considering the concerns of the residents who hold the best interests of Hermosa Beach at heart.

Robert Aronoff

Location: 90254, Hermosa Beach
Submitted At: 3:33pm 01-22-24

On October 25, 2022, Council, contrary to overwhelming public opposition, awarded the City Manger a 5-year contract and a bonus. One of the rational's stated by Justin Massey and other council members was that Suja Lowenthal was too valuable to the City to risk losing because we did not have a contract. Despite the fact (to my recollection) that 78 of the 84 citizens who spoke at the time opposed the contract, we now have one. This was not a contract to ask for annual increases in salary. We need to enforce the City's rights under that contract. The City Manager should not receive any more than the contract allows until it expires.

As far as a bonus, the City's administrative costs have only gone up since it hired Suja Lowenthal. We have more personnel, including an Assistant City Manager that was never before needed. She has done nothing to earn a

bonus. Can the Council point to any cost savings she obtained for the City that would not have been expected of any competent city manager?