

**From:** [tony.higgins](#)  
**To:** [City Council](#); [Suja Lowenthal](#); [City Clerk](#); [Patrick Donegan](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Sales Tax increase  
**Date:** Monday, January 22, 2024 1:05:59 PM  
**Attachments:** [image0.png](#)

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*I inadvertently included the wrong screenshot in my attached email related to the city manager compensation increase.*

*This email corrects that.*

*But why did the city manager compensation increase agenda item suddenly appear on the 1/23/2024 agenda in the first place?*

*Why wasn't it properly noticed as a future agenda item in the Dec 12, 2023 city council meeting staff report?*

*Why was this suddenly "sprung" on us?*

*Could it be the city manager didn't want this future agenda item included in the staff report to mute public opposition?*

CORRECTED LETTER:

January 21, 2024  
Dear City Council,

The people spoke in the last election when they roundly rejected the sales tax increase and sent the message the city needed to look at other options and propose a budget to live within its means.

But what does city staff and a couple of council members bent of subverting the will of the people do:

(1) they subvert the will of the people by trying to put the same rejected measure on the 2024 ballot,

(2) they bring in highly paid consultants that tell us we need a new showcase 50 million dollar city hall and big hotel to reinvigorate our downtown business district and,

(3) staff tells us we need to give our City Manager an unscheduled bonus or raise despite the fact that most projects continue to come in late and way over budget.

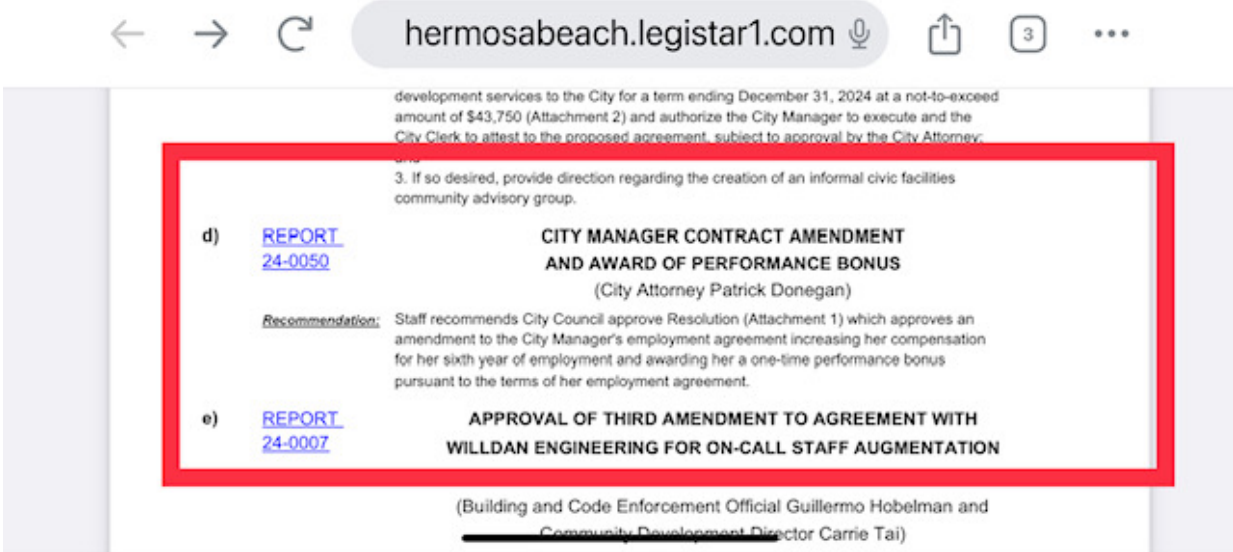
Take the park restroom project. It was way over budget, late and ended up with lawsuits. Think about the Clark building. This project has been going on nearly 5 years and is way late and over budget. Take the City Yard or even the purchase of police vehicles.

Either late or over budget or both.

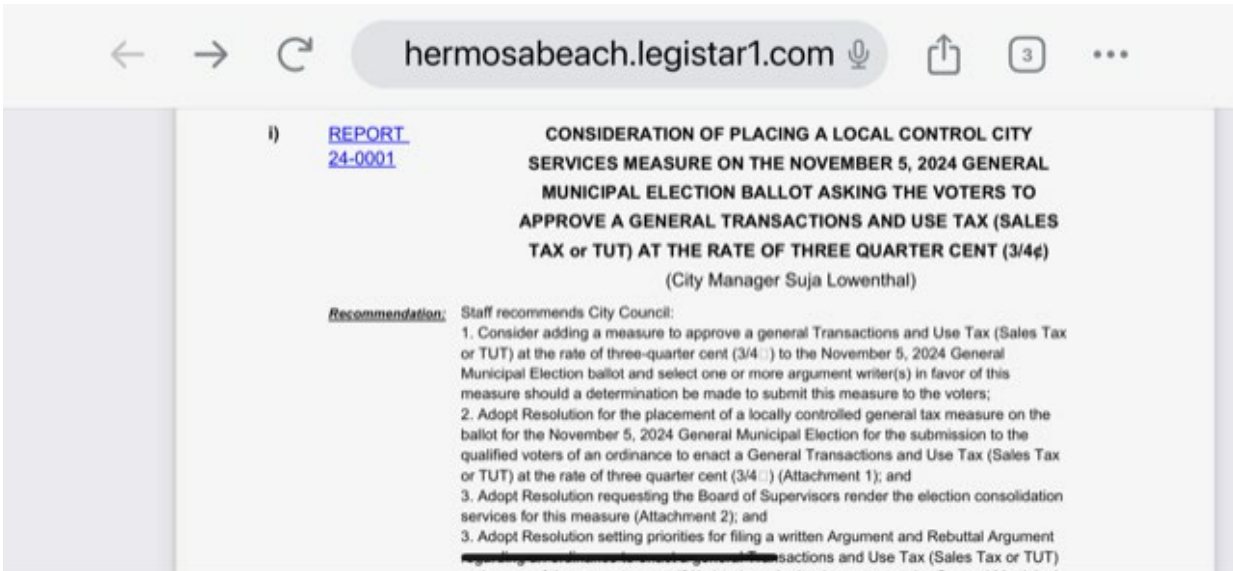
Our city manager has had 5 years to correct this trend. She is not up to the task.

And now you want to give her an unscheduled raise and give her more money with a tax increase the people already rejected?

CORRECTED SCREENSHOT:



Then for icing on the cake you put the tax increase ballot measure as the last item on the 1/23 city council agenda.



**This tax increase, given it was already soundly rejected by the voters in the last election **deserves its own dedicated public hearing with plenty of publicity and public notice.****

For staff to bring this ballot measure back as the last item on the agenda for approval in the wee hours of the night speaks volumes to how manipulative and corrupt certain members of the city council and our city manager have become.

***Give us a dedicated, well noticed public hearing on the tax ballot initiative!***

Anthony Higgins