

WEST COVINA CITY COUNCIL ELECTION 2020

Elected and Appointed

ELECTED OFFICIAL POSITIONS ON SELECTED ISSUES ¹

Item: Financial - Police and Fire Memorandums of Understanding

2019 & 2020

Compiled by Jerri Potras, September 2020

City councils act as the policy and legislative branch of local government. Accordingly, their votes on actions that come before the city council reflect their positions on an issue. This sheet shows elected official votes on selected issues of concern to residents.

City Treasurer Role: The duties of the West Covina City Treasurer are limited and prescribed by ordinance.² The City Treasurer does not vote on actions that come before the city council but does occasionally comment in support or opposition on an item under consideration. The City Treasurer is a voting member of the Finance & Audit Committee. The City Treasurer's public comments, when made, are shown under the city council vote section.

Elected officials running for City Council in the upcoming election are shown in brown.

Meeting Date	Action Under Consideration	Councilmember Votes				
		Dario Castellanos ³	Lloyd Johnson	Letty Lopez-Viado	Jessica Shewmaker	Tony Wu
<p>▪ Police Officers' Association Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) aka Contract, Salary Increase, Pay Raise</p>						
October 15, 2019	Police Officers Association Memorandum of Understanding ⁴	Aye	Aye	Aye	No	Aye
<p>▪ Firefighter's Association Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) aka Contract, Salary Increase, Pay Raise</p>						
November 5, 2019	Firefighters Association Memorandum of Understanding	Aye	Abstain ⁵	Aye	No	Aye
City Treasurer Colleen Rozatti 3, 6	<p>Approved City Council Meeting Minutes show Rozatti spoke during Oral Communications on October 15, 2019 but did not speak on November 5, 2019.³</p> <p><i>October 15th Meeting Video Comment Summary: During Oral Communications, Rozatti spoke in terms of "needs and wants" and what was "fair and equitable" to the officers. She stated the MOU was "not out of line." She did not comment on the impact of the MOU in terms of the city's budget or increased pension costs.</i></p>					
Related Issue: Fiscal Impact	<p>Review of Meeting Video: Summary of Resident, Council, and Staff Comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ City Council passed salary increases that were not budgeted and that costs were underestimated.⁷ ▪ The City Manager, Finance Director and then Mayor Pro-Tem Tony Wu strongly advocated passage citing future actions city planned to take would provide funding, need to take risk, think outside box (Wu). ▪ Councilmembers Shewmaker and Lopez-Viado expressed concern about city's ability to sustain increased costs over time without budget identified and based on possible actions "in the pipeline." 					

Notes:

¹ The data in this charts was compiled using Approved Regular and Special City Council Meeting Minutes posted on the City Clerk's page of West Covina website as of September 22, 2020.

² West Covina Ordinance No. 2298 Section 2-171: The duties of the office of City Treasurer shall be the following: to review and present monthly investment reports; to participate in investment strategy discussions; to participate in the development of the Investment Policy; to serve as a member of the Audit Committee, and to perform other duties at the discretion of the City Council. Any duties or responsibilities not specifically delegated to the City Treasurer are the responsibility of the Chief Finance Officer.

³ In the 2018 City Council election, the firefighter's union endorsed Dario Castellanos for City Council District 4 and Colleen Rozatti for City Treasurer. Campaign finance reports show the firefighter's expenditures were reported as follows:

	Dario Castellanos	Coleen Rozatti	Oppose Measure T
Monetary Contribution:	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00	\$6,572.10 *
Independent Expenditure	\$17,033.60	\$4,729.51	

* Passage of Measure T would have changed the Treasurer position from elected to appointed by the city manager.

⁴ Approved minutes record vote 4-1 without identifying the name of the councilmember who voted "No". The votes shown above were obtained from the City Council meeting video posted on YouTube.

⁵ It's been stated Lloyd Johnson abstains from voting on firefighter union issues because the firefighter union included him by name in one of their lawsuits.

⁶ In the 2020 City Council District 3 election underway, the firefighter's union has endorsed **Colleen Rozatti**. The union has provided yard signs showing their support. Residents report the firefighters' are going door-to-door in District 3 neighborhoods on **Rozatti's** behalf.

⁷ Jim Grivich, Finance & Audit Committee member, spoke at both meetings. He presented data on the city's revenue (tax) projections, expressed concern that staff underestimated costs: increases to overtime and pension costs that occur when salaries increase were omitted. He acknowledged the Finance Director doesn't agree with him on overtime costs. The Finance Director acknowledged increased pension costs were omitted. Grivich reminded the City Council the State Auditor ranked West Covina the 17th worst financial distressed city in California, largely because of the West Covina's revenue vs. pension debt ratio. He noted if the tax measure passes, a second salary increases occurs which compounds risk. Grivich stated the salary increases are not budgeted and that voting to overdraft a budget violates city policy. He urged the Council to wait until they knew they had money to pay for the raise.