

AI5: City Indirect Cost Allocation Plan & AI 4 Middle East ceasefire resolution

I am encouraged to see this new cost allocation plan approach, hopefully the first steps in rationalizing future annual city budget development in a more conventional and less unusual process and format than in recent years.

Given the council has declared the city to be in a 'financial emergency' it is heartening to see evidence of intelligent thought being applied to put us on a healthier financial footing for the future.

Despite all this hard work for our (probably overwhelmed) city staff and some members of the council, sadly we are still seeing examples of leadership failure by the Mayor and vice Mayor in the style of recent past councils that got us into the fiscal and organizational mess we are in now.

Whoever thought agenda item 4 was a good idea appears to be completely unaware of how contentious encouraging public debate and trying

to craft statements about geopolitical events thousands of miles away is.

I'm sure this has cost city staff and council dearly in time and costs and will no doubt result in endless personal opinions and perspectives contributed during the council meeting by people who may or may not live in our city.

The latest Middle East tragedies are absolutely a subject for free speech and individual opinions, but encouraging using our tiny city's council meeting as a forum for this is like arguing politics at the department of motor vehicles. We are trying to fix our financial and organizational emergencies, not attempt to craft pretentious and quixotic group political statements that all citizens are unlikely to agree with and which will have no future bearing or geopolitical value.

There are far more useful and constructive ways we can personally take to try to help and resolve this latest disaster at a national and international level, but there's a real danger for council and city staff

being politically seen to 'take a side' on behalf of our city by personally debating political views, which is unhelpful in creating prejudices amongst the electorate.

I strongly suggest council stick to the basics of city management, and whoever proposed the resolution follow their path on a personal not an official collective council opinion level.

I really wish city citizens paid as close attention to the issues that will greatly affect their lives locally as much as they do in making statements about foreign conflicts to council. I am deeply antiwar and appreciate concern, but this is not the forum for debating international conflict.

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