

OFFICE OF THE CITY TREASURER

TREASURER REPORT

June 16, 2020

Wanda M. Brown, City Treasurer
City Council meeting, June 16, 2020

- SUBJECTS:
1. Bond Proceeds overpayment of \$77,418 approved by Mayor James Butts remains outstanding.
 2. Council members are elected to govern the business of the City.

DISCUSSION: NUMBER 1.

Mayor Butts desired to be a signer for the approval for the Payment of Bond Proceeds. My deputy, Debra Crenshaw has always prepared the documentation to add individuals names to the bond account held by Trustee US Bank. Mayor Butts went around her and had Assistant Finance Director Sharon Koike whom is assistant to his self appointed Assistant to the City Manager/Finance Director David Esparza to become a signer on the US Bank account. Previously, the Treasurer was the only signature US Bank would accept. The Treasurer had signed off on nearly 90% of previous Requests for Bond Proceed payment approvals without a single overpayment of bond proceeds dollars. Mayor Butts want total control of the City!

Mayor Butts signed off for the approval for Pinner Construction Company. Pinner was awarded the contract to build the Senior Center. The original contract was for about \$18,000,000 subject to changes. Mayor Butts signed for approval for the contract in the amount of \$1,548,365.87 less 10% retention of \$77,418.26. The correct payment of \$1,470,947.87 was indicated in the payment documents. However, Pinner was paid \$1,548,365.87 which included the 10% retention of 77,418.26 resulting in the overpayment. I notified Sharon of the overpayment and she acknowledge via an e-mail that the overpayment had occurred. Sharon informed me that Pinner had multiple contracts with the city and the overpayment would be withheld from another contract. However, I don't believe that is the correct way to handle the matter. If that was in fact was done, \$77,418.26 never found its ways back into the US Bank Bond Proceeds bank account! Then again, why didn't department head David Esparza contact Pinner Construction and request that the overpayment be wired into the US Bank account or issue a check reimbursement?! Mayor Butts continues to deny that the overpayment occurred and sent an e-mail to the effect that someone needs to explain the matter to the Treasurer. However, Mayor Butts is 100% wrong and he knows it! The Treasurer wants to know, who or where are those funds Mayor Butts!

NUMBER 2.

Council members George Dotson, Alex Padilla, Eloy Morales, and Ralph Franklin, and City Clerk Yvonne Horton. We were elected by the registered voters of Inglewood to be the independent eyes, ears, and voices for them. We were not elected to rule over them; the employees and executive staff members, but to work with them to provide effective good government with them for the residents of this fabulous city! The employees should not be fearful of or feel intimidated by this Mayor, council members, City Treasurer, or City Clerk. Sadly, many are very fearful of Mayor Butts! He is very intimidating! Many of the city employees live in the city, are well educated, are excellent and dedicated workers, have good work experience, and are assets to this city. Many have earned college degrees during their tenure with the city and others have earned various kinds of certifications that enable them to do even a better job for the city. We are blessed to have them! I for one have gotten to know many of them during my 32 year tenure as City Treasurer and appreciate them all!

Council members, your Christmas toy drives, chili cook outs, document shredding, attending block club parties, city events, car shows, etc, etc, is not why you were elected! These are wonderful community events, but the agenda items is the business of the city. That is why you were elected to your respective council seats. Council members Morales and Franklin from time to time have addressed agenda and other city business items. Council members Dotson and Padilla has yet to provide any meaningful input to agenda items, other than saying that was a good report, or thank you for your hard work to a staff member. That is not sufficient! **Councilman Padilla, you have been the most supportive council member for each of my programs, City Treasurer Student Intern and City Treasurer Community Get Your House in Financial Order. Again, thank you! However, I've supported and attended most of events! Supported Christmas toy drives, cancer events at Crozier Middle School, etc, etc. I endorsed you for council without even knowing you, gave financial support to your campaign, attended and gave money at a fundraiser at your home, walked precincts for you, and put yard signs out for you. These are things you cannot put a dollar sign to. My contributions to you, Alex Padilla both financial and non financial FAR EXCEEDS your support for me!**

Council members you need to address the business of the city and not allow Mayor Butts to give the appearance that he is the only one familiar with all the agenda items while your comments are general for the most part. Mayor Butts has been coached thoroughly! He picks the brains of our best and smartest! He takes credit for ideas consultants and staff has come up with. It is so obvious! His first approval of bond proceed resulted in an overpayment of \$77,418.26. Mayor Butts was not aware of the overpayment. Finance Department was not aware until January of the following year! **Mayor Butts ordered Artie to replace the Investment Oversight Committee not knowing the city never had an investment oversight committee until this Treasurer, Wanda M. Brown established one!** Of course, Artie was clueless also! It is well known, he will sign anything his boss wants him to sign!

Council members Dotson, Padilla, and Morales, for the life of me I cannot comprehend why you allow Mayor Butts to continue to mistreat me in this manner, particularly at this time knowing that I am under treatment for an aggressive form of cancer up to 10 hours weekly.

****Where is your sense of compassion for me who has served as Treasurer for 32 years!****

Eloy, you were the only councilman who supported approval of my Investment Policy!

You three alone, have the real power! Mayor Butts has only a single vote! George, I supported you each and every time you ran for council, walked precincts, made phone calls, put yard signs out, gave contributions to your campaigns each time! You three have sat in your respective council seats and allowed Mayor Butts to reduce my Treasurer verbal report time from 5 minutes with an additional 3 minutes to discuss anything I choose **to a total of three minutes to give the Treasurer Report and everything else is GROSSLY UNFAIR!**

You have allowed him to become a signer for the approval of payment of Bond Proceeds, which has never occurred in the history of this city! Mayor Butts very first sign for approval of bond proceeds resulted in an overpayment to Pinner Construction of \$77,418.26. None of you said a word! **At the May 20, 2020 council meeting, you allowed Mayor Butts to eliminate the only Investment Oversight Committee this city has every had, was established by this City Treasurer! Artie Fields criteria to eliminate the oversight committee was totally fabricated!** Each of you know Mr. Fields have no real power or authority. Department heads also knows it. As a matter of fact, Council member Franklin said to me in our meeting, "Artie is not a real city manager." He then said to me don't repeat that. Well I am repeating it. Artie Fields is the most ineffective city manager ever retained by the City of Inglewood during my 32 year tenure! **The salary over \$477,000 and annual executive bonus better known as the annual Christmas gift is a complete waste of general fund dollars!** Each of you sit in your respective council seats and said nothing, when my three minute allotment of time was up and Mayor Butts yelled, "cut her mike off," didn't utter a word to give the Treasurer more time. Council member Franklin for reasons not clear to me, has always been adversarial towards me, also said to me, "you are out of order." When just two weeks earlier was bad mouthing the mayor. That was one of the reasons I referred to him as a "SNAKE." One of you has also referred to Council member Franklin as a SNAKE. No worry, I won't identify you! Mayor Butts said to me, he knows Franklin don't care for him.

Not one of you said a word when Mayor Butts eliminated my verbal report altogether from the Council agenda. This happen when Judy Dunlap and Mike Stevens were council members, as I best remember. He only reinstated the verbal report when I agreed to collect signatures to put an item on the ballot to raise his salary to that of a superior court judge, to raise council members salaries to \$100,000, and to raise the Treasurer salary to match that of the city clerk. **I Had No Intentions Whatsoever To Follow Through!** Mayor Butts gave me a list of names of individuals to be on the committee. My eight page memorandum to Mayor Butts dated 11/25/2019 supports this with my comment in the last sentence of NUMBER 3, that reads, " A key committee member believes it is not a good idea to move forward with the plan at this time." The plan to collect the signatures for the ballot measure! Mayor Butts is a very intimidating, divisive, & deceptive person. **If challenged as I have done he will harass you directly and indirectly using any staff willing! If rejected according to former Assistant Melanie Mc Dade as reported in various news papers Mayor Butts will harass and stalk you!**

City Clerk, Yvonne Horton, please include this Treasurer Report in the documents for today's City Council Meeting,. Mayor Butts continues to deny time to give my complete report.

Dr. Wanda M. Brown, Inglewood City Treasurer

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