

OFFICE OF THE CITY TREASURER

Treasurer Report

August 11, 2020

Wanda M. Brown, City Treasurer

August 11, 18, & 20 - 2020 City Council Meetings

SUBJECTS:

1. Adoption of resolution appointing Mayor Butts as voting delegate, and Council Member Alex Padilla as alternate to represent the City of Inglewood at the League of California Cities.
2. COVID-19 Relief Program Initiative
3. Brown Act Violation
4. Write off of receivables
5. Mayor Butts verbal personal attacks of Treasurer at meeting conclusion
6. Inadequate COVID 10 assistance to Inglewood residents

DISCUSSION:

(1) Mayor Butts have become an liability and embarrassment to the City:

- Council voted to give Republish \$1,000,000.00 above the lowest bidder if they gave his unemployed brother a job. Extra \$1,000,000 given & brother gets job!

(2) The City has spend over \$269,000 tax dollars for supposedly COVID 19 related items.

The vast majority of the expenditure was via the Mayor Butts favorite departments namely Finance and Police. The thousands of face masks Mayor Butts makes mandatoryall City employees wear are labeled, "**NOT FDA APPROVED.**"

(3) Mayor Butts deliberately skipped allowing the Treasurer to speak on any agenda item at the beginning of the August 11, 2020 meeting. He never asked if there was anyone present when I asked custodian Mark Conley to call the 9th floor and alert them the Treasurer was presence in Community Room "A" Mark Conley made the call. **BROWN ACT VIOLATION**

(4) Receivable write off of \$1,189,901 David Esparza, Asst. City Mgr/CFO heads up all financial operations of the City. He has no finance or accounting education or experience. He is a former police officer from San Jose. His most municipal experience is with the City of Los Angeles with their Housing Agency. The housing agency was under investigation during his tenure. He is NEVER called upon by Mayor Butts to explain any City Financial Issue. His assistant, who former Chief Financial Officer Jeff Muir said about her when she applied for Finance Director, she is UNQUALIFIED! Ten years later, not promoted she remains assistant Finance Director! Mayor Butts calls on her and ask numerous leading questions and basically give the report he wants. One can tell she is absolutely petrified when called upon! David Esparza is so incompetent Mayor Butts allowed him to utilize a consultant with no clients other than Inglewood to conduct the selection of banking service for the City at a cost of more than \$20,000.00!

The City Treasurer conducted the last selection for banking service whereby Bank of America was selected at a total cost of \$26.00. The cost for lunch for a committee member's who was part of the bank selection committee formed by the City Treasurer, Wanda Brown. The committee members were Wanda Brown who chaired the committee, Treasurer of Los Angeles, Inglewood's Finance Director, and both the Treasurer's deputies.

The point Mayor Butts was well aware that the Treasurer made was not questioning the PROCESS of how or why receivables are written off, but the QUALIFICATIONS of the person he had leading the process, David Esparza, who know absolutely nothing about the PROCESS of utilizing the most efficient methods of collection. Then again, this Treasurer question whether or not the write off is LEGITIMATE! What is done with funds that a customer pays for accounts written off? Where are those funds kept? For charged off accounts that may be mistakenly overpaid by the customer, is the customer refunded the overpayment? Who has access to those funds. Does the Mayor Butts

have access to written off and over paid accounts receivables? Is there a manual for accounts receivable write off? Mayor Butts didn't nor Sharon Koike addressed those important question! Then again, David Esparza, Assistant City Manager/CFO why was he not present to address the delinquent accounts receivable write off procedure? I would have asked these questions of Sharon, but Mayor Butts would allow the 32 year elected City Treasure the time? Mayor Butts what are you afraid of that the City Treasurer will EXPOSE!

(5) Mayor Butts had the audacity to make verbal personal attacks about this Treasurer by discussing her health, the fact that she was undergoing treatment for cancer AGAIN from the dais, questioned my professional qualifications, he went on to attack my character, saying I was providing false financial information about the City to residents, I was attempting to extort medical benefits, and stated he was going to take away some of my Inglewood City Charter given duties provided in Article XXV, Duties of Treasurer. According to Article XX Mayor's authority,..... Mayor Butts simply don't have the authority to do, and those four council buddies who vote lock step with him in every single council meeting can't give the authority to him! Only the people of Inglewood can do what he would love to do and I know and believe they will NOT give such power to the bullying, harassing, cowardly , intimidating tyrant he is! I KEEP TELLING HIM, HIS ARMS ARE TO SHORT TO BOX WITH GOD!

CLAIM OF EXTORTING MEDICAL BENEFITS BY MAYOR BUTTS:

When Judy Dunlap was on the council, Mayor Butts had the Oral Comment section of the agenda removed for both the City Treasurer and City Clerk. The Treasurer's report was listed as Receive and File. This was done during the time I was attending a Treasurer Conference. After two or three council meetings, I went in to talk with Mayor Butts to learn why had he removed the Oral Section of the council agenda. He said he didn't think it was necessary that I give a report at council meeting. I told him I didn't agree, and that I had been given 5 minutes to give the Treasurer report to residents under the administration of former Mayor Roosevelt Dorn. He then replied that was him, and he didn't think it was necessary. After much further discussion about the issue of his removal of the Oral section from the agenda,

Mayor Butts (MB) said, he needed a larger salary. He currently earns \$131,180/yr and have two retirement incomes, LAX and Santa Monica. He said he would like the mayor's salary "tied to that of superior court judge and for the council salary to be \$100,000." He said if I was willing to organize a committee to get the necessary signatures to put the item on the ballot he would restore the Treasurer Oral section to the agenda, and include raising the Treasurer salary to that of the city clerk and add lifetime medical benefits to the ballot item. He gave me a number of people to be on the committee. He named school board members Dionne Faulk, Carliss McGhee, each of his commissioner appointees, and Mari, can't recall her last name who works for Republic Disposal, Inglewood office. Regarding Carliss McGhee, he went on to say that "she loves me" and will be very willing to be on the committee. Mayor Butts then gave me a presentation of his accomplishments. He suggested I use it when talking to voters. MB paid for about 40 copies out of MB account. Although I had NO intentions whatsoever to organize a committee, I told MB I would and he restored the Oral section to the agenda within one month! My eight (8) page memorandum to Mayor Butts dated 11/21/2019 supports this account with my comment I spoke to a person who wanted to be on the committee. It is further supported when I made a comment at a June or July 2020 city council meeting stating Mayor Butts wanted his salary raised to that of a superior court judge and the council raised to \$100,000. I spoke to each council member regarding it. When MB realized I had no intentions to organize the committee, his retaliation against me intensified. My staff member informed me he was being followed 4 years ago, and that it has continued. He said they look like they could be Inglewood cadets. He lives in Arcadia. It disturbed him. I noticed after my 11/21/19 memorandum to MB, men sitting in their vehicles near the end of my block. I ignored them. **It is Mayor James Butts who tried to EXTORT a salary increase tied to that of a superior judge via coercion of the City Treasurer!**

The financial information I've provided came directly from the City's 18/19 annual CAFR Comprehensive Annual Financial Report and City issued budget. Again, the City of Inglewood is swimming in **RED INK!** My reporting is supported by (1) State Controller Betty T Yee's Internal Control Report which is a devastating. (2) Article by State Senator John Morlach article, 10 Cities with Debt Management Problems, Inglewood is number five (5)! Senator Morlach predicted the \$1.7 billion dollar bankruptcy. (3) Article by Robert Cole, "Telling The City To Get Real," 4/22/20 Pasadenastarnews, & L.A. Times 4/18/20 article. He is one of the best city managers in the county!

(6) My point regarding COVID 19 residence assistance is that it was inadequate. It should have been at least \$1500 for debit card. I am single and spend over \$500 a month on food. The \$1,000,000 assistance should have been \$3,000,000. Mayor Butts found money to hire his buddy Brian Walker, who resigned from LAX Amid Corruption, allegation, Tax Fraud, Favoritism, Rule Bending, gave a made up department called Office of Emergency Services and gave him a \$1.69 annual budget and four employees. Jasmine Covington is one of them and Drum Roll ...got the house for First Time Buyers. Then again Ms. S. Stringer another personal friend of Mayor Butts hired from the Inglewood Chamber of Commerce at \$68,000 annually answering the phone making copies, and attending Claims Review Meeting to give the appearance of real duties. Oh and the one in the city attorney's office, Tiffany Hsieh hired in at \$104,440 annually. Assistance for residents affected by COVID 19 is pitifully inadequate!

WANDA M. BROWN, INGLEWOOD CITY TREASURER

butts is a cop, etc,,,