

**JIM GRIVICH, PUBLIC COMMENT (in person)**

WEST COVINA CITY COUNCIL MEETING: JANUARY 19, 2021

I am pleased that the City Council has chosen to put on the agenda the "Corrective Action Plan". I'm glad to see that the City is responding to the State Audit.

I am also pleased that the City has chosen to plan a meeting for the Finance and Audit Committee so that the citizens of this community can participate in your corrective action plan.

I want to repeat something that was said, that the State in their audit said that the City has mismanaged its money. That's fairly simple and I'm hoping that the City can start changing that at this meeting. There are five items on the agenda tonight that spend new money that wasn't in the original budget. Each of those items will add to the deficit spending for this year—precisely the issue that the State called unacceptable financial behavior. I think that the City needs to be aware that that's happening. There's nothing in the language of your council report that says you are adding to the deficit. In fact, I remember at the last meeting in December where I spoke, several council members expressed surprise that they had contributed to the financial problem of the city. Yet, each time when the city votes—you vote—to spend money you don't have budgeted, that is deficit spending. You are part of the problem. I hope this problem will change.

There are five items on this agenda that spend new money. They are item:

- #18 - Budget Amendment for Necessary Capital Improvements at Fire Stations
- #20 - Short-Term Agreement for Ambulance Transportation Services
- #22 - Increase in Hourly Rate Limited Service Pay Schedule
- #25 - Repeal and Replacement of Assistant Finance Director Job Description and Adjust Pay Grade
- #28 - Amendment No. 1 to West Coast Arborists, Inc. Contract for Citywide Tree Maintenance Services

The total increase is roughly 2.8 million dollars. That's a lot of money—all deficit spending.

All I am asking for at this meeting is that those items be pulled from the consent calendar and it at least talked about. I find it hard to believe that the City would spend that kind of deficit money and not even mention it.

Thank you.