Agenda Report

December 12, 2005

TO: City Council

THROUGH: Finance Committee

FROM: City Manager

SUBJECT: APPROVAL OF A JOURNAL VOUCHER TRANSFERRING $1,407,378 FROM THE 1999 PENSION OBLIGATION DEBT SERVICE FUND TO THE GENERAL FUND NON-DEPARTMENTAL BUDGET TO COVER THE REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTAL CONTRIBUTION TO THE FIRE AND POLICE RETIREMENT SYSTEM PURSUANT TO CONTRIBUTION AGREEMENT #16,900 BETWEEN THE CITY OF PASADENA AND THE FIRE AND POLICE RETIREMENT SYSTEM.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the City Council approve a journal voucher transferring $1,407,378 from the 1999 Pension Obligation Debt Service Fund to the General Fund Non-Departmental budget and appropriating said amount to Account 8043-101-952100 to cover the required supplemental contribution to the Fire and Police Retirement System pursuant to Contribution Agreement #16,900 between the City of Pasadena and the Fire and Police Retirement System.

BACKGROUND

The City of Pasadena and the Fire and Police Retirement System (System) entered into Contribution Agreement #16,900 in August 1999. Among the numerous provisions, the Agreement requires the City to provide supplemental contribution payments to the System if and when the System's unfunded liability falls below a pre-determined funding percentage. Under the Agreement, the required funding percentage for June 30, 2005 is 72%. The actual funding percentage per the System's Actuarial Valuation Report dated June 30, 2005 was 71.7%. In order to bring the funding level to 72%, the City must make a $1.4 million supplemental contribution.

Under Contribution Agreement #16,900, the System conditionally assigned a series of revenue streams to the City. This was to provide a cashflow to cover the debt service on the 1999 Pension Obligation Bonds. The only restrict cashflow that was assigned to the City was the incremental property taxes from the Downtown Redevelopment Project Area. To the extent that the annual cashflow to the City from this source exceeds the annual debt service, the City is required to set these funds aside to cover future debt service, future supplemental contributions and/or some other qualified payment to the System. As of June 30, 2005, the excess reserve balance being held by the City is $21.7 million. This will be the source for the supplemental
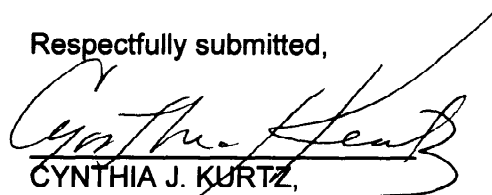
contribution and will not have an immediate affect on the City's General Fund. To the extent that these funds are exhausted because of future supplemental contributions, then the City would be required to find General Fund money to make the payments.

During fiscal year 2005, the City issued another $40 million in pension obligation bonds. This was part of a settlement agreement between the City and the FPRS. This was also to provide sufficient funding to meet the funding obligations under the Contribution Agreement for at least the next few years. Several things occurred during the year that affected this. First of all, retirement benefit payouts were slightly higher in fiscal year 2005 than originally projected due to an accelerated number of retirements. In addition, the financial model prepared by the System's actuary did not take into account the smoothing of gains or losses beyond the first year calculation. This has been corrected in the current model. Based upon current projections, there will be supplemental contributions in the $4 to $5 million range over several years and then gradually declining thereafter. Should the performance of the System exceed the actuarial assumptions (i.e., higher earnings, lower inflation, etc.) the City's annual contribution requirements will be less. Of course the opposite is true should the System under perform in relation to the actuarial assumptions.

FISCAL IMPACT

The cost of this action is $1,407,378. Presently there is $21,693,765 available in the 1999 Pension Obligation Debt Service Fund, leaving a balance of $20.3 million.

Respectfully submitted,

CYNTHIA J. KURTZ,
City Manager

Approved by:

Jay M. Goldstone
Director of Finance