

ELECTIONS 2020

MONTEREY COUNTY
WEEKLY

CARMEL

Dave Potter | Mayor

In a city dependent on tourism, a pandemic could easily be the deadly fever that wipes out any reserves. Carmel's 2020-21 adopted budget looked grim: transient occupancy tax revenue was expected to be down 34 percent from what was originally budgeted (a loss of over \$2 million) and sales and use tax revenues were projected to decline by 18 percent, or nearly \$1 million, for this fiscal year. But early last month, City Administrator Chip Rerig announced some good news: When the city's fiscal year ended June 30, the city was less than 10-percent off its original budget and instead of drawing down the city's savings account by over \$1 million during this

pandemic, that number would only be an estimated \$128,352.

That may be Carmel's good luck, being a community graced with an attractive location and a gorgeous public beach. It's also thanks to a fast response from City Council. While we wish they'd closed Ocean Avenue to cars to better support restaurants, the parklets seem like a smart approach. There is general agreement among the candidates that the new parklets are a good step and ought to be retained, if not improved upon.

Overall the city's leaders deserve credit for their response to Covid, and Mayor Dave Potter and councilmember Bobby Richards are up for reelection. We endorse them both.