

City of Ingleside
Minutes
Special City Council Meeting Budget Workshop
Wednesday, August 18, 2021
5:30 PM

1. Call meeting to order

The Special City Council Meeting Budget Workshop was called to order at 5:34 p.m., with Council Member Salinas presiding.

2. Roll Call

Council Members present: Council Member Diehl, Council Member Pruitt, Council Member Wilson, and Council Member Salinas. There were approximately 10 city staff members in attendance.

3. Invocation

4. Pledge of Allegiance

Workshop:

5. Presentation of Fiscal Year 2021/2022 preliminary budget.

Council Member Diehl, recommended to proceed with the Special City Council Meeting Budget Workshop, during special circumstances regarding Council Member absences.

Linnette Barker, City Manager, presented the 2021/2022 preliminary budget included a two-step merit increase for all current full-time employees.

Dawn Tarr, Finance Director, commented regarding a hand-out for the meeting, a balance sheet, explaining expenditures and revenues.

Linnette Barker, City Manager, presented a PowerPoint presentation, commenting this budget does not increase the tax rate of .664422, and maintains the reserves of the 25% expenditures, the resolutions of the general and utility fund, explaining the ad valorem tax, sales tax, building permits, health care, pass-through increase regarding trash service, staffing changes, contract mowing of the city parks, one additional annual holiday, retiree insurance to match surrounding cities, and a TMRS retirement increase from 5% to 7%, and increase exempt department head insurance stipends. In the utility fund, in the 2019/2020 budget, the city increased rates by 5%, and were instructed to put money aside for the loan for the Texas Water Development Board loan that will be coming in 2023 for the Waste Water Treatment Plant; expenditures in utility funds, water line and waste water line replacement, and the street maintenance fund.

Council Member Diehl, commented, in years past, it came to the Council with approximately twenty streets, prioritizing ten streets, and asked what the balance of the street maintenance fund.

Dawn Tarr, Finance Director, commented the balance was \$1,029,668.00 for the current year. Council Member Diehl, inquired of the balance of October 1, 2020, which Linnette Barker, City Manager, commented was \$1,001,725.00.

There were various discussions by Council Members, City Manager Linnette Barker, Finance Director, Dawn Tarr, and Director of Public Works, Donald Paty.

City Manager, Linnette Barker, presented proposed Capital Projects to the City Council. Council Members stressed the importance of the Street Maintenance Committee.

Council Member Pruitt, commented the roads need to pick roads that the city thinks need repairs, then have the Pavement Condition Index Report completed on the chosen roads. Council Member Diehl, commented the Street Committee should meet first before the Pavement Condition Index Report is requested. City Manager, Linnette Barker, commented they will put the Pavement Condition Index Report on hold for now.

Council Member Pruitt, commented regarding a sprinkler system at Live Oak Park, he now does not suggest it. Council Member Pruitt, commented he would like to see canopies over picnic tables and bathrooms renovated at Live Oak Park.

Council Member Diehl, commented regarding pay raises based on COLA, with COLA suggested increase of 6.22 percent. City Manager, Linnette Barker, commented the merit-based increases of 2-steps, will not affect all employees. Council Member Diehl, commented the evaluation system must be very standard.

Chief of Police, Tammy Burr, commented regarding the traffic issue at 8th Street during school time, and requested an additional lane or shoulder be installed. Council Member Diehl, commented to include the 8th Street project in this budget.

Council Members, spoke about Avenue A completion, Tiner Lane completion and the need for drainage; Faith Park, N. O. Simmons Park playground equipment and the skate park; safety issues regarding a part-time or full-time Fire Clerk/ Safety Coordinator and Fire Marshall/Emergency Management Coordinator.

City Manager, Linnette Barker, commented regarding contract mowing. Council Members directed staff to implement this in the budget.

City Manager, Linnette Barker, showed the drawing regarding Humber Center parking.

City Manager, Linnette Barker, commented regarding a culvert on Vickery Lane, for \$50,500.00. Council directed staff to implement.

City Manager, Linnette Barker, commented regarding a City Council discretionary fund of \$200,000.00.

Council Members, directed staff to move Avenue A engineering to a future project.

Council Members, directed staff regarding Houghton projects, to be discussed later.

Eric Koenig, GIS Professional, presented purchasing the scanner/plotter. Council directed to include the purchase in the budget.

City Manager, Linnette Barker, commented regarding the Humble Center proposed renovation, to include flooring and moving council chambers to the Humble Center. Council Members directed staff to get preliminary numbers for renovations.

Finance Director, Dawn Tarr, commented regarding financial software upgrading. Chief of Police, Tammy Burr, commented the police department has been upgraded.

City Manager, Linnette Barker, commented the budget is in balance at the current tax rate. Council Member Salinas, commented the tax rate change is minor, and if the tax rate is the same, the taxpayers end up paying more. City Manager, Linnette Barker, commented the property tax will increase from 7.26% to 7.30%, which is basically a wash to the citizens.

City Manager, Linnette Barker, commented she would implement all items that council had not directed to remove.

There were various discussions regarding raising retiree benefits, COLA, and the possibility of raising TMRS to 7%.

6. Presentation of proposed additional appropriations to the 2021/2022 preliminary budget.

Items 5 and 6 discussions were combined.

Action items:

7. Discussion, consideration, and recommendations for the implementation of the preliminary Fiscal Year 2021/2022 budget.

Council Member Diehl, made a motion, seconded by Council Member Wilson, implement the capital projects from the budget presentation for the 2021/2022 proposed budget, except for the PCI, and increase the City Council Meeting Area at Humble Center to \$25,000.00, and the project on 8th Street and Achievement Blvd., and to start the process now.

Other:

8. Adjourn

Council Member Salinas, adjourned the Special City Council Meeting Budget Workshop at 9:00 p.m.

ATTEST:

APPROVED:


Sarah Wardinsky, City Secretary

Evanne Higgins, Interim City Secretary


Ronnie Parker, Mayor