

CITY OF BAY CITY

MINUTES • AUGUST 22, 2023

COUNCIL
CHAMBERS | 1901
5th Street

City Council Workshop

5:00 PM

1901 5TH STREET
BAY CITY TX, 77414



Mayor

Robert K. Nelson

Mayor Pro Tem

Blayne Finlay

Councilman

Jim Folse

Councilman

Bradley Westmoreland

Councilwoman

Becca Sitz

Councilman

Benjamin Flores

Through a united and collaborative effort, we seek to grow the City of Bay City with a diverse culture that is proud to call Bay City home. We envision a thriving family-centered community where citizens are involved in the future development of our city. We desire our citizens to work, play, worship and shop in the community in which we live. Visitors are welcomed and encouraged to enjoy the friendly environment and amenities the citizens and business owners have created together.

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Pro Tem Blayne Finlay at 5:00 p.m

CERTIFICATION OF QUORUM

Quorum certified.

PRESENT

Mayor Pro Tem Blayne Finlay
Councilman Benjamin Flores
Councilman Jim Folse
Councilman Brad Westmoreland
Councilwoman Becca Sitz

ABSENT

Mayor Robert K. Nelson

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Several City employees expressed their concerns regarding the increase in medical insurance premiums and plan options.

REGULAR ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION, CONSIDERATION AND / OR APPROVAL**1. Discuss, consider, and/or approve an increase in employee compensation.**

Shawna Burkhart, City Manager, provided different options of employee Cost of Living Adjustments (COLA) and impact on budget as well as comparisons to other taxing entities as to the employer contribution to insurance premiums. Ms. Burkhart added that merit increases may need to be lowered. Councilman Folse stated that he did not want merit decreased. Councilman Flores stated that the city's commitment to superior municipal services requires an investment in staff and that quality input provides quality output. Councilman Flores added that the city has not come close to keeping up with inflation. Councilman Flores proposed a COLA of \$2,250.00. Councilman Westmoreland stated that the city is more generous in employer contributions on insurance.

Motion by Councilman Flores motioned to approve a \$2,250.00 COLA. There was no second and the motion died on the floor.

Councilwoman Sitz proposed staying with the \$1,500.00 COLA and proposed merit.

Motion made by Councilman Folse to approve a \$2,000.00 COLA, Seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Finlay. Voting Yea: Mayor Pro Tem Finlay, Councilman Flores, Councilman Folse, Councilman Westmoreland, Councilwoman Sitz. Motion carried.

2. Discuss, consider, and/or amend the Proposed Budget of the City of Bay City for the 2024 Fiscal Year.

Shawna Burkhart, City Manager, stated that excess reserves is an option to fund the increase in COLA. Scotty Jones, Finance Director, recommended going to fund balance. Councilman Westmoreland requested to not just use fund balances but suggested cuts across the board to all departments such as 1% cut each. Ms. Jones stated that she can go thru and find \$63,000.00 and bring back to Council.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion made by Councilwoman Sitz to adjourn, Seconded by Councilman Flores. Voting Yea: Mayor Pro Tem Finlay, Councilman Flores, Councilman Folse, Councilman Westmoreland, Councilwoman Sitz. Motin carried and Council adjourned at 6:05 pm.

PASSED AND APPROVED, this 12th day of September 2023.

ROBERT K. NELSON, MAYOR
CITY OF BAY CITY, TEXAS

JEANNA THOMPSON
CITY SECRETARY