



TOWN COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING - BUDGET WORKSHOP

Friday, July 14, 2023 at 9:00 AM

Fulton Council Chambers, 201 N. 7th Street

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

PRESENT

Mayor Kelli Cole
Mayor Pro Tem Robert Loflin
Place 2 Chris Garis
Place 3 MaryAnn Pahmiyer

ABSENT

Place 4 Margo Nielsen
Place 5 Laura McCorkle

STAFF PRESENT

Stephanie Garcia, City Secretary
Matt Olenick, Director of Operations
Johnny Davis, Building Official
Steven Robertson, Comptroller
John Harrell, Police Chief
Sherry Hudson, Pier Manager
Melissa Pina, Coordinator

Mayor Cole called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

CITIZENS TO BE HEARD (PUBLIC FORUM)

Public participation is valued and at this time, comments limited to three (3) minutes will be taken from persons who have signed the Speaker's Card located on the table inside the Council Chambers and delivered to the City Secretary before the meeting begins. Written comments received by submission to the City Secretary in person or emailed to citysec@fultontexas.org by 3:00 p.m. on the day of the meeting, on any subject matter that is not on the agenda, will be read and summarized in the minutes of the meeting. Persons wishing to address the Council and who have registered using the Speaker's Card will have up to three (3) minutes to speak. In accordance with the Open Meetings Act, Council may not discuss or take action on any item that has not been posted on the agenda. While civil public criticism is not prohibited; disorderly conduct or disturbance of the peace as prohibited by law shall be cause for the chair to terminate the offender's time to speak.

No one came forward.

ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

1. Presentation and general discussion of proposed FY 2023-24 Budget.

Mayor Cole asked Mr. Robertson to begin the discussion. Mr. Robertson began with the estimated tax rate comparison. Mrs. Marshall should be sending the current estimates by the first of August. This proposed budget is based on the estimated numbers received in April. These numbers should lower the average tax base for the citizens. He then discussed the overall expenditures for the Town.

General Fund: Mr. Robertson indicated that the property tax numbers are based on the current values. At the next workshop, we will have a more accurate number on the sales tax. Mr. Robertson reviewed the line items within the budget. Mr. Davis indicated the permits have been steady; however, he feels that the market is slowing. There was discussion regarding phone, website, and CivicPlus fees. The dispatch fees that the Town is paying is approximately 10% (\$1.1 million). It was noted that fuel cost has increased slightly due to more vehicles and personnel. Mr. Robertson mentioned the budgeted use of fund balance was to purchase a vehicle.

Debt Service: The numbers will be very similar to last year's budget.

Police Fund: Mr. Robertson stated that there are not many changes to this fund. Last year there was a vehicle purchased and equipment. It was noted that the fines have increased due to the increase in the police presence. Mr. Loflin inquired as to possibly adding funds into this fund for an additional vehicle in case one of the current vehicles becomes inoperable. Chief Harrell informed the Council that he feels he could work with the Rockport Police Department Chief to procure an additional vehicle when and if needed. There was a discussion regarding vehicle expenses.

Sewer Fund: Mr. Robertson indicated that the revenues projected are based on new construction and that the rates should remain the same. It was noted that tap fees are hard to project, like building permits. Mr. Loflin inquired as to the fund balance and Mr. Robertson adequately addressed the question. Mr. Robertson reviewed the line items and indicated that the budget has been increased to include a new sewer position.

Hotel Occupancy Tax Fund: Mr. Robertson indicated that this fund has been steady for the last few years. Mrs. Harrell, administrative assistant has been working to stay up with the collections. He discussed the estimated revenue and indicated there are no changes in the budget from prior year. There is \$33,000 surplus in the budget for entities that may apply for HOT funds.

Convention Center Fund: Mr. Robertson indicated that Melissa Pina, Coordinator is doing a great job and the numbers have increased. There was discussion regarding the bookings for the year and coming year. The lease with the Navigation District is \$3500 a month now. It was noted that usage of utilities are up but the rates are down and insurance fees have increased. He reviewed the rest of the line items and asked Ms. Pina to discuss the building improvements that took place this year and projects in the future. Ms. Pina informed the Council of the inside painting, signage, landscaping, pass through window from kitchen to break away room, and replacement of back door. There was discussion regarding the signage and back door. There was also discussion regarding less use of HOT funds.

Pier: Mr. Robertson noted that the administrative costs have increased due to the Town being back to pre-Harvey status. It was noted that there are more employees and costs to operate; however, the pier is doing very well and remaining consistent. Pole rentals have also worked out well. There will be an adjustment for repairs and maintenance. He discussed insurance costs and providers. In our area, there are no providers to insure a pier. It has been noted that FEMA will not require it. The pier reserves will need to be increased for emergencies.

Mr. Robertson mentioned budget amendments for capital improvements before the end of the year. There was discussion regarding those items. Mayor Cole noted there may be help from grants to work on the playground equipment. He informed the Council that the pavement and striping at the park will be upgraded. We are using a vendor from BuyBoard for those projects. It was noted that the area of road in front of the palm trees does not belong to the Town. He informed the Council what is in the budget for striping and street maintenance in other parts of the Town. Matt Olenick discussed what road improvements will be done.

It was noted that the Town has sufficient reserve funds.

Chief Harrell informed the council that he would like to have someone downtown at all times in the future.

CLOSED SESSION

The Town Council may elect to go into closed session pursuant to Chapter 551, Government Code on any Agenda item where appropriate and particularly Sections 551.071 (consultation with attorney) and 551.074 (personnel matters), Government Code.

Council did not convene into Closed Session.

OPEN SESSION

Discuss/Approve/Disapprove any and all action necessary with regard to the preceding matter(s).

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Mayor Cole entertained a motion to adjourn.

Motion made by Mayor Pro Tem Loflin, Seconded by Place 2 Garis to adjourn the meeting.

Voting Yea: Mayor Pro Tem Loflin, Place 2 Garis, Place 3 Pahmiyer

The meeting was adjourned at 10:06 a.m.

Kelli Cole, Mayor

Stephanie Garcia, City Secretary