



Budget Workshop & Special Council Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, August 08, 2023 at 6:00 PM
8301 Westview Drive, Houston, Texas 77055

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Buesinger called to order the Budget Workshop and Special Council Meeting at 6:01 P.M.

1.A. PRESENT

Mayor Bob Buesinger
Council Member Mike Gordy
Mayor Pro Tem Andy Carey
Council Member Kristi Cooper

ABSENT

Council Member Justin Crawford
Council Member Mark Huber

Also Present: Engineer Him, HDR Engineering (virtual), Secretary Stephens, Consultant Susan Blevins

2. CITIZENS COMMENTS

Cheryl Wolfe, Pine Chase Drive, said that the City has a tree ordinance for good reason and she did not agree with the Council considering an exception.

3. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION

3.A. Discuss and Possibly Approve a special exception for the minimum tree requirement at 12 Pine Creek Lane

Motion made by Council Member Carey, Seconded by Council Member Gordy.

Brian Gaudet, Pine Creek Lane, presented photos of his yard and explained that he was asking for an exception to meet the City's minimum tree count with alternate trees than what is approved on the tree list in the ordinance. He said that he has a large area within the Harris County Flood Zone that has several mature trees. He added that he has healthy trees in the back yard, but they are not included in the approved tree list. Mr. Gaudet said that he planted two new trees at a two-inch diameter.

The Council discussed options for the placement of new trees and the condition of the existing aging non-qualifying trees. Secretary Stephens said that the ordinance provides

that an appeal can be made to the Council if the property owner is not satisfied with the decision of the City's Arborist. The council expressed that the current ordinance is in place to preserve and protect the canopy and that this situation should not create a standard.

The item was tabled to the next Council Meeting, no action was taken.

3.B. Discussion on FYE 2024 Budget and Tax Year 2023

Engineer Him discussed different financing scenarios for the impending capital improvement projects, potentially combining projects to benefit from the economy of scale. Council reviewed the bond options terms and rates. Further discussion was had about the water rate, Inframark's service increases, and how to address aging infrastructure. City Secretary presented a comparison of other city salaries and job titles including a history of salary increases for Hilshire Village. Council Member Cooper said that the job title, experience, and qualifications need to be considered when drawing comparisons. Secretary Stephens said she would provide more information on what the salary surveys are based on. Council Member Cooper said that she thinks a set of standards needs to be established, and performance reviews from the Mayor could be done on an annual or even quarterly basis. Council Member Gordy said that he sees the increase more as an adjustment for the job being done, and continuity is important.

3.C. Discussion and Possible Approval of TexPool Resolution naming Cassie Stephens as the administrator and Andy Carey as a signatory, thereby removing Susan Blevins and Paul Maddock.

Motion made by Council Member Gordy, Seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Carey.

Voting Yea: Council Member Gordy, Council Member Carey, Council Member Cooper

The motion passed 3-0.

4. ADDITIONAL COUNCIL COMMENTS

5. ADJOURNMENT: Motion made by Council Member Cooper, Seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Carey.

Voting Yea: Council Member Gordy, Council Member Carey, Council Member Cooper

The motion passed 3-0.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:57 P.M.

ATTEST:

Robert F. Buesinger, Mayor

Cassie Stephens, City Secretary