

**Notice of City Council Budget Workshop #3
MINUTES**

August 22, 2022, at 5:00 PM

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Byron Sanford called the meeting to order at 5:04 p.m.

Present:	Byron Sanford	Mayor
	Carol Langley	City Council Place #1
	Casey Olson	City Council Place #2
	T.J. Wilkerson	City Council Place #3
	Cheryl Fox	City Council Place #4
	Patricia Easley	City Council Place #5

Also Present:	Dave McCorquodale	Assistant City Administrator & Planning Development
	Nici Browe	City Secretary & Director of Administrative Services
	Anthony Solomon	Police Chief
	Kim Duckett	Municipal Court Administrator
	Mike Muckleroy	Public Works Director
	Katherine Vu	City Engineer (WGA)

BUDGET WORKSHOP:

1. Update to the Proposed Budget 2022-2023

1. Mr. Dave McCorquodale, Interim City Administrator informed council that today it was his intention to not go over each budget line item per department as was the case in previous budget workshops. This was to go over the bullet points from the summary page that was submitted to him.

Mr. McCorquodale explained the changes that they were seeing was due to the position that will be a Parks Recreational Event person that is a shared cost by MEDC and Public Works Department. The position is going to be at the high end \$25.00 per hour. To make sure that this salary (hourly wage) worked the Public Works Director took \$500 out of the four parks maintenance line items. The new vehicle has not been removed, as Chief is having the spare vehicle turned over to Public Works for that use. The vehicle is currently in the shop in good condition but being fitted back with seats and some maintenance after its service as a Police Patrol Vehicle.

2. Mr. McCorquodale explained that there was \$35,000 taken from MEDC and this has gone towards to increase of Capital Projects. Based on the rules under which MEDC can expend monies the flexibility that the Downtown and Corridor Improvement fund is where this should be placed. He went on to show Council the corresponding changes.

3. Councilmember Casey Olson discussed the wages for staff, and the lack of funds for various projects around the city. A lengthy discussion took place along with some debate about salary studies. Councilmember Casey Olson stated that he did not receive it.

Ms. Browe showed Councilmember Olson the email and the study that was sent out. He looked at the salary study and stated that he was unsatisfied with an increase for staff this year as Gov.Com shows that Montgomery, Texas is 26% above the national average in wages.

Chief of Police and Ms. Browe both explained to him that this is not a reliable source, as it is not an accredited study.

Councilmember Casey Olson stated he was frustrated and felt the whole budget was “Trash” and that he would not vote on any part of it. He further stated that we can’t fix potholes, but yet we can raise taxes.

Mr. McCorquodale intervened and explained that he must be mistaken, the taxes are not being raised, they are staying the same as they were the last two prior years.

Mr. McCorquodale took this time to introduce the item on the proposed Tax Rate and the language within assorted items from the Tax Office. The wording states it is an increase, however, that is what the legislature requires municipalities to declare, even though the amount is of the same as prior year. He went on to confirm that the proposed tax rate is \$0.4000 of /100. Additionally, he provided details, and clarification on the adoption of the Tax Rate process, timelines, amounts of the Homestead exemption, and the No New Revenue Rate and the Voter Approval Rate, the implications of each and how the city proceeds from here.

4. Sidewalks was a topic of vigorous discussion and how monies have been spent thus far and how more needs to happen.

Councilmember Carol Langley discussed what occurred with the project at MEDC, and how Council should bring it to MEDC for a vote, as there are adequate funds to use for that purpose.

Councilmember Casey Olson discussed the potential of using the schools’ funds, as he had spoken with a representative from the school and there were funds for a sidewalk in the grant they received.

Councilmember Patricia Easley stated that with regards to Capital Projects, it seems that no work under the Capital Project umbrella has been undertaken on the North Side of town.

Mike Muckleroy, Public Works Director responded to Councilmember Easley’s concerns.

Councilmember Patricia Easley thanked Mr. Muckleroy and stated she felt that when it comes to planning for all of the projects, the north side of town should not be forgotten.

Police Chief redirected the discussion to salary increases. He reminded council of the approval of 20% increase over three years for PD, to create a better retention plan. The 6.6% salary and 1.4 Cola being suggested would bring it up to the 20%.

Councilmembers asked if the increase of 8% was for all city staff.

Mr. McCorquodale responded it was not so much the cola but the 6.6% was across the board.

Councilmembers had an expanded conversation on the salary increases and discussed with staff and the Interim City Administrator.

Discussion took place regarding the GLO grant for the drainage and have been following the rabbit trail.

Mr. Muckleroy provided additional input on the GLO item, explaining about the expansion of the scope of the project, and the potential of placing box culverts under Hwy 149.

Councilmember TJ Wilkerson inquired about upstream and the Jones and Carter study.

Katherine Vu, WGA City Engineers gave a detailed explanation about the “free money” grant and the timelines that come with that, as well as other stipulations. She explained the plan for 149. Ms. Vu also discussed the Generator Storm Pump, Drainage and Sanitary Sewer Rehabilitation and the Drainage Improvements.

Councilmember TJ Wilkerson also inquired if gathering a committee to meet to discuss sidewalks would be viable.

Mayor Sanford stated that staff can only do what they can, but the \$2.6 Billion Infrastructure money is being distributed somewhere and encouraged staff to seek money from HGAC.

Council reviewed calendars to schedule additional meetings.

Mr. McCorquodale asked council to clarify/confirm that they are comfortable with moving forward with an allotment in the budget for a 6.6% pay increase for staff.

Council confirmed that was correct.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Adjourned the Budget workshop at 6:26 PM

Submitted by: _____

Date Approved: _____

Nici Browe, City Secretary

Byron Sanford, Mayor