



**CITY OF ROWLETT
CITY COUNCIL
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES**

Our Vision: A well-planned lakeside community of quality neighborhoods, distinctive amenities, diverse employment, and cultural charm. Rowlett: THE place to live, work and play.

Wednesday, January 27, 2021

5:30 P.M.

Municipal Building – 4000 Main

As authorized by Section 551.071 of the Texas Government Code, this meeting may be convened into closed Executive Session for the purpose of seeking confidential legal advice from the City Attorney on any agenda item herein.

The City of Rowlett reserves the right to reconvene, recess or realign the Regular Session or called Executive Session or order of business at any time prior to adjournment.

Present (Remotely): Mayor Dana-Bashian, Mayor Pro Tem Grubisich, Deputy Mayor Pro Tem Bell, Councilmember Margolis, Councilmember Sherrill, Councilmember Laning and Councilmember Brown

City Council may receive public input on any of the following items:

1. Call To Order

Mayor Dana-Bashian called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

2. Discuss budget priorities and financial strategies resulting from ending reserve levels in FY2020, additional funds in FY2021, remaining funds from the CARES Act, and consider options to reallocate the FY2021 Adopted Budget.

Brian Funderburk, City Manager, provided opening statements regarding the strategy that preceded this discussion and the goals for the discussion.

Wendy Badgett, Director of Finance, presented a slide show providing background information, where we are now financially, steps to how we got here (property tax values finalized after protests and increased fund balance reserves). She explained the available funds and the recommendations from staff.

Discussion regarding employee pay increases, step plan for public safety and open range differences for those who are maxed out at their position and possible uses for ongoing available funds and one-time use funds. Staff provided clarification of recommendations. Councilmembers provided suggestions that were not on the list.

After further discussion, it was the consensus of Council to proceed with the following:

Reinstate the step plan for police and fire, including a 2% lump sum adjustment to those who are topped out, and 2% across the board raise to all open range employees.

Utilize approximately \$1.2 million from the remaining CARES Act funds to assist businesses and residents with the impact of COVID-19 as well as provide funds for the City's efforts to vaccinate our residents and fund other related personnel and supply costs.

Add the following positions: 1) Administrative Assistant for IT/Economic Development; 2) Budget Analyst; 3) Fire Logistics Captain; 4) Emergency Management Specialist; 5) Senior Planner.


Use of one-time funds: hardware update/refresh for Police Dispatch; laptops for Community Development; traffic signal backups for Public Works; service desk replacement at the Library; GPS devices for IT, Public Works and Parks & Recreation; floor replacement and LED lighting for the RCC; records storage upgrade for the City Secretary's Office; \$50,000 for repairs and renovations of the Coyle House; \$30,000 to fund Rowlett Community Organizations Active in Disaster (RCOAD); and \$180,000 in the Golf Fund for reserve, debt service and maintenance.

Utility Fund uses: 10-day reserve for capital emergencies and weather related impacts; \$150,000 for a sanitary sewer evaluation; \$450,000 for generators for sewer lift stations; \$260,000 to replace utility infrastructure for the Country Aire Estates neighborhood project on the proposed bond; remaining available funds set aside for future rate relief.

These changes will be considered with an amendment to the budget at the next City Council meeting on February 16, 2021.

3. **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 8:02 p.m.



Tammy Dana-Bashian, Mayor



Laura Hallmark, City Secretary

Approved on: February 24, 2021