



**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.

Thursday, August 19, 2021

5:30 P.M.

NEW FIRE STATION #2
8602 Schrade Road

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: Mayor Dana-Bashian, Mayor Pro Tem Grubisich, Deputy Mayor Pro Tem Sherrill, Councilmember Margolis, Councilmember Laning, Councilmember Bell and Councilmember Brown (arrived 5:34 p.m.)

City Council may receive public input on the following items:

There were no public comments received.

1. Call To Order

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

2. Discuss FY2022 Proposed Budget. (180 minutes)

Brian Funderburk, City Manager, reviewed the conversation topics for the meeting.

Staff provided information regarding available resources, unallocated resources, sales tax revenue forecasting, property tax update, unfunded requests, Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG) plan Year 2021 and the FY22 pass through and opportunities for public engagement. Council discussion regarding sales tax figures from internet sales and the number of permits as a result of the winter storm.

Staff then went through the budget book page by page for any questions or concerns from Council.

p. 10 – Rowlett demographics and Census numbers vs. estimates from North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG).

p. 13 – crime rate and Assistant Police Chief Dan Miller provided additional information the Special Crimes Unit and Detention Officer staffing levels and needs. Funds budgeted for contracted fire inspections was also discussed.

p. 15 – Kids Kingdom ground covering installation and sealing process, maintenance requirements and the benefits of the different covering types. Confirmation of Wet Zone statistics for the season. Clarification of Innovation Fund and Joey Brock, Director of Information Technology, provided an explanation of the equipment replacement strategy. It was the consensus of Council to move forward immediately with the repair of the Kids Kingdom ground covering and amend the FY21 budget with the amount.

Recognition of the 70th anniversary of the City's incorporation next fiscal year. It was the consensus of Council to have a larger celebration for the 75th year.

p. 23 – review of compensation and staff.

p. 26 – funding source for Senior Accountant-Grant Administration position, funding for IT switches. Mr. Brock provided an explanation for the City's firewall and connectivity.

p. 27 – explanation of net revenue changes in the General Fund compared to FY21 adopted budget.

p. 28 – review of budget requests. Mr. Funderburk explained the change for the creation of the Engineering Department.

After a short break at 7:09 p.m., the meeting reconvened at 7:18 p.m.

p. 33 – review of exemptions for property taxes. Council discussion regarding the senior/disabled exemptions that were changed in 2016 and the difference in taxes collected if it had not been changed.

p. 37 – non-tax revenues were discussed and options to mitigate a large bill like the one received for electricity from the winter storm event.

pp. 40/41 – Enterprise Funds and the lowering of the water/wastewater residential rates for FY22.

pp. 45/46 – Special Revenue Funds and Hotel/Motel funds.

p. 48 – Employee Benefits Fund – It has been found that employees who achieve over 30% in the Wellness Program account for less benefits used. Staff is looking at ways to further incentivize participation.

pp. 54/55 – Capitol Improvements Plan (CIP) Overview – Council discussion regarding mapping structure tool for streets for planning repairs/maintenance much like the Pavement Condition Index (PCI) is used for alleys. Alley maintenance and repair needs outpace the available funds and need to think of out-of-the-box funding strategies for alleys.

p. 127 – Five-Year CIP Spending Strategy

Council discussion regarding requests and decision points. It was the consensus of Council to make the following changes to the proposed FY22 budget (details to be provided at upcoming meetings/public hearings):

- Add Fire Inspector (\$99,198)
- Increase funds for employee compensation (\$153,000)
- Add a Detention Officer
- Add funds for an Internal Auditor – staff and plan
- Custodian – change position from part-time to full-time

Mr. Funderburk addressed the Council Work Plan discussion that was postponed from the City Council meeting on August 17th. He explained that staff is already working on some of the items on the list. Some items on the list may need to have other things addressed before they can be included – for example, 1) the Miller Road bridge funding coalition possibilities aren't possible until after work on I-30 is completed; 2) providing additional funding for marketing North Shore should wait on any current/pending activity in the area; 3) investing in Public Safety may need a Master Plan study for the Police Department like the one just completed by the Fire Department.

Council discussion regarding the Coyle House repairs, preservation plan and renewed interest in an Historical Society; plans and what staff is working on; and possible/definite funding sources for items.

It was the consensus of Council that staff review the list and provide further information regarding funding, efforts already underway and capacity for staff in the next two years and bring it back to Council at a later date.

3. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Because all decision points regarding the budget were addressed, there is no need for an additional Work Session on Tuesday, August 24th.


Tammy Dana-Bashian, Mayor


Laura Hallmark, City Secretary

Approved on: September 7, 2021