



# City of Corpus Christi

1201 Leopard Street  
Corpus Christi, TX 78401  
cctexas.com

## Meeting Minutes

### City Council Workshop Session

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Thursday, August 8, 2019

9:00 AM

City Council Chambers

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#### Police, Animal Care, Code Enforcement, Fire

**Public Notice - - ITEMS ON THIS AGENDA ARE FOR COUNCIL'S INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES ONLY. COUNCIL MAY GIVE DIRECTION TO THE CITY MANAGER, BUT NO OTHER ACTION WILL BE TAKEN AND NO PUBLIC COMMENT WILL BE SOLICITED.**

**THE USE OF CELLULAR PHONES AND SOUND ACTIVATED PAGERS ARE PROHIBITED IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS DURING MEETINGS OF THE CITY COUNCIL.**

**A. Mayor Joe McComb to call the meeting to order.**

Mayor McComb called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m.

**B. City Secretary Rebecca L. Huerta to call the roll of the required Charter Officers.**

Assistant City Secretary Paul Pierce called the roll and verified that a quorum of the City Council and the required Charter Officers were present to conduct the meeting.

Charter Officers:

City Manager Peter Zaroni, Assistant City Attorney Buck Brice and Assistant City Secretary Paul Pierce.

City Council Member Ben Molina arrived at 9:35 a.m. City Attorney Miles K. Risley arrived at 9:49 a.m.

**C. BRIEFINGS TO CITY COUNCIL:**

**1. FY 2019-2020 Budget Workshop for Police, Animal Control, Code Enforcement, and Fire Operations.**

Mayor McComb referred to Item 1.

City Manager Peter Zaroni stated that the purpose of this item is to present the FY2019-2020 proposed budgets for Police, Animal Control, Code Enforcement and Fire Operations.

Police Chief Mike Markle presented information on the following topics regarding the Police Department: mission statement; about the Police Department; organization; FY2019 achievements; performance measures; services; FY2020 proposed budget, General Fund budget, Crime Control budget, grants budget, and law enforcement trust budget; FY2020 enhancements; and the cadet class schedule.

Assistant Police Chief David Blackmon presented information on the following topics related to Code Enforcement: mission statement; about Code Enforcement; performance measures; and FY2020 proposed budget.

Animal Care Services Director Mike Gillis presented information on the following topics related to Animal Care Services: mission statement; organization; FY2019 achievements; performance measures; services; FY2020 proposed budget and General Fund budget; and FY2020 enhancements.

Council members and presentation team members Chief Markle, Assistant Chief Blackmon, Director Gillis and Police Department Management Services Director Pat Eldridge discussed the following topics: the number of cadets in the Police Academy; effects of attrition in the Police Department; the number of structures demolished over the last few years, related funding sources and assistance received from the National Guard; Code Enforcement officer retention efforts; the impact on statistical data resulting from the conversion from the Uniform Crime Report to the National Incident Based Reporting System; tracking grant funding for performance management reasons; reporting required by grantors; a monthly analysis of all budgets and quarterly budget updates, including grant funding, to Council; improving the time by which police officers respond to calls; pursuing animal services-related grant opportunities; setting targets for the Police Department to obtain grant funds; the need for a grant writer in City departments; the plan to add additional police officers; that the Police Department's forensic analyst is to be funded through the General Fund; beach safety efforts; officers paid for through Hotel Occupancy Taxes (HOT); the need for a safety officer and additional enforcement efforts on North Beach; target completion date for the 19 additional kennels at Animal Care Services; the addition of a Live Release Coordinator; that North Beach has been made its own police beat; the grant-writing process; standards imposed in grants; contractual obligations in the collective bargaining agreement between the Corpus Christi Police Officers' Association and the City related to academy and field training requirements for individuals who come to work for the Police Department who are already law enforcement officers; current functionality of the City's App; addressing the issue of homelessness; individuals who are homeless being repeatedly arrested; a request for statistics on crime committed by homeless individuals and its impact on the Police Department; and the number of officers and type of equipment funded through the Crime Control and Prevention District.

Fire Chief Robert Rocha presented information on the following topics regarding the Fire Department: mission statement; Fire Department Command Staff; about the Fire Department; the location of fire stations in the city; FY2019 achievements; performance indicators; services; FY2020 proposed budget, General Fund budget and Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) Fund budget; FY2020 budget enhancements; the cadet class schedule; position inventory history; proposed hiring plan; location of medic units; and

**ReverseAlert.**

Council members, Chief Rocha and Deputy Fire Chief Richie Quintero discussed the following topics: the total number of plans to be reviewed by the proposed in-house Fire Protection Engineer and the associated process of approving plans through the Development Services Department; the number of emergency medical services (EMS) calls per year and how the City of Corpus Christi ranks versus other cities in the U.S.; the community paramedic program; the Triage, Treat, and Transport (ET3) Program; redirecting certain EMS calls to social service agencies and the Fire Department's monthly meetings with Spohn Hospital group related to this; liability concerns related to the City's EMS units responding/not responding to calls; that the City of Corpus Christi is the 47th busiest EMS group in the nation; the number of personnel on each EMS unit; fire trucks and EMS units both responding to calls; the impact of homelessness on the Fire Department and its resources; the number of and a request for additional medic units in the Calallen area; using Texas Ambulance Supplemental Payment Program (TASPP) funds, in excess of what the City expects to receive, to add a medic unit to the Calallen area; Fire/EMS coverage provided by Emergency Service Districts (ESD) in Calallen and Flour Bluff and the associated property taxes assessed on property owners in those areas; dissolving the ESDs; the status of grants in the Fire Department; past and current grants secured by the Fire Department; small grants from industry; sources of grants; the target/goal for grant monies to be secured by the Fire Department; who performs grant writing and administration functions in the Fire Department; monies budgeted for overtime; the different types of pay that make up overtime pay; the reasons for overtime; funding sources used to pay overtime; the plan/target for reducing overtime moving forward; that the results of the overtime audit performed by the City's Internal Auditor are to be presented to the Council soon; that overtime is a performance management issue; a city-wide overtime management initiative; TASPP funding as part of the Fire Department's budget; the purpose of TASPP reimbursements; pursuing possible grants intended to defray the cost of EMS services provided to individuals who repeatedly call for assistance; efforts made to date to increase revenue in the Fire Department; the number of EMS versus fire calls handled by the Fire Department; focusing on EMS versus fire calls; Fire Department resources dedicated to EMS; response times; that some individuals call EMS for non-emergency calls and developing a plan to address the issue; citizens taking more responsibility for themselves and not relying on government; taking ideas from the fire prevention program and applying them to EMS calls in an effort to reduce the volume of EMS calls; transporting patients to stand-alone emergency rooms versus hospital emergency rooms; the Fire Department's current ISO rating and related Fire Department staffing levels; working with Nueces County to alleviate some EMS calls; the anticipated streamlining of the plan approval process, in the Development Services Department, that is expected to result from hiring a Fire Protection Engineer; and the anticipated hire date of the Fire Protection Engineer.

City Manager Zanoni provided Council with the dates of the remaining City Council budget workshops and budget-related community meetings.

A council member asked for a copy of the line-item version of the FY2019-2020 proposed budget.

**D. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 10:51 a.m.