



City of Corpus Christi

1201 Leopard Street
Corpus Christi, TX 78401
cctexas.com

Meeting Minutes

City Council Workshop Session

Thursday, May 17, 2018

9:00 AM

City Council Chambers

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 Pro Tem Greg Smith called the meeting to order at 9:16 a.m.

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

City Secretary Rebecca L. Huerta 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:

Interim City Manager Keith Selman, City Attorney Miles K. Risley and City Secretary Rebecca L. Huerta.

Present 8 - Council Member Rudy Garza, Council Member Paulette Guajardo, Council Member Michael Hunter, Council Member Debbie Lindsey-Opel, Council Member Ben Molina, Council Member Everett Roy, Council Member Lucy Rubio, and Council Member Greg Smith

Absent 1 - Mayor Joe McComb

C. BRIEFINGS TO CITY COUNCIL:

Budget Workshop 4 - Overview of Fiscal 2018-2019 Operating Budget

Mayor Pro Tem Smith referred to Item C.

Director of the Office of Management and Budget Eddie Houlihan presented information on the following topics relating to the FY 2019 budget: estimated property tax values and revenues; industrial district "in-lieu-of-tax" revenue; revenues in general; General Fund projected obligations and considerations; potential savings in health benefits; General Fund Public Safety projected

health benefits obligations; potential Solid Waste fee increase; United Corpus Christi Chamber of Commerce's residential street recommendations and revenue considerations; Council-directed change; Enterprise Funds; utility transfer to the General Fund; potential Internal Services and General Fund reductions; other potential options; and staff recommendations and council direction.

Council members and staff discussed the following topics: that some of the departments that were in the 6% reductions previously presented are not in the reductions presented today; effects on the property tax rate; utilizing realistic actuarial estimates; determining the cost-benefit of the City's recycling program and its associated revenue versus the cost of damage caused by recycling trucks; consequences of fiscal reductions in the IT Department; the consequences of deferring maintenance in the Asset Management Department; an increase in property taxes dedicated solely to Public Safety; retaining the eight police officers recently added and holding the police academy; taking a comprehensive look at potentially eliminating the City's recycling program; the effects of cutting marketing in the Gas Department; cash-flowing improvements and reducing some projects in the Storm Water Department; separating the storm water rate from the water rate; developing a five-year plan using the budget numbers presented; concern regarding the current trend of increasing debt; public safety contractual obligations; delaying decisions versus debt funding versus additional budget cuts; additional federal revenue opportunities; additional cuts from other departments; sponsorship of council members' meals during council meetings; and deciding which parks and which libraries are needed based on utilization.

Council Member Rubio made a motion directing the Interim City Manager to look more in depth at certain departments, seconded by Council Member Guajardo.

Mayor Pro Tem Smith called for discussion, restating that the motion called for further reductions beyond what is proposed in today's presentation.

Council Member Guajardo rescinded her second. Mayor Pro Tem Smith seconded the Motion of Direction.

Council members and staff discussed the following additional topics: when the City will know the potential savings associated with changes to the health plan; potential savings in the Police and Fire health plans; potential savings from the civilian employees' health plan and industrial district agreements; not wanting additional budget cuts; collecting revenues associated with enforcing existing ordinances; opportunities to partner with organizations and create sponsorship opportunities for departments; sharing the current and future cost of lighting the Harbor Bridge; savings to be realized by city council members using an iPad versus printed copies of the city council agenda; revenue versus cost-avoidance related to health care; seeking out new revenue opportunities in departments, for instance, a coffee shop in libraries; monies available for debt service versus for operating costs, now and in the future; the pay-as-you-go approach; increasing revenues; identifying new ways to efficiently deliver services; utilizing reserves versus requiring additional cuts; a council member stating that iPads are not workable and the City's agenda system is not functional; council members' use of laptops versus iPads to view the city council agenda; and increases in efficiencies.

MOTION OF DIRECTION

Council Member Rubio made a motion directing the Interim City Manager to look into further reductions and efficiencies in departments, beyond what is proposed in today's presentation, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Smith and passed unanimously (Mayor McComb and Council Member Hunter - absent).

MOTION OF DIRECTION

Council Member Lindsey-Opel made a motion directing the Interim City Manager to incorporate into the proposed FY 2019 budget, the voter-approved two-cent property tax increase, seconded by Council Member Garza, and passed unanimously (Mayor McComb and Council Member Hunter - absent).

Council members and staff went on to discuss the following topics related to Solid Waste: direction to the Solid Waste Department; additional information needed; the impact of buying refuse bins; amendments to contracts; capitalization of solid waste cells at the landfill; the effect of raising solid waste fees related to residential streets; and some council members requested a more detailed presentation regarding solid waste.

D. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 10:35 a.m.