



City of Corpus Christi

1201 Leopard Street
Corpus Christi, TX 78401
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Meeting Minutes

City Council Workshop Session

Thursday, August 29, 2019

9:00 AM

City Council Chambers

Census 2020 (Nueces Together), Parks & Recreation, Libraries, Health, Water/Storm Water/Wastewater Rate Structures, and Budget Wrap-up

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 9:00 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. Council Member Roy arrived at 9:24 a.m.

Charter Officers:

City Manager Peter Zanoni, City Attorney Miles Risley and City Secretary Rebecca L. Huerta.

Present 7 - Mayor Joe McComb, Council Member Roland Barrera, Council Member Rudy Garza, Council Member Paulette Guajardo, Council Member Gil Hernandez, Council Member Everett Roy, and Council Member Greg Smith

Absent 2 - Council Member Michael Hunter, and Council Member Ben Molina

C. BRIEFINGS TO CITY COUNCIL:

1. FY 2019-2020 Budget Workshop on Census 2020 (Nueces Together), Parks and Recreation, Libraries, and Health Departments, Water/Storm Water/Wastewater Rate Structures, and Budget Wrap-up.

Mayor McComb referred to Item 1.

City Manager Peter Zanoni stated that the purpose of this item is to present information on the following topics: Census 2020 (Nueces Together); the

FY2019-2020 proposed budgets for the Parks and Recreation, Libraries and Health Departments; water/storm water/wastewater rate structures; and a budget wrap-up.

Steve Ray with Nueces Together presented information on the following topics: Nueces Together board members; the census is critical; the census count determines dollars and representation; the census equals economic opportunity; promoting census 2020 takes money; the U. S. Census Bureau recommends complete count committees; a listing of the elected officials and individuals in education, the faith and business communities and non-profit organizations comprising the local complete count committee as of August 29, 2019; hard-to-count populations; Nueces Together's outreach plan; census-related data to which Nueces Together will not have access; and a timeline.

A council member asked about the use of City public service announcements and the City's television studios as well as City funding dedicated to Nueces Together.

Director of the Public Health District Annette Rodriguez presented information on the following topics related to the Public Health District: about Public Health; and mission statement.

A council member and Director Rodriguez discussed low-cost vaccinations.

Director Rodriguez presented information on the following additional topics related to the Public Health District: organizational structure; Health District study; FY2019 achievements; performance measures; public health services; the FY2020 proposed budget, General Fund budget, grant and program fund budgets, and the County's general, grants and program fund budgets; and FY2020 enhancements.

Director of Library Services Laura Garcia presented information on the following topics related to the Library Services Department: mission statement; organizational structure; about Library Services; FY2019 achievements; performance measures; services; the FY2020 proposed General Fund budget; and an FY2020 enhancement.

Parks and Recreation Director Jermel Stevenson presented information on the following topics related to the Parks and Recreation Department: mission statement; about Parks and Recreation; organizational structure; commissions and committees; FY2019 achievements; performance measures; services; the FY2020: proposed budget; General Fund budget; and the enterprise, special revenue and grant funds budgets; FY2020 enhancements; and an FY2020 enhancements summary.

Council members and Directors Rodriguez, Garcia and Stevenson discussed the following topics: the Public Health District collaborating with the Parks and Recreation Department to address obesity; diabetes prevention; use of mobile clinics; working in partnership with the private sector to extend City dollars; marketing the use of public libraries to middle schools; splash pad installation timeline; increasing lifeguard staffing on area beaches; the definition of "preventables" as is related to drownings/near drownings; the number of fatalities on area beaches thus far this year; the City's efforts to address

drownings; the City maintaining lifeguards on Nueces County's beaches and Nueces County reimbursing the city for same; the HEB Tennis Center engaging with local tennis associations and with children in older neighborhoods; maintenance timelines; being customer service driven; funding for the Bay Jammin' Series; recognition of the Library for its efforts/programs; increasing funding committed to addressing mental health issues; the sustainability of community enrichment funding; delivering that which is proposed in proposed FY2020 budgets; the importance of regular maintenance for the Parks and Recreation Department's facilities; the Health District's efforts related to and monies spent on nutrition education and incorporating nutrition education in its various programs; public/private partnerships promoting healthy cooking; the effect of past budget cuts on libraries' hours of operation; the importance of childrens' access to computers at public libraries; library programs directed at teens and young adults; nutrition and cooking classes/demonstrations; that, during the numerous public meetings regarding the FY2020 proposed budget, the public requested expanded hours of operation at public libraries; the number of FTEs dedicated to beach maintenance; support for the Parks and Recreation Department's decision to allow members of the public to swim for free at public pools and, ideally, reduce drownings by enabling more people to learn how to swim; monies dedicated to mental health in the Health District's proposed FY2020 budget and its impact on homeless individuals; the Health District coordinating with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement regarding tuberculosis testing and immunization of immigrants and related reimbursement from the federal government; separating the Library Department's administrative costs from costs related to operation of the Central Library; reasons for an increase in salaries at the Harte Library; the reasons for disparity in salaries and professional services between various libraries; the process for filling vacancies at public libraries; the MIS allocation in the Library Department's budget; the purpose of travel in the Latchkey Program's budget; the dollar amount of grants received and planned in the Park and Recreation Department's FY2020 proposed budget; the purpose of community enrichment monies; that there is not a public swimming pool in City Council District 5; the use of pass-through versus recirculating water systems in splash pads; thanks to staff for their work on the FY2020 proposed budget; the number of City parks with basketball courts and related maintenance updates that are needed; the health benefits of City parks; the use of adjustable height basketball hoops; funds for stormwater mowing in the Parks and Recreation Department's budget; addressing multiple departments mowing the same drainage ditch; an effort to repair sprinkler heads in parks city-wide; and allowing Heritage Park tenants more flexibility to effect needed maintenance and repairs to the City buildings they occupy.

Assistant Director of Support Services for Water Utilities Reba George presented information on the following topics related to winter quarter averaging for wastewater: the history of winter quarter averaging for wastewater; an explanation of the current method of calculating wastewater charges versus winter quarter averaging; an example explaining the method of calculating wastewater charges using the winter quarter averaging method; and proposed 2020 and 2021 wastewater rate changes.

Council members and Assistant Director George discussed the following topics: timeline related to implementation of the winter-quarter averaging method of calculating wastewater rates; testing timeline; expediting implementation; the importance of the accuracy of the winter-quarter averaging calculation; and

using four versus three months in the winter-quarter averaging calculation and related complications that necessitate moving forward with the use of three months, this year.

Assistant City Manager Mark Van Vleck presented information on the following topics related to the storm water utility fee: the history and background of the storm water utility fee; the recommended implementation and approach; and creating a coalition of stakeholders.

Council members and Assistant City Manager Van Vleck discussed the following topics: implementation timeline; the need to establish a storm water utility fee now; the components of the water portion of a utility bill; the funding needed to operate the City's storm water functions; a proposed method of assessing a storm water charge to utility customers; the use of detention ponds and their potential effect on the detention pond owner's utility rate; detention versus retention ponds; the need to stabilize utility customers' monthly bills; the effect of separating out a storm water fee on utility customers' bills; implementing a long-term communication effort related to proposed changes to utility bills; utilizing a conservation campaign as a means of decreasing customers' water usage and related costs; including the community's input in developing a storm water rate; the importance of consistency in customers' monthly utility billings; incorporating various costs into utility rates; the impact of sprinkler systems as they relate to increased bills; the effect on apartment complexes of changing to winter quarter averaging; that winter quarter averaging only applies to residential customers; that a storm water fee will affect all utility customers; the benefits and drawbacks of "line-iteming" utility bills by each cost component; that the City is testing its utility billing system in relation to implementation of winter-quarter averaging; and that the budget wrap-up planned for today would be presented at the September 6, 2019 special city council meeting.

City Secretary Rebecca L. Huerta announced that a quorum of the City Council was no longer present to conduct the meeting.

A quorum of the City Council was re-established to continue the meeting.

D. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:41 a.m.