



# City of Corpus Christi

1201 Leopard Street  
Corpus Christi, TX 78401  
cctexas.com

## Meeting Minutes

### City Council Workshop Session

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Monday, July 23, 2018

10:00 AM

City Council Chambers

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**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 10:04 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** 7 - Mayor Joe McComb, Council Member Paulette Guajardo, Council Member Debbie Lindsey-Opel, Council Member Ben Molina, Council Member Everett Roy, Council Member Greg Smith, and Council Member Rudy Garza Jr.

**Absent** 2 - Council Member Michael Hunter, and Council Member Lucy Rubio

Council Member Debbie Lindsey-Opel arrived at 10:08 p.m.

**C. BRIEFINGS TO CITY COUNCIL:**

**1. 2018 Bond Election and FY 2019 Budget**

Mayor McComb referred to Item 1.

Council members and staff discussed the following topics: the condition of local, arterial and collector streets; 2018 Bond program summary of Propositions A-G; street funding options 1 -5; use of Type B funds to reconstruct

utilities associated with street repairs; the purpose of the street charge on citizens' utility bills; the variance in pricing over future years for street repairs; the cost of maintenance versus reconstruction; issuing \$20 million in bonds and maintaining half of the Type B monies, without a property tax increase; that Corpus Christi has the second-highest per capita debt of major Texas cities; paying the cost of street design with Type B funds; referring to residential streets in general versus enumerating specific streets in the Bond 2018 language; that Type B revenue comes from sales versus property taxes; utilizing the pay-as-you-go method to fund street repairs versus issuing debt; the urgent need to repair streets; the need to comply with state law and the Type B ballot language, especially regarding sewer-, water- and drainage-related repairs; the shortest amount of time over which the voter-approved 2-2-2 cent property tax increase can be implemented; monies available for street repairs if the Interest and Sinking (I&S) portion of the tax rate is decreased and the Maintenance and Repairs (M&O) portion is increased in conjunction with the use of Type B funds; the City's capacity to undertake street projects; the "worst-first" approach to street repairs/reconstruction; the citizens' tolerance for street construction; the availability of contractors to undertake street repairs; previous street committees' work and findings; having a consistent amount of work for contractors to get the best value for taxpayers; and five different street funding options.

#### **MOTION OF DIRECTION**

Council Member Lindsey-Opel made a motion directing the Interim City Manager to adopt Option 3, as presented, seconded by Council Member Garza, and passed unanimously (Council Members Hunter and Rubio - absent).

Council members and staff discussed potential council meeting dates to take action on the issuance of Bond 2018.

Parks and Recreation (P&R) Director Jay Ellington presented information on the following topics: park operations; the number of acres mowed by P&R; park operations; park facilities; repurposed parks; the Adopt-a-Park program; standard of care levels; the mowing schedule and frequency for parks in each of the five city council districts; challenges; issues created by ongoing Park Technician vacancies; and recommendations from the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee (PRAC) regarding Bond 2018.

#### **MOTION OF DIRECTION**

Council Member Molina made a motion directing the Interim City Manager to allocate to Proposition C, the \$1,288,339 associated with the recently deleted Proposition E, in order to fund improvements recommended by the PRAC, including shade and splash areas, seconded by Council Member Guajardo.

Council members and staff discussed the following topics: P&R not being able to maintain existing parks/facilities; money in lieu of land donation when developing new subdivisions; the need for splash pads and shade in City parks; that Bond 2018 monies will not pay for the maintenance of new splash pads and shade structures and the availability of operating budget funding for such maintenance; and P&R partnering with organizations in the community.

The motion of direction passed unanimously (Council Members Hunter and Rubio - absent).

Council members and staff discussed the following additional topics: Proposition D funding for historical house improvements at Heritage Park; Bond 2018 key dates; the potential for an additional \$700,000 in General Fund property tax revenue; utilizing this additional potential \$700,000 to reduce budget cuts to Utilities in order to positively impact the utility rate model or splitting it between P&R and Utilities; and additional funding needed for P&R operations.

Council Member Lindsey-Opel made a motion directing the Interim City Manager to apply half of the additional potential \$700,000 in revenue to the General Fund, in support of P&R to address some of the issues identified, the other half being applied to Utilities to relieve some of the cuts previously made by Utilities. The motion of direction failed for lack of a second.

Council members and staff discussed the following topics: hiring and funding contractors to cut grass at City parks due to a consistent staffing shortage in P&R; that the potential additional \$700,000 depends on the final assessed property values that will be released on July 25, 2018; revisiting utility rates this year; the interim city manager versus the city council allocating the additional potential \$700,000 in revenue in the FY2018-2019 draft budget; and having gone from a potential \$20 million shortfall to a potential \$700,000 FY2018-2019 budget surplus.

#### **D. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 12:16 p.m.