



City of Corpus Christi

1201 Leopard Street
Corpus Christi, TX 78401
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Meeting Minutes

City Council Workshop Session

Thursday, August 13, 2020

9:00 AM

City Council Chambers

Budget Workshop for Public Works, Engineering, Water Utilities, Solid Waste & Gas Operations

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

Mayor McComb called the meeting to order at 9:06 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:

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

Present 9 - Mayor Joe McComb, Council Member Roland Barrera, Council Member Rudy Garza, Council Member Paulette Guajardo, Council Member Gil Hernandez, Council Member Michael Hunter, Council Member Ben Molina, Council Member Everett Roy, and Council Member Greg Smith

C. BRIEFINGS TO CITY COUNCIL:

1. Proposed FY 2020 - 2021 Operating Budget for Public Works, Engineering, Water Utilities, Solid Waste & Gas Operations

Mayor McComb referred to Item 1.

Director of Public Works/Street Operations Richard Martinez presented information on the following topics related to the FY2020-2021 proposed budget for Public Works Street Operations: mission statement; about Public Works; organizational chart; FY2020 achievements; performance measures; Public Works Street Services; FY2020-2021 street maintenance and residential street reconstruction annual funding and funding sources; FY2021 street maintenance, street fund and residential street rebuild program proposed budgets and revenue sources; FY2021 enhancements 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5.

Director of Public Works/Street Operations Richard Martinez presented information on the following topics related to FY2020-2021 proposed budget for Storm Water: storm water fee; mission statement; about Public Works Storm Water; organizational chart; FY2020 achievements; performance measures; services; FY2020-2021 Storm Water Operations' proposed budget and revenue sources; FY2021 enhancements 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7.

Council members and Director Martinez discussed the following topics: frequency, cost and alternatives to median mowing; the use of wildflowers and xeriscaping; reducing maintenance requirements for medians; sources of funding for the \$14.5 million dollars for the Shoreline Blvd. / Ocean Dr. street rehabilitation project and that Street Preventive Maintenance Program (SPMP) funding is not being used for the project; the sufficiency of funding in the SPMP to carry out the program; conducting another evaluation of the condition of streets to obtain a new baseline; that seal coating has been replaced with overlayment; crack sealing; thanks to Director Martinez for making efficient use of funding; installation of crosswalks and corresponding timelines; decreasing the reoccurrence of potholes by changing the manner in which they are repaired; sinkholes on North Beach impeding access to public parking spaces; transfers to the Water Fund from the Stormwater Fund; addressing maintenance and capital needs and related costs; looking at utility bills as a whole; current and proposed professional services costs in the Streets budget and related SPMP contracts; performing more work in-house; design and geo-technical testing costs; and balancing in-house versus contracted work.

Director of Engineering Services Jeff Edmonds presented information on the following topics related to the FY2020-2021 proposed budget for Engineering Services: mission statement; about Engineering Services; organizational chart; FY2020 achievements; performance measures; services; the FY2020-2021 Engineering Department's proposed budget and revenue sources.

In response to a council member's question, City Manager Peter Zanoni discussed drawing down reserves.

Director of Engineering Services Jeff Edmonds presented information on the following topics related to the FY2020-2021 proposed budget for the Capital Improvement Planning (CIP) Guide: FY2021CIP available resources distributed over major spending areas; funding sources versus funding uses; examples of CIP projects; and prior bond summary.

A council member requested a report reflecting previously approved bond projects that have not been completed.

Council members, City Manager Zanoni and Director Edmonds discussed the following topics: using the Capital Budget Book as a planning tool and having moved from the use of numerous contracted staff to in-house staff in the Engineering Department.

Director of Water Utilities Kevin Norton presented the following information related to the proposed FY2020-2021 budget for Water and Wastewater: mission statement; and about Water Utilities.

In response to a council member's question, Director Norton discussed the longevity of staff and the number that have licenses in the Water Utilities Department.

Director Norton presented the following information related to the proposed FY2020-2021 budget for Water and Wastewater: that the department is a regional water supplier; an organizational chart; FY2020 achievements; performance measures; services; FY2021 water and wastewater rates; FY2021

Water Utilities Department's proposed budget and revenue sources; FY2021 enhancements; and the FY 2021 Water and Wastewater CIP, including funding sources and project areas.

Council members, Director Norton and Assistant Director of Support Services Reba George discussed the following topics: the number of years since the City's last boil-water notice; acknowledgment of City Manager Zanoni and Director Norton for reducing COVID-19 risks to City staff and crews; the reasons for an overall decrease in the amount budgeted for maintenance and repairs in the proposed FY20-21 Water Fund budget when compared to the FY19-20 budget; monies budgeted for professional services in the proposed FY20-21 proposed budget versus in the FY19-20 budget and what those services consist of; uncollectible accounts, how they are trending and their impact on water rates; how uncollectible accounts are calculated; the resources dedicated to collecting uncollectible accounts; the procedure used that leads up to the City turning off city utility services; preventive maintenance funding; and delineating preventive maintenance versus maintenance and repairs.

Director of Solid Waste Services David Lehfeldt presented information on the following topics related to the FY2020-2021 proposed Solid Waste budget: mission statement; about Solid Waste Services; an organizational chart; FY2020 achievements; performance measures; services; and the FY 2021 Solid Waste Department's proposed budget and revenue sources.

In response to council members' questions, Director Lehfeldt discussed the following topics: the financial cost versus return of the City's recycling program; the program's impact on the environment and related value; and environmental stewardship.

Director Lehfeldt presented information on the following topics related to the FY2020-2021 proposed budget: FY2021 enhancement 1.

In response to a council member's question, Director Lehfeldt discussed the use of compost for daily cover.

Director Lehfeldt presented information on the following topics related to the FY2020-2021 proposed budget: FY2021 enhancement 2; and FY2021 proposed capital budget projects.

Council members and Director Lehfeldt discussed the following topics: educating the public relating to the City's recycling program; how to determine the effectiveness of public education initiatives; that the contamination rate of recycled materials has been rising over the years; using the contamination level as a gauge regarding the success of the City's public education efforts; overtime budgeted and what it is used for; that overtime numbers are decreasing when compared to previous fiscal years; proper staffing levels in the department; weighing the cost of overtime versus the cost of additional personnel; the relationship between low wages offered by the City and the department's vacancy rate; the current vacancy rate; vacancies in sludge hauling; the new push-and-pack contract and the related amount budgeted in the current budget versus the FY20-21 proposed budget; brush pickup protocol after a hurricane or storm and what transpired after recent Hurricane Hanna; the phased approach of the protocol; and the importance of providing clear and timely instructions to the public after a hurricane/storm.

Director of the Gas Department Bill Mahaffey presented the following information related to the Gas Department's FY2020-2021 proposed budget: mission statement; about the Gas Department; organizational chart; FY2020 achievements; performance measures; services; and the FY2021 Gas Department's proposed budget and revenue sources and CIP budget.

Council members and Director Mahaffey discussed the following topics: specifics of the cathodic protection system; acknowledgment of the Gas Department having kept overtime low, maintenance and repairs in-house and costs down; providing gas service to new subdivisions; and that there has been an increase in salaries due to a competitive pay adjustment study having been conducted by Human Resources.

D. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:51 a.m.