



City of Farmers Branch Meeting Minutes City Council

Farmers Branch City Hall
13000 Wm Dodson Pkwy
Farmers Branch, Texas
75234

Tuesday, August 20, 2019

6:00 PM

Council Chambers

Study Session Meeting to be held at 4:30 p.m. in the Study Session Room with a Dinner Break at 5:15 p.m.

- Absent:** 1 - Council Member Cristal Retana
- Presiding:** 1 - Mayor Robert Dye
- Present:** 4 - Mayor Pro Tem John Norwood, Deputy Mayor Pro Tem Terry Lynne, Council Member Mike Bomgardner and Council Member Bronson Blackson
- Staff:** - City Manager Charles Cox, Deputy City Manager John Land, Assistant City Manager Benjamin Williamson, City Secretary Amy Piukana, City Attorney Peter G. Smith, Police Chief David Hale, Deputy Police Chief Jay Siegel, Fire Chief Steve Parker, Director of Human Resources Brian Beasley, Director of Public Works Marc Bentley, Director of Sustainability & Health Shane Davis, Director of Planning & Zoning Tina Firgens, Director of Economic Development Allison Cook, Director of Library Denise Wallace, Building Official Hugh Pender, Director of Information Services Mark Samuels, Director of Communications Tom Bryson and Director of Fleet & Facilities Kevin Muenchow

A. CALL TO ORDER - STUDY SESSION (4:30 P.M.)

Mayor Dye called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m.

A.1 19-385 Discuss regular City Council meeting agenda items

Council Member Blackson asked for clarification on Agenda Item I.1. He asked if the quote includes design and construction management.

Director of Sustainability and Public Health Shane Davis replied the price includes both.

Council Member Bomgardner asked if the project has multiple positions.

Mr. Davis replied stating one person manages the project.

Council Member Lynne asked for the cost of the well.

Mr. Davis explained the City does not have this information yet.

A.2 19-378 Discuss the City Manager's Proposed Fiscal Year 2019-20 balanced budget.

Director of Finance Sherrelle Evans Jones briefed City Council regarding this item. Ms. Evans Jones reviewed the budget calendar timeline and noted the City Council held a retreat to discuss budget funds.

Ms. Evans Jones explained during the recent City Council retreat City Staff was directed to prepare an additional option with a 1 cent tax rate reduction.

Ms. Evans Jones provided the following Option:

- Increase Expenditures \$300K - Increase Park Expansion CIP Transfer (from \$50K to \$350K)
- Decrease Expenditures \$100K - Adjusted Parks and Recreation estimates
- Increase Expenditure \$170K - Park Maintenance Transfer for Rawhide Creek Tree Lighting
- Decrease Expenditures \$746K - Remove Transfer to CIP for Library Pay-as-you-Go
- Net Impact: Decrease Expenditures \$376K

The City Council discussed the rainy day fund, Pay-as-you-Go philosophy, and cost of additional firefighters and future impacts from population growth.

Council Member Bomgardner recommended reducing landscaping costs to save money.

Ms. Evans Jones replied explaining the landscaping costs would be considered budget neutral due to the offset from the sale of the facility.

Ms. Evans Jones explained the City could look at the tax impact with the west side growth and review revenue. She explained this information could be provided as a memorandum.

Council Member Lynne requested more information on funding the Grant Program for creek owners.

City Manager Charles Cox explained this funding would be utilized from the Storm Water Utility Fund. He noted we might need to look at additional funding to assist. He noted the current plan covers all reaches within the creek.

Mayor Pro Tem Norwood explained once the west side is constructed, the City would see increased tax revenue.

The City Council discussed mutual aid assistance, multi-family units to be constructed and future growth.

Mayor Pro Tem Norwood asked if the City Council approved three out of the four fire personnel, if it would affect the ISO rating.

Fire Chief Parker stated it would not affect the City at this time.

Council Member Bomgardner asked if the Council concurred with his idea for landscape reduction at Fire Station No. 2.

Mr. Cox noted this is a one-time cost.

Council Member Blackson stated he recommends a tax rate decrease.

Mayor Pro Tem Norwood stated the pay-as-you-go approach is not sustainable.

Mayor Dye noted most cities are having increases; they do not have the same growth and investment that Farmers Branch has. He further stated tonight is a public hearing and the City Council still has time to consider the budget.

A.3 19-396

Discuss Campaign Finance Reform

Council Member Blackson briefed City Council regarding the need in his opinion, for a policy to limit campaign finance contributions for Elected Officials. He suggested a \$500 per person baseline contribution limit with no aggregation, per election.

The City Council discussed dollar limitation amounts, high developer contributions in past elections, and surrounding cities contribution amounts.

Council Member Lynne stated he feels the City does not have any issues with corruption, noting the Charter Review Committee did not support a policy change on this.

Mayor Pro Tem Norwood suggested allowing Council Member Retana to provide feedback and suggested putting this on the ballot to allow voters to decide.

A.4 19-386 Discuss agenda items for future City Council meetings

Mayor Dye requested a future agenda item to review the Mayor's Conference noting he would like to discuss the topics of change, growth and economics.

Mayor Dye recessed from Study Session at 5:42 p.m.

B. CALL TO ORDER - REGULAR MEETING (6 P.M.)

Mayor Dye called the meeting to order at 6 p.m.

C. INVOCATION & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Deputy Mayor Pro Tem Lynne gave the Invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance and Pledge to the Texas Flag.

D. CEREMONIAL ITEMS

D.1 19-362 Recognition of Tourism Team for Tournaments and Special Events

Mayor Dye and Director of Economic Development Allison Cook recognized the Tourism Team for assisting with tourism and special events.

D.2 19-358 Recognition of the Wyndham Garden Inn Hotel and Metrocrest Services for their support to the Villa Creek Apartment families impacted by the June Tornado/Straight Line Wind Event

Mayor Dye and Fire Chief Steve Parker, Emergency Management Specialist Lauren Sanchez recognized Metrocrest Services and Wyndham hotel for their assistance with the recent tornado and their assistance with residents.

E. REPORT ON STUDY SESSION ITEMS

Council Member Blackson provided a report on Study Session items.

F. MAYOR AND CITY MANAGER'S REPORT ON ITEMS OF COMMUNITY INTEREST

City Manager Charles Cox provided a report on Community Interests.

Mayor Dye reminded everyone that schools are in session and to drive safely in school zones. He further stated he is growing out his hair in efforts to raise money for Farmers Branch Charity groups.

G. CITIZEN COMMENTS

The following residents wished to speak:

- Dr. Joyce Benoit spoke expressing concerns with the resident survey and suggested the City find better ways to engage residents. She recommended having an outside vendor assist.
- Brenda Brodrick spoke requesting the Merry Christmas Sign be reinstalled at the City Hall building and requested this item be placed on a future City Council

H. PUBLIC HEARINGS

H.1 19-376 Conduct a public hearing to consider adopting a maximum property tax rate of \$0.61 on September 17, 2019 and take appropriate action.

Director of Finance Sherrelle Evans Jones briefed City Council regarding this item. She noted today is one of the first public hearing items for the City budget and noted a second public hearing is scheduled for September 3, 2019 with the budget adoption date set for September 17, 2019. She provided a budget video.

Mayor Dye opened the public hearing. There were no residents that wished to speak.

Mayor Dye made a motion to close the Public Hearing. Motion seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Norwood. Motion approved unanimously.

I. REGULAR AGENDA ITEMS

I.1 R2019-111 Consider authorizing the City Manager to negotiate and execute a contract with Weegar-Eide & Associates, LLC for the design and development of a groundwater production well at Vitruvian Park; and take appropriate action

Director of Sustainability and Public Health Shane Davis briefed City Council regarding this item.

Motion made by Deputy Mayor Pro Tem Lynne to approve Resolution No. 2019-111. Motion seconded by Council Member Bomgardner. Motion approved unanimously.

J. TAKE ANY ACTION NECESSARY AS A RESULT OF THE CLOSED EXECUTIVE SESSION

No action was taken.

K. ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Dye made a motion to adjourn. Motion seconded by Council Member Blackson. Motion approved unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 6:43 p.m.

Approved by: _____
Robert C. Dye, Mayor

Attested by: _____
Amy M. Piukana, City Secretary

