

MINUTES
Irving City Council Budget and Strategic Planning Meeting
Thursday, July 30, 2020 at 10:00 AM
City Hall, First Floor, Council Conference Room
825 West Irving Boulevard, Irving, TX 75060

The Irving City Council met in special session on July 30, 2020 at approximately 10:00 a.m. The following members were present / absent:

Attendee Name	Organization	Title	Status	Arrived
Mayor Rick Stopfer	Irving City Council	Mayor	Present	
John C. Danish	Irving City Council	Councilman	Present	
Allan Meagher	Irving City Council	Councilman	Present	
Dennis Webb	Irving City Council	Councilman	Present	
Phil Riddle	Irving City Council	Councilman	Present	
J. Oscar Ward	Irving City Council	Councilman	Present	
Al Zapanta	Irving City Council	Councilman	Present	
Kyle Taylor	Irving City Council	Councilman	Present	
Wm David Palmer	Irving City Council	Councilman	Present	

DISCUSSION

A. Citizen Comments on Items listed on the Agenda

No one signed up to speak at this meeting.

B. General Fund Update

1. Revenue Projections Fiscal Year (FY) 2020-21

Bret Starr, Finance Director, presented an update on the FY20-21 revenue projections. His presentation included information on the revised shortfall in the General Fund, noting the losses are less than anticipated and have been addressed with expenditure cuts and vacancy savings. Mr. Starr detailed the FY20-21 certified estimate from Dallas Central Appraisal District (DCAD) for property values with a record number of disputed values. He confirmed the City Manager's recommendation is to maintain the tax rate of \$0.5941, maintain the debt service at \$0.12 and use 82.5% valuation of disputed properties to budget for revenues. His presentation also described the projected changes in other revenues, such as decreases in sales tax, fees, fines and transfers from the entertainment venue.

Council and staff discussed future sales tax impacts due to changes in state laws. They also discussed how to assist small businesses, renters and property owners.

Council discussed how residential home sales are doing well in this market due to low interest rates.

Councilman Palmer noted his concern for adding the auto pound fee as a new revenue.

Jeff Spivey, Police Chief, clarified that the auto pound fees would only impact cars towed by the Police Department due to accidents or arrests to offset the administrative costs of running the auto pound.

Council and staff discussed the fees allowed by law. It was noted that this item will be brought back to a Public Safety Committee.

Councilman Palmer noted issues on continuous increases in property values and the high construction costs paid by government entities.

2. Employee Compensation

Bret Starr, Finance Director, outlined the current employee compensation plan. The plan included freezing current vacancies, funding annual step/merit increases but to not fund a cost of living increase or market adjustment for FY 20-21. He presented information on employee benefits; noting the City Manager is proposing a 5% insurance premium rate increase. Mr. Starr also described the proposed changes to the pension funds.

Councilman Riddle noted his concern with increasing the insurance premium without providing a cost of living increase.

Council and staff discussed the measures to be voted on by the Firefighters Relief and Retirement Fund members.

Councilman Palmer noted his concern about the sustainability of the pension plans.

Chris Hillman, City Manager, clarified that the proposed budget will include reductions in services in order to balance the budget.

Councilman Taylor noted the importance of speaking directly with the state and federal legislators.

C. Capital Improvement Program (CIP) and 2020 Bond Sale Plans

Pat Lamers, Capital Improvement Program Director, reviewed the remaining authorizations of General Obligation Bonds for streets, parks, city buildings, fire, gateway bonds, and senior center bonds discussed in June. His presentation also included three options for improvements planned or to be postponed based Council's direction for the FY 2020-21 bond sale.

Several council members supported moving forward with staff's recommendation.

D. Resident Survey Review

Aimee Kaslik, Chief Innovation and Performance Officer, outlined the results of the resident survey. Her presentation included data on quality of life, community characteristics, public safety, quality of city services, city performance and communication. She also noted priorities were identified in street maintenance, business development, police and fire, street lighting, and sidewalks.

E. Review Budget Input Received From Residents

This item was not discussed at this meeting.

F. New Strategic Plan

This item was not discussed at this meeting.

G. Council Priorities and Focus Areas

1. Financial Sustainability
2. Systematic Infrastructure Investment
3. Vibrant Economy
4. Service Excellence
5. Inclusive and Collaborative Governance
6. Talented and Energized Workforce

This item was not discussed at this meeting.

H. Future Items

August 19, 2020 Budget Retreat

Council adjourned at approximately 12:05 p.m.

Richard H. Stopfer, Mayor

ATTEST:

Shanae Jennings, TRMC
City Secretary