

MINUTES
Irving City Council Special Meeting
Wednesday, September 2, 2020 at 8:00 AM
City Hall, First Floor, Council Conference Room
825 West Irving Boulevard, Irving, TX 75060

The Irving City Council met in special session on September 2, 2020. The following members were present / absent:

Attendee Name	Organization	Title	Status	Arrived	Departed
Mayor Rick Stopfer	Irving City Council	Mayor	Present		
John C. Danish	Irving City Council	Councilman	Present	9:18 AM	
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		1:22 PM

8:00 AM Breakfast

Mayor Stopfer called the meeting to order at approximately 9:04 a.m.

Councilman Danish arrived at 9:18 am.

9:00 AM A. Citizen's Comments on Items listed on the Agenda

No one signed up to speak.

B. Tax Rate Discussion

1. General Fund Impact

Jeff Litchfield, Chief Financial Officer, outlined the impact to the General Fund if Council were to decide to lower the tax rate. He noted that based on the Dallas County Tax Assessor, the no-new-revenue rate tax rate is .6567/\$100 valuation and confirmed the City Manager recommended rate of .5941.

Chris Hillman, City Manager, reviewed previous Council discussions on the tax rate and ways to reallocate TIF No. 1 funds. He also gave an overview on pensions and compensations.

Mayor Stopfer asked that the pension and compensation discussions be brought back to a work session so that the entire Council may provide input.

Jeff Litchfield, Chief Financial Officer, provided a comparison for residential and commercial properties if the rate were to lower to .5891/\$100 valuation.

Council members discussed the need to review the Economic Development Fund and how to get new development in South Irving.

2. Other Funds Impact

Jeff Litchfield, Chief Financial Officer, described how the various tax rate options would impact the General Fund and other revenue funds.

3. Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) Impact

Jeff Litchfield, Chief Financial Officer, detailed the impact of including or removing the Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) for retirees for FY20-21. His presentation included the City Manager's recommendation, information on the active employees COLAs and market adjustments, retirement plans, comparative city metrics, types of COLAs, COLA impact on TMRS rates, and retiree COLA history. Mr. Litchfield also explained how the COLA is calculated for retirees in TMRS.

Council and staff had a lengthy discussion on the COLA options.

C. Library Operations Update

Cary Siegfried, Library Services Director, outlined the staffing changes and reductions in library materials and programming due to COVID-19. She also discussed the increase trend in digital usage.

D. Utility Funds Overview

1. Water and Sewer

Todd Reck, Water Utilities Director, highlighted the FY 20-21 Water and Sewer budget. He noted an increase in pass-through costs, other budget changes, the supplemental request for a water main construction crew, and the proposed FY20-21 water and sewer rates, which propose a 2% overall residential increase.

Council recessed at approximately 11:43 a.m.

Council reconvened at approximately 12:20 p.m.

Councilman Meagher arrived at 12:25 p.m.

Councilman Webb arrived 12:30 p.m.

2. Solid Waste Services

Travis Switzer, Solid Waste Services Director, outlined the FY20-21 Solid Waste Services budget, noting no rate increase is recommended at this time. He also presented information on the commercial solid waste fee and a proposed "opt-out" solution for businesses that do not utilize the City's trash service.

Councilman Ward asked for information on recycling requirements at apartments.

Chris Hillman, City Manager, confirmed that information has been provided at a previous Transportation and Natural Resource Committee meeting but the City received push-back from the apartment owners, but will continue to look at this.

Councilman Meagher asked about the life expectancy of the landfill.

Mr. Switzer clarified how much of the landfill is available.

It was the consensus of the Council to move forward with the “opt-out” program for commercial properties.

3. Municipal Drainage Utility (MDU)

Pat Lamers, Capital Improvement Program Director, described the current Municipal Drainage Utility (MDU) projects, the MDU capital five-year plan and the proposed FY20-21 projects.

E. Capital Improvement Program

Pat Lamers, Capital Improvement Program Director, presented information on the current year bond sale and gave an overview on the planned FY20-21 capital improvement program projects, which consist of street improvements, park services, and city buildings.

Council and staff discussed the bond sale and the proposed Central Fire Station. Several council members noted their support of moving forward with the Central Fire Station.

Chris Hillman, City Manager, confirmed that additional discussion of the fire station expansions will be brought to a future Public Safety Committee meeting.

Victor Conley, Fire Chief, provided information on the status of Fire Station 8 and the coverage needs in the Central Fire Station area.

F. Debt Service

Jeff Litchfield, Chief Financial Officer, gave an overview of the city’s debt service requirements and how COVID-19 has impacted the debt service, resulting in a reduction of the bond sale this year.

G. Entertainment Venue Operating Budget and Work Plan

Philip Sanders, Assistant City Manager, outlined the Entertainment Venue Operating Budget and Work Plan, including Brimer Hotel Occupancy Tax (HOT) revenues and expenditures, administrative expenses, and details on the admission tax.

Councilman Palmer left the meeting at 1:22 p.m.

Council and staff discussed the various restaurants and businesses at the Entertainment Center and the projected revenues for FY20-21.

H. Health Insurance

Jill McAdams, Human Resources Director, presented an update on the health insurance fund and the proposed health insurance rates for January through October 2021.

Council and staff discussed the various health insurance plans for active employees and retirees.

I. Tax Increment Financing (TIF) Districts

1. TIF #1 Ratchet Down and Allocation

Jeff Litchfield, Chief Financial Officer, outlined the TIF #1 Ratchet Down plan and how the additional funds are allocated, noting that if the Council wish to lower the tax rate, the allocations of these funds could be impacted.

2. Public Improvement Districts (PID)

Jeff Litchfield, Chief Financial Officer, described the residential Public Improvement Districts (PID) program, the debt associated with these improvements, and the property assessments.

J. Charter Organizations Budgets (presented by Charter Orgs)

1. Irving Convention and Visitors Bureau (ICVB)

Maura Gast, Executive Director of the ICVB, presented the Irving Convention and Visitors Bureau's proposed FY20-21 budget. Her presentation included how the Irving Convention and Visitors Bureau is responding to the COVID-19 pandemic's effects on the hospitality industry, the Bureau's recovery plans, and updated assumptions related to hotel occupancy and business travel. Ms. Gast also outlined the ICVB's operating budget, performance indicators, program highlights, and operational impacts.

2. Arts and Culture

Todd Hawkins, Executive Director of Arts and Culture, presented the Arts and Culture proposed FY20-21 budget. His presentation included revenue projections, budget changes and initiatives for FY20-21 for the Irving Arts Center, Archive and Museums, and historic preservation.

Council discussed allocating funds to repair the historical homes in Bear Creek.

K. Council Action Priorities

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.

The meeting adjourned at 3:22 p.m.

Richard H. Stopfer, Mayor

ATTEST:

Shanae Jennings, TRMC
City Secretary