



City of Rowlett Special Minutes

4000 Main Street
Rowlett, TX 75088
www.rowlett.com

City Council Budget Workshop

City of Rowlett City Council meetings are available to all persons regardless of disability. If you require special assistance, please contact the City Secretary at 972-412-6115 or write 4000 Main Street, Rowlett, Texas, 75088, at least 48 hours in advance of the meeting.

Thursday, August 14, 2014
Friday, August 15, 2014
Saturday, August 16, 2014

6:15 P.M.

Municipal Building – 4000 Main St
Annex Conference Room – 4004 Main St

As authorized by Section 551.071 of the Texas Government Code, this meeting may be convened into closed Executive Session for the purpose of seeking confidential legal advice from the City Attorney on any agenda item herein.

The City of Rowlett reserves the right to reconvene, recess or realign the Regular Session or called Executive Session or order of business at any time prior to adjournment.

Thursday, August 14, 2014 (City Hall Chambers, 4000 Main Street)

Present: Mayor Gottel, Mayor Pro Tem Gallops, Deputy Mayor Pro Tem Pankratz, Councilmember Bobbitt, Councilmember Dana-Bashian, Councilmember Sheffield and Councilmember van Bloemendaal

1. Call to Order

Mayor Gottel called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

2. Overview of City's Manager's recommendations for the proposed budget

Brian Funderburk, City Manager, reviewed the recommendations that were presented during the August 5, 2014 Work Session.

3. Discuss proposed property tax rate increase

Mr. Funderburk reviewed the proposed tax rate increase of five cents with three cents going toward operations, one cent toward park maintenance and improvements, and one cent toward community enhancements.

Council discussion regarding repair and replacement of alleys along with funding options. Also discussed were park maintenance standards, the need for improvements, and the assurance funds would be spent according to those standards put in place.

4. Discuss proposed bond election in May 2015

The timeline and community education and involvement were discussed. The formation of the Community Investment Program Task Force was also discussed. Emphasis was placed on the ability to issue these bonds without an increase in the tax rate due to the retirement of previous debt.

5. Discuss proposed temporary water surcharge

Stage 3 water restrictions and the agreement with North Texas Municipal Water District (NTMWD) were discussed outlining the necessity for the surcharge. Emphasis was placed on the timeframe for the surcharge being Stage 3 restrictions. Should the restrictions be lifted, the surcharge would end.

6. Discuss proposed change to Over 65/Disabled tax exemption

Mr. Funderburk reviewed the discussion held with Council at their summer retreat regarding the determination of the recommended rates. Emphasis was placed on the fact this change would not affect those seniors/disabled persons who currently receive these benefits.

7. Discuss other policy proposals from City Manager

Mr. Funderburk reviewed the compensation study implementation, the proposed modification to the employee vacation/sick leave payout policy, the use of Cash CIP funds to cover the Library relocation and moving the Chamber of Commerce building, and reviewing the possibility of adjusting City retiree premiums for medical benefits.

8. Adjournment

After review of the agenda for the next two days and review of opportunities for public engagement, the meeting was adjourned at 9:14 p.m.

Friday, August 15, 2014 (Annex Conference Room, 4004 Main Street)

1. Call to Order

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

2. Discuss operating funds, capital improvement plan, and other aspects of the proposed budget.

Mr. Funderburk reviewed the reasons for the proposed tax increase:

- a) Personnel costs will increase as a result of the implementation of the pay plan effective April 1, 2015.
- b) One cent to enhance park maintenance.
- c) One cent to enhance community amenities.
- d) Allocation of \$785,000 for the Library location transition and relocation of the Chamber building.
- e) Ten percent increase in cost of water acquisition from NTMWD.

Councilmember Bobbitt arrived at 6:21 p.m. and Councilmember van Bloemendaal arrived at 6:25 p.m.

Alan Guard, Chief Financial Officer, then reviewed other items outlined in the budget memo, including: property taxes and the increase in property values, implementation of the pay plan, projected revenues, expenses in the General Fund, increase in employee costs as related to new Parks Department employees

and an Emergency Management position, capital leasing, Utility Fund, Refuse Fund, Debt Service Fund, and various fund reserves.

Council engaged in discussion regarding the specifics of the implementation of the pay plan and how it was determined; Economic Development and possible increased resources; delineation of "purchased services" and a requested more detailed description; possibility of contracting for additional Parks services in lieu of employees; decrease in budgeted salary savings due to staffing levels; and large equipment replacement.

There was further discussion regarding water revenues and a lack thereof, a review of how the rates will change for residential and commercial customers and educating the public on "how we got here". Staff provided a comparison of the City of Rowlett rates compared to other cities in the Metroplex. Use of Hotel/Motel Tax funds was also reviewed.

Deputy Mayor Pro Tem Pankratz left the meeting at 8:45 p.m. and returned at 8:53 p.m.

It was the consensus of Council to propose an increase in CERT funding in the amount of \$5,000. It was the consensus of Council to reallocate the proposed two cents for Parks maintenance and community enhancements as follows: ½ cent designated for alley repair/replacement, ¾ cent for Parks maintenance and improvements, and ¾ cent for community enhancements.

3. **Adjournment**

After review of the dates for the upcoming public hearings for the tax rate and the budget, Mayor Gottel adjourned the meeting at 9:09 p.m.

Saturday, August 16, 2014 (Only if Necessary) (Annex Conference Room, 4004 Main Street)

Council completed their review and discussion regarding the budget and this meeting was not necessary.

1. **Call to Order**
2. **If necessary, continue discussion of proposed budget.**
3. **Adjournment**



Todd W. Gottel, Mayor



Laura Hallmark, City Secretary

Date Approved: September 2, 2014

