

MINUTES OF THE BUDGET WORK SESSION MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JERSEY VILLAGE, TEXAS, HELD ON JULY 19, 2017 AT 6:00 P.M. IN THE CIVIC CENTER MEETING ROOM AT 16327 LAKEVIE DRIVE, JERSEY VILLAGE, TEXAS 77040.

A. The meeting was called to order by Mayor Ray at 6:00 p.m. with the following present:

Mayor, Justin Ray
City Manager, Austin Bless
Council Member, Andrew Mitcham
Council Member, Greg Holden
Council Member, Bobby Warren
Council Member, Sheri Sheppard
Council Member, Gary Wubbenhorst

Council Member, Sheri Sheppard, participated in this meeting via videoconference call.

Staff in attendance: Mark Bitz, Fire Chief; Eric Foerster, Chief of Police; Kevin T. Hagerich, Director of Public Works; Isabel Kato, Director of Finance; Kimberly Terrell, Director of Parks and Recreation; and Bob Blevins, IT Administrator.

Lorri Coody, City Secretary, was not present at this meeting.

B. Review and discuss the proposed fiscal year 2017-2018 municipal budget.

Discussion was held on the TxDOT reimbursement from the 290 expansion project. Finance Director, Isabel Kato stated the City should get approximately \$6,000,000 back from TxDOT for the project. The consensus of the Council was we should pay off the bond utilizing those funds.

Discussion was held on the upgrades being planned for the Castlebridge Wastewater Treatment Plant. The design work is nearly completed and we are awaiting approvals from Texas Commission on Environmental Quality.

Discussion was held on the Public Works Facility. The need for a new building was discussed, as the current one floods during heavy rain events. Money is being proposed in the CIP for the upcoming budget year to do something with the facility. The Council decided to tour the facilities at some point in the next month and discuss the matter further at the August City Council meeting.

The Council reviewed the supplemental requests from the departments.

The Council consensus was to not fund a car allowance for the city secretary, but to continue to pay mileage when the personal vehicle is utilized for City business.

There was discussion on the golf course irrigation or “gray water” project. This project would utilize water from other sources, rather than pumping water out of the ground. The project would greatly reduce the costs associated with irrigation at the golf course, and the savings would be approximately \$125,000 per year. The project would have a pay back of about 4 to 5 years. It was noted this project works closely with the proposed berm project for flood mitigation. The consensus was to move forward with this project in the upcoming fiscal year

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and to do it in a manner that works closely with the berm project so we aren't disturbing the same ground in future years.

Discussion was held on a golf course club house remodel. Parks and Rec Director Kimberly Terrell is working with an architect on getting quotes for a remodel. The Council discussed the quotes and decided to focus on the roof and interior of the building. The Council consensus was to allocate \$350,000 in the CIP from the Hotel Occupancy Tax Fund to remodel the club house. This remodeling will allow for \$46,000 in supplemental requests to the golf course club house to be removed from the budget.

Council Member Mitcham brought up a possible splash pad. He noted that amenity is one of the most discussed items that citizens mention to him they would like to see. Parks and Recreation Director, Kimberly Terrell stated she has discussed a possible splash pad and that the cost would be between \$200,000 and \$250,000 based upon various factors of how many features we would like to see on it and how large it is. Discussion held. The consensus of the Council was to allocate \$250,000 in the budget to build a splash pad.

Council Member Wubbenhorst brought up the Volunteer Fire Department and asked the Fire Chief about the number of volunteers. The Chief informed the Council that the number of volunteers always ebbs and flows and right now we are looking for more volunteers. He noted that if the city did not have the volunteers we would likely have to have 7 full time employees on shift each day to cover this at a cost of about \$1.8 million.

Mayor Ray asked how the Council felt about the tax rate for the upcoming year. The consensus of the Council is they are okay with the tax rate staying the same again.

Before adjourning the meeting, Council had the following comments:

Council Member Wubbenhorst is basically satisfied with the way the budget looks.

Council Member Warren stated he believes this was a good process, and thanked the Council and Staff for helping him through the process for the first time.

Council Member Sheppard was grateful for the ability to participate via Skype. She noted the upcoming fiscal year will be an important one to the City.

Council Member Holden is concerned about amount of expenditures, and it's a little unusual. He noted that in the end we will be fine, but he is a little concerned about future years.

Council Member Mitcham thanked the citizens for coming out and noted that one came out for all three sessions. He stated the city is doing literally everything we can do to fund flood mitigation this year. He said he is very proud of TIRZ and the tools are in place to help us increase revenue. He is super proud of this budget session.

Mayor Ray thanked everyone for their contributions. All of the different elements of municipal government that we have to balance day in and day out shows how complex a city

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government is. He stated that we have a fiscally prudent minded staff and council, and this is one of the most important budgets that we have ever had. He noted the comradery and collaboration that has been displayed as we are working towards a common goal. He thanked the staff for making this all happen.

C. Adjournment.

There being no further discussion the meeting was adjourned at 10:00 p.m.

Lorri Coody, City Secretary