

BUDGET WORKSHOP, TUESDAY, AUGUST 16, 2016, 6:00 P.M.

The Mayor and City Council met in Special Session on Tuesday, August 16, 2016 at 6:00 p.m. for a Budget Workshop with the following members present: Mayor Diaz, Council Members Robinson, Lee, Garcia and Gonzales; City Manager Squyres, City Attorney DeFoyd and City Secretary Raines. Council Member Rivas absent.

City Manager Squyres stated that the base budget was basically the same as we discussed at the last meeting.

He advised there were a couple of things that he failed to mention at the last meeting, one was the number of complaints that we were having about feral cats, and we were starting a program where we could catch the cats, have them spayed, keep them for a couple of days to recover and return them to where they were picked up and hopefully this would help contain our feral cat problem to some extent.

He advised that in Department 14 we added a line item for HVAC maintenance at \$1,000, and Capita Outlay items of (3) SCGA bottles at \$1,000 each and one k-12 rescue saw at \$2,800.

In Department 15, we raised the staff entry level by one person, we were promoting a temp to permanent and in Capital Outlay added a brush chipper at a cost of \$35,000.

He advised that in Department 24 we had added a computer system for the ambulances at a cost of \$3,600.

City Manager Squyres stated they would see a difference in Department 11 and Department 31 because in the past we had Kathy 2/3 out of general fund and 1/3 out of water and Leticia and Chrystal both out of water fund but this year we were making all three half out of general fund and half out of water fund because they work in both departments.

Mayor Diaz ask about an officer to enforce the ordinance we passed on trailers, etc. and some of the high grass complaints

City Manager Squyres stated that he had talked with the Judge and ask him to enforce the city ordinances that come to court.

There was discussion about the Chief getting with the City Attorney to see what we could do to address these issues.

Chief Ayala stated that he could send certified letters and issue citations on junk vehicles.

Mayor Diaz ask what we could do about vehicles parked on city easements and blocking views.

City Attorney DeFoyd advised that we could tow them if they were on city easements and if they are parked on the sidewalk we can call PD and they can ticket them

Council Member Lee ask how much time an officer spent working on this.

Mayor Diaz stated they could check this as they drive down the street.

Council Member Robinson ask why we couldn't use a reserve officer for this.

City Attorney DeFoyd advised that we have to send them a certified letter as well as one by regular mail.

City Manager ask when could we go on private property and was advised by the City Attorney that we had to have a Court Order but it was a lot easier if it was abandon property.

There was general discussion about boats parked in yards and filled with trash, trailers parked in violation of the ordinance, junk vehicland the need to enforce these ordinance in order to keep out city clean.

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Mr. Squyres stated that they did not respect our humane officer when he advises them they are in violation and in a lot of instances that is why the police department is involved.

City Manager Squyres advised that Chief Mier is Code Enforcement Certified and that the city has never inspected public pools before but we are now and we have shut some of them down until they make the necessary repairs.

The Mayor ask about the Fire Chief going around and checking the violations.

Mr. Squyres advised that he would amend the budget to include body cameras for the Fire Chief and the Humane Officer.

Council Member Garcia ask what about sidewalks to Big Bass and was advised that we were working on a grant from USDA but we might have to match a portion of it.

There was discussion about problems at big bass with power outages, elevator down, etc..

Chief Mier stated that their staff has set up a fire watch at Big Bass because they were not getting a very good response from the management during these problems.

City Manager Squyres stated that he would like to know if he had their blessing on the proposed salary increases.

Council Member Robinson ask how much our health insurance had gone up and was advised by Mr. Squyres that it was a very small amount.

Council Member Robinson ask if we had received the tax roll yet and was advised that we had not received the certified roll yet.

Council Member Gonzales ask Mr. Squyres what the S.S. O. Program was in Department 33 and was advised by Mr. Squyres that this was to do a smoke detection test of sewer lines to determine where we had problems.

Council Member Robinson discussed people cutting off or opening their sewer lines and letting the water drain out of their yards into the sewer lines.

Council Member Garcia discussed the fire department.

Mayor Diaz ask about the awnings at the ball park and was advised that they would be installed as soon as weather permitted.

Mr. Squyres discussed evaluations and provided a form for their review.

Mayor Diaz adjourned the meeting at 7:05 p.m..

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joyce Raines". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the text "Respectfully submitted,".

Joyce Raines

City Secretary