

BUDGET WORKSHOP, TUESDAY, AUGUST 13, 2019, 6:00

The Mayor and City Council met in Special Session for a workshop on the proposed budget for FY 2019-2020: Mayor Diaz, Council Members Rivas, Robinson, Lee, Garcia and Gonzales; City Manager Squyres, City Attorney DeFoyd and City Secretary Raines.

Mayor Diaz stated the purpose for the meeting was a workshop on the proposed city budget for FY 2019/2020 and turned the meeting over to City Manager Squyres.

City Manager Squyres advised that this was a recap of the meeting last week and that our goal was to put a little money back into the rainy day fund to replace what we spent on the new pool, police station and fire station, we would like to put ½ million back but right now it is only \$456,039.05. He stated that Senate Bill 2, really had us scared, that we didn't have a tax rate yet and the tax revenue was based on last Years rate, and we would have to see what happens when we get the tax rate.

He stated that another bill we were concerned about that we had discussed at the last workshop was the franchise tax, that we could stand to loose half of what we receive on franchise fees, that a lot of the companies were bundling cable, phones, etc. on one bill and did not think they should have to pay but one fee, that TML was looking into this so we would have to wait and see on it.

There was general discussion on the new legislation and the State trying to take over cities and tell them what to do.

Mr. Squyres advised that in two years the bonds would be paid off and the Mayor and Council needed to start thinking about what they would like to do, we would need to start working on that prior to the time they were paid off.

City Manager Squyres discussed the purchase of drones and all the different things they would be able to help us accomplish and that the

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cost was budgeted in Department 12, Department 13 and Department 16 in Capital Outlay.

Mr. Squyres advised that another piece of crime fighting equipment that we had budgeted for was license plate readers, he stated that they had talked with a company that makes them, they were \$2,000.00 per cameras and that we would need seven of them and went over the locations they would be placed. He advised that they would look at every car that comes into the city, record the model, car color, etc. and if it hits on a license that is stolen, etc. they will notify the city and it Will also recognize amber alert plates and also hit on paper tags.

Chief Ayala stated that it would be very good for the city.

Council Member Rivas discussed the drones and what all they could do.

Council Member Gonzales stated that they could also help us with permits.

Mayor Diaz ask if they had included a full time code enforcement officer, not a police office.

Council Member Rivas stated that on Saturdays and Sundays you will see people working without a permit.

There was discussion as to whether the code enforcement officer should work out of Department 13 or the police department.

Chief Ayala stated that code enforcement takes a lot of time, that it was not an easy job and went over a list of things that you had to do in code enforcement. There was discussion about the code enforcement being able to write tickets of if PD would have to be there for that.

There was discussion about who takes care of code violation now and Council Members Lee and Gonzales stated that anytime they call anything in, it ends up on Chief Ayala's desk.

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Council Member Garcia ask about a police officer doing it and Chief Ayala stated that takes an officer off the street.

City Manager Squyres stated that he would look at putting it in Department 13 and get back with them, that maybe we could hire a part time code enforcement officer from another city to work weekends and evenings.

Council Member Robinson ask about leaving revenue for franchise tax the same when it didn't look like we would receive what was budgeted and was advised that we received a lot of the franchise fee quarterly and we had already received some franchise fee in August that were not reflected in the report that he was looking at.

Council Member Robinson ask about the gasoline and Mr. Squyres advised that he and Kyle were thinking about abandoning the diesel tank because of the age of the tank and problems we have experienced.

Council Member Gonzales ask if we would have multi use for the vactor truck and would we use it a lot, it was an expensive piece of equipment and we would want to get full use of it.

Bernardo Perez, Public Works, stated yes, we could use it for storm drains and sewer lines.

Council Member Garcia ask about water deposits and there was discussion about smart meters.

City Manager Squyres advised that the present budget was bad in phone service, that we had phonscope and AT&T and discussed how much lower our phone bills would be with Phonoscope than AT&T.

There was a question about the additional money budgeted in Health and Humane for capital outlay in dog kennel repairs and Bernardo explained about the sewer line repair needed behind the dog kennels.

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Council Member Robinson ask if the garbage increase by Waste Management would be passed on to the citizens and was advised by Mr. Squyres that a portion of it would be passed on to the citizens and part Would be absorbed by the city.

There was discussion about the need to spend the money that was budgeted for capital outlay items, that it was at the end of the budget Year and a lot had not been spend.

There was discussion about waiting until the last minutes to spend money allocated for capital outlay.

Council Member Garcia stated that maybe they needed to start asking about the status of capital outlay during the year.

Council Member Robinson stated they did not need to wait until the end of the year to use it, if they ask for the money they needed to spend it.

City Manager Squyres advised that we had lost one of bigger water customers because we could not provide them the pressure they needed and this would reduced what we were pumping from Houston Some and we were looking at ways to cut back on the amount of water we purchase from Houston.

Council Member Rivas ask if the cost to raise the pressure be worth it.

City Manager Squyres advised that if we tried to raise the pressure to what they need, with the age of some of the water lines in the city, we would blow water lines all over the city.

Council Member Gonzales stated that he thought that \$15,000 might be to much to budget in traffic and school signs since we hadn't spent half of it yet.

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He was advised that the figures he was looking at was through July and we had posted just paid bills in August and they were just about where they should be.

Council Member Robinson stated that he had driven through town on Monday and there was no one working at the police station and he didn't want to wait another three year, that he is tired of this.

City Manager Squyres stated that the goal was to have both projects done by the end of this budget year.

He advised that the fire station roof was not right and they don't want to go ahead until the roof is complete and explained the problem with the roof.

Council Member Lee stated there were other problems at the fire station beside the roof.

City Manager Squyres advised they were mostly cosmetic and most of this was now done.

Council Member Lee ask Chief Mier if they every got a dish washer that fit and was advised that they had.

Council Member Robinson ask about the doors and flag pole and Mr. Squyres advised that the doors were ordered.

Council Member Lee stated that he had discussed the flag poles with Lon today and they were being ordered, a 40' for the police station and A 35' for the fire department and there was discussion on how they would be set.

Council Member Garcia stated that we might need a project manager.

City Manager Squyres stated he was not a project manager and we had three big projects going on at the same time.

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Mayor Diaz ask if there were any more question.

Mayor Diaz adjourned the meeting at 7:15 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 typed name.

**Joyce Raines
City Secretary**