

**AUSTIN CITY COUNCIL
MINUTES****BUDGET WORK SESSION MEETING
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 14, 2013**

The City Council of Austin, Texas convened in a Work Session Meeting on Wednesday, August 14, 2013, City Hall at 301 W. Second Street, Austin, Texas.

Mayor Leffingwell called the meeting to order at 9:07 a.m.

Budget presentation was presented by Ed Van Eenoo, Deputy Chief Financial Officer and Mark Washington, Director, Human Resources Department.

Direction was given to staff to provide information on how existing vacancies overlap with new positions when calculating vacancy savings.

BUDGET

1. Approve a resolution adopting a maximum proposed property (ad valorem) tax rate of 51.32 cents per \$100 taxable value that the City Council will consider for Fiscal Year 2013-2014; and setting the date that the Council will adopt the Fiscal Year 2013-2014 property (ad valorem) tax rate (suggested date is Monday, September 9, 2013 at 9:00 a.m.). (Public comment will be allowed on this item.)

Resolution No. 20130814-001 adopting a maximum proposed property (ad valorem) tax rate the City Council will consider for Fiscal Year 2013-2014 was approved with the following friendly amendment on a roll call vote on Mayor Pro Tem Cole's motion, Council Member Spelman's second on a 7-0 vote.

Mayor Leffingwell made a friendly amendment to set the maximum proposed property (ad valorem) tax rate of 51.14 cents per \$100 taxable value. The amendment was accepted by the maker and Council Member Spelman who made the second.

The motion to set the date the Council will adopt the Fiscal Year 2013-2014 property tax rate for September 9, 2013 beginning at 9:00 a.m. at the Austin City Council Chambers at Austin City Hall, 301 West 2nd Street, Austin, Texas was approved on Council Member Martinez' motion, Council Member Tovo's second on a 7-0 vote.

ITEM(S) TO SET PUBLIC HEARING(S)

2. Set public hearings on the proposed property (ad valorem) tax rate for Fiscal Year 2013-2014 (Suggested dates and times: August 22, 2013 at 4:00 p.m. and August 29, 2013 at 4:00 p.m., Austin City Hall, 301 W. Second Street, Austin, TX). (Public comment will be allowed on these items.)

The public hearings were set for August 22, 2013 at 4:00 p.m. and August 29, 2013 at 4:00 p.m., City Hall at 301 W Second Street, Austin, TX on Mayor Pro Tem Cole's motion, Council Member Spelman's second on a 7-0 vote.

BRIEFINGS

3. Briefing and discussion related to the departmental proposed budgets.

Direction was given to staff to provide additional information on the increases in the amount transferred from the radio maintenance fund; workers compensation; accrued payroll and; wireless Communication. In addition, to provide explanations on the vacancies existing within each department for more than six months and justification for new positions; provide information on hiring practice used in 2009 and; include Economic Growth and Redevelopment Services Office, Fleet Services, Financial Services, Human Resources, Contract Management, Real Estate Services and Small and Minority Business Resources in the list of departmental briefings.

Presentations were made by:

Emergency Medical Services - Ernie Rodriguez, Director, Kerri Lang, Assistant Director and Michael McDonald, Deputy City Manager

Direction was given to provide information on the projected increase in the turn-over rate and to analyze the option of setting fees for medications to a range based on actual costs rather than a set fee.

Austin Fire Department - Harry Evans, Assistant Fire Chief, Brian Tanzola, Fire Marshal, Ronnelle Paulsen, Assistant Director and Michael McDonald, Deputy City Manager

Direction was given to staff to work with the Austin Water Utility on roles and resources available within both departments dedicated to wildfire mitigation on AWU lands to reduce any duplication of effort.

Municipal Court/Downtown Austin Community Court (DACC) -Rebecca Stark, Court Clerk, Municipal Court, Pete Valdez, Court Administrator, DACC and Michael McDonald, Deputy City Manager

Direction was given to staff to provide information on the current uses for monies in the Court's Technology Fund; explore other potential vendors for the red light camera Program and; provide information on the projected increase in the number of cases in the Juvenile Case Fund Manager Program.

Mayor Leffingwell recessed the meeting at 11:37 a.m. without objection.

Mayor Leffingwell called the meeting back to order at 12:53 p.m.

Austin Police Department - Art Acevedo, Chief of Police, Brian Manley, Assistant Chief and Alice Sutter, Assistant Director

Direction was given to staff to provide an analysis on the increase in the number of detectives and investigators by 50% while the crime rate has increased by 15%; provide justification on the projected increase in the number of citizen complaints against the department for FY14 when complaints have been trending down; provide an explanation for the decrease in the carbon footprint reported in the department performance measures; explore the possibility of a special trained force to assist with special events for things such as traffic control; provide the requirements (State and City) for traffic management relating to use of sworn vs. civilian personnel; identify any unmet needs that may become a crisis for the department during FY14 and; provide information on how the department partners with other city department to share information necessary to address issues that impact multiple departments.

Animal Services - Abigail Smith, Chief Animal Services Officer

Direction was given to staff to provide details on the partners used for transferring animals and the percent of animals transferred to each of the partners.

Austin Public Library - Brenda Branch, Director and Dana McBee, Assistant Director

Direction was given to staff to provide an explanation on why the unmet need for youth librarians was not a higher consideration in the budget review process; provide information on the constraints on how the library is funded including funding options available to other cities specifically cities in Texas; provide information on the costs associated with transferring books to various branches to fulfill customer requests and research if other cities have implemented a fee for this service and provide an analyst of the value of implementing a fee for transfers and; research what the library could do to raise funds for collections and services.

Code Compliance - Carl Smart, Director and Keith Murray, Financial Manager

Direction was given to staff to provide additional information on the projected case load for FY14; provide clarification on the difference between the projected new positions in the proposed budget document compared to the number provided in response to a budget question; provide updated information on the reallocation of staff throughout the department; include performance measures relating to short-term rental in FY14 and; provide information on the number of complaints relating to short term rentals and the resolutions for the complaints.

Health and Human Services Department - Carlos Rivera, Director and Kymberley Maddox, Chief Administrative Officer

Direction was given to staff to schedule three additional budget work sessions for Monday, August 19th (9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.); Wednesday, August 21 (9 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.) and Tuesday, September 3 (1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.).

Mayor Pro Tem Cole adjourned the meeting at 4:11 p.m. without objection.

The minutes were approved on this the 29th day of August 2013 on Council Member Morrison's motion, Council Member Spelman's second on a 7-0 vote.