



**AUSTIN CITY COUNCIL  
MINUTES**

**SPECIAL CALLED MEETING  
MONDAY, AUGUST 19, 2013**

The City Council of Austin, Texas convened in a Budget Work Session Meeting on Monday, August 19, 2013, City Hall at 301 W. Second Street, Austin, Texas.

Mayor Leffingwell called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m.

Presentation was made by Ed Van Eenoo, Deputy Chief Financial Officer. Direction was given to staff to prepare an analysis of an across the board cut with the exception of public safety that would allow the City to keep the tax rate under 50.29 cents per \$100 taxable value.

**BRIEFINGS**

1. Briefing and discussion related to the departmental proposed budgets.  
Presentations were made by:

**Neighborhood Housing and Community Development - Betsy Spencer, Director and Rebecca Giello, Assistant Director**

**Direction was given to staff to provide clarification on the percent of households assisted with tenant-based rental assistance serving 30% or below MFI being proposed for FY14.**

**Parks and Recreation - Sara Hensley, Director, Cora Wright, Assistant Director, Jesse Vargas, Assistant Director, and Kimberly McNeeley, Assistant Director**

**Direction was given to staff to research the amount needed for senior meals/meals on wheels; provide details on the new tiered rental options available for park facilities; provide information on the cost to administer the Urban Forest grant; provide Council with a copy of staff comments provided to the Lake Austin Taskforce relating to their recommendations; identify any one-time expenditures that could be funded through stabilization funds rather than operations and maintenance; provide additional information on the projected increase in fees relating to golf green fees and cart rental fees and; provide an analysis of the impact of removing the cultural centers out of the Parks and Recreation Department. Direction was also given to provide Council with the staff responses to the budget recommendations received by the Parks Coalition including to provide the opening schedule and hours for each of the pools; the impact of \$1 million of additional funding on the schedule and hours; provide Council with the presentation provided to the Parks Board relating to the hours and schedule for pools; provide information on the recommendation relating to urban forest canopy; provide the number of teams needed to support the parks trail system and; provide staff prioritization of the recommendations from the coalition.**

**Austin Transportation Department - Rob Spillar, Director and Howard Lazarus, Public Works Director**

Direction was given to staff to provide information on the expenses and revenue generated by the residential parking program; proposed performance measures for the pedestrian hybrid beacon program; clarification on the decrease for the performance measure on the number of transportation related meetings staffed and technical support provided and; the number of times staff have to respond to calls relating to the parking meter equipment relating to customers not being able to retrieve credit cards from the machines.

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

Mayor Leffingwell called the meeting back to order at 1:06 p.m.

**Public Works - Howard Lazarus, Director**

Direction was given to staff to provide information on how the carbon footprint is calculated by the Office of Sustainability; to provide clarification on the cost for employee and what is included in those costs; to provide an analysis of the impact of increasing the minimum salary for crossing guard to \$11.00 per hour and; to provide the average length of employment for seasonal employees.

**Watershed Protection - Victoria Li, Director and Diane Gonzales, Financial Manager**

**Planning and Development Review - Greg Guernsey, Director, Sue Edwards, Assistant City Manager and Lisa Nickle, Financial Manager**

Direction was given to staff to provide information on the allocation of reimbursements for work on the HUD Sustainability Places Grant and if funds could be allocated to the South Shore Central Planning effort; provide clarification on one-time expenditures that are from the budget stabilization reserve; provide an analysis on providing an option to allow individuals pay for expedited plan review and; provide more details on the new staff being requested.

**Economic Growth and Redevelopment Services – Kevin Johns, Director, Rodney Gonzales, Deputy Director, Rosalinda Jalifi, Assistant Director, Slynovia Holt-Rabb, Financial Manager, and Mark Washington, Human Resources Director**

Direction was given to staff to provide additional information on how many of the thirteen temporary employees are working more than 30 hours per week; provide a copy of the Texas A&M Global Supply Chain Management Institute study outlining the recommended target distribution companies for the City; provide the number of seminars and participants participating in the international business training seminars; provide the matrix on the success of the program based on how many businesses expand into the international arena; analysis of the impact of shifting workforce development funding from social service contracts to Economic Development; provide a breakdown of where funding for Capital Idea, Workforce and Skill Point is located; provide clarification on the performance measure “number of business assisted that demonstrate growth in one more growth indicators”; provide the number of businesses which are provided assistance through the business solutions program and; provide the cultural tourism plan to Council when finalized.

**Austin Convention Center - Mark Tester, Director and Michele Gizelbach, Chief Financial Manager**

**Austin Energy - Larry Weis, General Manger, Ann Little, Senior Vice President of Finance and Corporate Services, and David Kutach, Budget Director**

**Direction was given to staff to provide additional information relating to the plan for the projected excess funds; provide information on when the department will have an updated estimate on the excess fund; provide the department's recommendation of contributions to the Working Capital Fund and the Contingency Fund and; provide breakdown on the community benefit charge.**

**Austin Resource Recovery - Bob Gedert, Director and Chad Presley, Chief Administrative Officer**

**Direction was given to staff to provide the percent of users of the Household Hazardous Waste Facility are non-city residents.**

**Mayor Leffingwell adjourned the meeting at 4:00 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.**