

**AUSTIN CITY COUNCIL  
MINUTES****BUDGET WORK SESSION  
THURSDAY, AUGUST 27, 2015**

The following represents the actions taken by the Austin City Council in the order they occurred during the meeting. While the minutes are not in sequential order, all agenda items were discussed. The City Council of Austin, Texas, convened in a budget work session on Thursday, August 27, 2015 in the Council Chambers of City Hall, 301 West Second Street, Austin, Texas.

**Mayor Adler called the Council Meeting to order at 11:29 a.m.**

1. Authorize execution of a lease agreement with Highstar Capital IV, L.P. for up to 30 acres of land at Austin-Bergstrom International Airport to improve, operate, and maintain a limited services airport terminal for a 30-year term with two five-year extensions.

**The motion authorizing the execution of a lease agreement with Highstar Capital IV, L.P. was made by Mayor Pro Tem Tovo and seconded by Council Member Troxclair.**

**The motion to delete the Capital Recovery, Section 10 of the proposed lease failed on Council Member Zimmerman's motion, Council Member Troxclair's second on a 1-10 vote. Council Member Zimmerman voted aye.**

**The motion authorizing the execution of a lease agreement with Highstar Capital IV, L.P. was approved with the following direction on Mayor Pro Tem Tovo's motion, Council Member Troxclair's second on a 10-0 vote. Council Member Zimmerman abstained.**

**The direction was to ensure the cap of \$11,000,000 is included in the lease agreement and to provide Council an update on the status of lease negotiations with other airlines at the main terminal.**

2. Approve a resolution adopting a maximum proposed property (ad valorem) tax rate of \_\_\_ cents per \$100 taxable value that the City Council will consider for Fiscal Year 2015-2016; and setting the date that the Council will adopt the Fiscal Year 2015-2016 property (ad valorem) tax rate (Suggested date and time: September 22, 2015 at 9:00 a.m. Austin City Hall, 301 West Second Street, Austin TX). (Public comment will be allowed on this item.)

**The motion to approve the resolution adopting a maximum proposed property (ad valorem) tax rate of 46.09 cents per \$100 taxable value was made by Council Member Casar and seconded by Council Member Pool.**

**The motion to amend the rate to 45.98 cents per \$100 taxable value failed on Council Member Troxclair's motion, Council Member Zimmerman's second on a 3-8 vote. Those voting aye were: Council Members Gallo, Troxclair and Zimmerman. Those voting nay were: Mayor**

Adler, Mayor Pro Tem Tovo and Council Members Casar, Garza, Houston, Kitchen, Pool and Renteria.

Resolution No. 20150827-002 was approved as amended on a roll call vote on Council Member Casar's motion, Council Member Pool's second on a 8-3 vote. Those voting aye were: Mayor Adler, Mayor Pro Tem Tovo and Council Members Casar, Garza, Houston, Kitchen, Pool and Renteria. Those voting nay were: Council Members Gallo, Troxclair and Zimmerman. The amendment was to adopt the maximum proposed property (ad valorem) tax rate of 46.09 cents per \$100 taxable value.

The motion setting the date that the Council will adopt the Fiscal Year 2015-2016 property (ad valorem) tax rate for September 22, 2015 at 9:00 a.m. Austin City Hall, 301 West Second Street, Austin TX, was approved on Council Member Gallo's motion, Council Member Casar's second on an 11-0 vote.

3. Set public hearings on the proposed property (ad valorem) tax rate for Fiscal Year 2015-2016 (Suggested dates and times: September 10, 2015 at 9:00 a.m. and September 17 at 4:00 p.m., Austin City Hall, 301 W. Second Street, Austin, TX). (Public comment will be allowed on this item)  
The public hearing was set for September 10, 2015, 9:00 a.m. and September 17, 2015, 4:00 p.m. at Austin City Hall, 301 W. Second Street, Austin, TX on Council Member Renteria motion, Council Member Pool second on an 11-0 vote with the following amendment.

The motion to amend the September 17, 2015, 4:00 p.m. hearing to leave the public hearing open until at least 6:30 p.m. was approved on Council Member Zimmerman, Council Member Houston's second on an 11-0 vote.

#### **PUBLIC HEARINGS AND POSSIBLE ACTIONS**

6. Conduct a public hearing to receive public comment on the City of Austin Fiscal Year 2015-2016 Proposed Budget.  
The public hearing was conducted and the motion to close the public hearing was approved on Council Member Renteria's motion, Council Member Casar's second on a 9-0 vote. Mayor Pro Tem Tovo and Council Member Pool were off the dais.

#### **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

5. Discussion and possible action regarding council's budget concept list.  
Direction was given to staff to provide a percentage of the decrease in the median property tax bill based on the proposed budget.

#### **EMPLOYEE SALARIES AND BENEFITS**

Direction was given to staff to: provide the number of retirees that are return to work employees; a breakdown of the number of temporary employees based on the number of months they have been employed (three months, six months and twelve months); add "alternative" to the description for item 1.06; make item 1.64 budget neutral; provide additional information on the breakdown of options for item 2.23; provide an analysis of impact to the retirement system if the contribution percentage is lowered as recommended in item 2.26.

#### **PUBLIC SAFETY**

Direction was given to staff to: provide information on the number police officers needed to address property crimes; provide information on other Police Departments that are doing community policing effectively; to provide statistical information on types of incidents that were

encountered during the PACE Team pilot project including the number of arrests because of alcohol or drugs; a breakdown of where the requested new full-time employees (FTE) for Austin Police Department (APD) will be assigned; information on how APD will improve community policing by placing greater efficiencies into place and the negative impacts should less FTEs be approved.

**FEES**

Direction was given to staff to: analyze the financial impact of providing non-profit organizations one free opportunity to have a free temporary food permit annually; provide a breakdown of temporary food permits by profit vs. non-profit organizations; and provide an update of the analysis fees for temporary food permits including the cost of service.

**UTILITIES**

Direction was given to staff to: provide an update on implementing the Veteran's Administration Supportive Housing as part of the Customer Assistance Program; enroll all the customers on the Customer Assistance Program wait list and work down the overage more quickly.

**FINANCIAL POLICY**

Direction was given to staff to: analyze options for alternatives to the policy prohibiting the budget stabilization reserve from being drawn down by more than one-third; to review all advertising budgets and find a way to reduce cost; to filter long-term vehicles from the debt fund of capital items; and correct the amount listed for item 2.13.

**QUALITY OF LIFE**

Direction was given to staff to: provide information on which items listed under the "quality of life" section that are on-going vs. one-time expenditures; and remove item 1.39 from the concept list.

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

Direction was given to staff to provide: the number of people served through the Capital IDEA program; and to make recommendations on a Chief Equity Officer.

**HEALTH, HUMAN SERVICES, SOCIAL SERVICES, EDUCATION**

Direction was given to staff to provide information on any existing contracts that the organizations may currently have with the City.

4. Discussion on the Fiscal Year 2015-16 Proposed Budget.  
Discussion occurred for this item under item number 5.

Mayor Adler adjourned the meeting at 8:14 p.m. without objection.

The minutes were approved on this the 1<sup>st</sup> day of October 2015 on Mayor Pro Tem Tovo's motion, Council Member Zimmerman's second on a 10-0 vote. Council Member Casar was off the dais.