



**AUSTIN CITY COUNCIL
MINUTES**

**BUDGET WORK SESSION MEETING
WEDNESDAY, MAY 17, 2017**

The City Council of Austin, Texas convened in a Budget Work Session Meeting on Wednesday, May 17, 2017, City Hall at 301 W. Second Street, Austin, Texas.

Mayor Adler called the Council Meeting to order at 9:14 a.m.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. Discussion of policy topics related to department overviews, finances, and the City's financial forecast.

Presentation was made by Ed Van Eenoo, Deputy Chief Financial Officer.

The following topics were discussed:

- **Percentage Cap on Public Safety Expenditures**

Presentations were made by Brian Manley, Chief, Austin Police Department; Rhoda Mae Kerr, Chief, Austin Fire Department; and Jasper Brown, Assistant Chief, Austin Emergency Medical Services.

Direction was given to staff to provide Council with the following: a breakdown of per capita cost for City services such as police, fire, health and human services, transportation, etc.; the breakdown of per capital for the entire budget for Austin, Dallas and San Antonio; summary of public safety budgets by personnel and non-personnel costs; when was the last year that Austin Police was fully staffed; breakdown of command staff and sworn officers compared by rank; status of developing metrics for the community policing recommendations; any required recertification to maintain the specialty pay for areas such as mental health certification; information on testing for bilingual stipend pay city-wide; amount of overtime that is being reimbursed by the permitting fees; is the cost of service study up to date regarding the impact of increased overtime costs for services such as building inspections; information on the needs of the Homeless Outreach Support Team (HOST) and whether the additional police officers requested will meet the demand; the plan for expanding and providing supporting to HOST including cost; a briefing on the Homeless Outreach Support Team; data on the number of calls involving indigents since the creation of Central Health; how does Austin compare with other cities regarding the increase in police incidents; an analysis of public safety pay scales over a five year period and recommendations on pay

using different pay structures such as whether pay was based on a certain percentage of median pay of other cities; assumptions used in the projected increase for public safety over the next five years; information on how overtime and vacancy rate with respect to the fire department were factored into the projected five year period; number of fire stations are single, double or triple company crews listed by fire station; cost of living analysis including salary data for public safety employees; and to include the City of Fort Worth in the comparison data.

Mayor Adler recessed the meeting at 12:35 p.m.

Mayor Adler reconvened the meeting at 1:35 p.m.

- **Prospective Tax Swap with Austin Independent School District**
Presentation was made by Ed Van Eenoo, Deputy Chief Financial Officer.
- **General Fund Reserve Policy**
Presentation was made by Ed Van Eenoo, Deputy Chief Financial Officer.
- **Prioritization of Council Initiatives**
Presentation was made by Ed Van Eenoo, Deputy Chief Financial Officer.

Mayor Adler adjourned the meeting at 3:10 p.m. without objection.

The minutes were approved on this the 8th day of June 2017 on Council Member Flannigan's motion, Council Member Alter's second on a 9-0 vote. Council Members Garza and Kitchen were absent.