



**AUSTIN CITY COUNCIL
MINUTES**

**BUDGET WORK SESSION MEETING
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 23, 2017**

The City Council of Austin, Texas convened in a Budget Work Session Meeting on Wednesday, August 16, 2017, City Hall at 301 W. Second Street, Austin, Texas.

Mayor Pro Tem Tovo called the Council Meeting to order at 9:10 a.m.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

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

2. Discussion on fiscal year 2017-2018 proposed budget.
Presentation was made by Ed Van Eenoo, Deputy Chief Financial Officer.

The following topics were covered:

Quality of Life Commission Budget Recommendations

Presentation was made by Ed Van Eenoo, Deputy Chief Financial Officer, Sara Hensley, Acting Assistant City Manager and Executive Staff Liaison for the LGBTQ Quality of Life Advisory Commission, Vince Cobalis, Chair of the Asian American Quality of Life Advisory Commission, Jill Ramirez, Chair of the Hispanic/Latino Quality of Life Resource Advisory Commission, Daryl Horton, Immediate Past Chair of the African American Resource Advisory Commission.

Direction was given to staff to provide the following: information to the various Quality of Life Commissions on efforts to develop a cross-functional work group relating to graffiti removal; information on any crossover of initiatives and social service contracts managed by Austin Public Health; information on what other entities such as Central Health are doing on targeted issue such as HIV prep services; information on any existing mechanism in place for developing a “mini – low barrier” grant program; options for improving tracking of performance of services of the social service programs over time; and options for improvements for the framework used by the Commission for submitting budget recommendations.

1. Discussion and possible action on the Council Budget Concept Menu.
Discussion occurred regarding the final date to post concept menu items. It was agreed that items could be added through the budget adoption. The date the item was added will be noted on the concept menu along with a note if staff was not able to provide detailed information prior to the budget adoption meetings.

Budget rider items from last year should not be included on the budget concept list unless a Council Member wishes to bring forth the item again. Items on the budget concept menu should include a Council Member sponsor or be an approved item from council (IFC).

The following items should be removed from the Budget Concept Menu:

- **S-2 – Implementation of Community Policing Report**

2. Discussion on fiscal year 2017-2018 proposed budget continued.
Convention Center

Presentation was made by Mark Washington, Assistant City Manager, Mark Tester, Director, Carla Steffen, Deputy Director, Austin Convention Center.

Direction was given to staff to provide the following: details on the amount of funds transferred into the Department's CIP Budget; details on the departments gain sharing plan including how the funds are distributed; polices outlining the reserve funds; salaries and benefits for full-time, part-time and temporary employees; details on the plans for lighting and sound upgrades; the estimated percentage and the number of visitors to Austin are coming for events at the Convention Center; options for refurbishing and reconfiguring the existing structures that would allow the center to accommodate additional events; data on number of interns and other career development plans used by the department to assist with employment opportunities for youth and the unemployed; clarity on the business model used by the Convention Center; methodology for fee discounts and the cumulative amount of fees that are set under the cost of service; amount of operating loss and how much of the loss is covered by the Hotel Occupancy Tax; links between the bond covenants and the percentage of the Hotel Occupancy Tax allocated to the Convention Center; what percentage of the tax is allocated back to the municipalities in Texas Cities who have implemented a Tourism Public Improvement District (T-PID); the amount in the department's capital reserve account and the balances in operating reserves; recommendations on what funds are available to use for historic preservation and cultural arts; and the methodology used for determining the number of visitors.

Executive Session

The City Council went into Executive Session, pursuant to Chapter 551 of the Texas Government Code, to receive advice from Legal Counsel, to discuss matters of land acquisition, litigation, and personnel matters as specifically listed on this agenda and to receive advice from Legal Counsel regarding any other item on this agenda.

Mayor Adler recessed the Council Meeting to go into Executive Session at 12:32 p.m.

3. Discuss legal issues related to City of Austin 2017 labor negotiations concerning employees in the Fire, Police, and EMS departments (Private consultation with legal counsel – Section 551.071 of the Government Code).

Executive Session ended and Mayor Adler reconvened the meeting at 2:55 p.m.

2. Discussion on fiscal year 2017-2018 proposed budget continued.
Visit Austin

Presentation was made by Tom Noonan, President and Chief Executive Officer and Julie Hart, Vice President and Chief Financial Officer of Visit Austin.

Direction was given to staff to provide the following: copies of the audit referenced in the presentation; details on the heritage grant program including the amount of funds received by the different groups; breakdown of the various expense categories; details on the costs and revenue of the items sold by Visit Austin; the policy for the Center's gain sharing program; and the amount of the operating reserve fund.

Mayor Adler adjourned the meeting at 4:00 p.m.

The minutes were approved on this the 28th day of September 2017 on Council Member Garza's motion, Council Member Casar's second on a 10-0 vote. Council Member Troxclair was absent.