

**AUSTIN CITY COUNCIL
MINUTES****SPECIAL CALLED BUDGET WORK SESSION
THURSDAY, AUGUST 29, 2019**

The City Council of Austin, Texas, convened in a special called meeting on Thursday, August 29, 2019 in the Boards and Commission Room of City Hall, 301 West Second Street, Austin, Texas.

Mayor Pro Tem Garza called the Council Meeting to order at 9:11 a.m.

DISCUSSION ITEM

1. Discussion about the fiscal year 2019-2020 proposed budget.
Presentation was made by Spencer Cronk, City Manager and Ed Van Eenoo, Deputy Chief Financial Officer and Budget Officer.

The following topics were discussed:

FIRST RESPONDER MENTAL HEALTH CALLS FOR SERVICE

Presentation was made by Rey Arellano, Assistant City Manager; BJ Walker, Consultant, Texas State of Mind, The Meadows Mental Health Policy Institute; Justin Newsom, Assistant Police Chief, Austin Police Department; Dawn Handey, Chief Operating Officer, Integral Care; and Andy Hofmeister, Assistant Chief, Emergency Medical Services.

Direction was given to staff to provide additional information relating to the questions raised about staffing issues at the 311 Call Center, the need for additional community health paramedics, and the budget impact of adding additional paramedics; the budget impact of increasing the mental health training for call takers and for incorporating mental health clinicians into the call center; to provide the recommendation on the expansion of Telehealth including the budget impact of implementing best practices, tools and software for Telehealth; examples of how implementing Telehealth can result in fiscal savings; measures to demonstrate the efficiency of these programs; how the implementation timeline for these programs would impact the budgetary costs; update on status and budget impact relating to filing the APD vacancies; the schedule for the next APD academy; schedule a briefing on public safety as part of the budget work sessions; provide the calculation used for projecting the attrition rates and the ability and percent of classes hired to fill the vacancies; the overtime costs for public safety for the current fiscal year and the past two fiscal years; and additional budget needs when brining new officers on.

OVERVIEW OF HOMELESSNESS SERVICES BUDGET

Presentation was made by Ed Van Eenoo, Deputy Budget Officer, Financial Services Department; Rosie Truelove, Director, Neighborhood Housing and Community Development Department; Kristi Samilpa, Homeless Strategy Office; Stephanie Hayden, Director, Austin Public Health; and Pete Valdez, Court Administrator, Downtown Austin Community Court.

Direction was given to staff to provide information on what is being funded by the Housing Trust Fund; details on the number of people served through the Workforce First pilot program; information on the various abatement and mitigation programs and whether they could be supported by continuing the Workforce First program; information on the improvements and security planned for the ARCH and details on why the existing funding for improvements has not been allocated; information on funding for the permanent toilets; information on where the funding for operations for the new shelter are located; and recommendations on metrics that could be collected or revised as the result of the additional funding allocated to homelessness services.

Mayor Adler recessed the meeting at 12:20 p.m.

Mayor Adler reconvened the meeting at 1:09 p.m.

DISCUSSION ITEM CONTINUED

1. Discussion about the fiscal year 2019-2020 proposed budget.
The following topics were discussed:

HOTEL OCCUPANCY TAX OVERVIEW

Presentation was made by Carla Steffen, Deputy Director, Austin Convention Center and Sylnovia Holt-Rabb, Assistant Director, Economic Development Department.

Direction was given to staff to provide a historical view of the Convention Center Capital fund; to provide a list of eligible historic preservation projects sorted by the year in which staff estimates the project to be funded; a recap of historic preservation projects previously funded; and an analysis of the projected growth of the Hotel Occupancy Tax, including the increase for Cultural Arts and Historic Preservation funding.

FY2020 BUDGET UPDATE

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

Direction was given to staff to provide information on increasing the senior homestead exemption and details on the analysis used to determine the appropriate percentage level of the stop loss policy.

Mayor Adler adjourned the meeting at 2:29 p.m. without objection.

The minutes were approved on this the 19TH day of September 2019 on Council Member Alter's motion, Mayor Pro Tem Garza's second on an 11-0 vote.