

ROCKWALL CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING

Thursday, August 25, 2022 - 4:00 PM

City Hall Council Chambers - 385 Goliad St., Rockwall, TX 75087

I. CALL PUBLIC MEETING TO ORDER (4:00 P.M.)

Mayor Fowler called the meeting to order at 4:02 p.m. Present were Mayor Kevin Fowler, Mayor Pro Tem Trace Johannesen and Councilmembers Clarence Jorif, Dana Macalik, Bennie Daniels and Mark Moeller. Also present were City Manager Mary Smith, Assistant City Manager Joey Boyd, as well as individual departmental directors and other staff. Councilmember Anna Campbell joined the meeting at 4:10 p.m. as noted below.

II. INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE - COUNCILMEMBER CAMPBELL

Councilmember Campbell was not yet present, so Mayor Fowler delivered the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. OPEN FORUM

Frank Tyminski
643 Windy Ridge Lane
Rockwall, TX

Mr. Tyminski came forth and provided brief expressions of gratitude to some city staff members with whom he recently interacted. He went on to express brief comments pertaining to the proposed tax rate and budget.

Bob Wacker
309 Featherstone
Rockwall, TX 75087

Mr. Wacker came forth and provided a lengthy presentation to Council related to the city's financial policies, historical information related to the tax rate(s), tax dollars collected over the years, the budget over time, etc. He generally expressed that he actually wishes that the city would raise the tax rate, rather than lower it.

It was noted that Councilmember Campbell arrived at 4:10 p.m. (during Mr. Wacker's comments).

No one else came forth to speak, so Mayor Fowler closed Open Forum.

IV. WORK SESSION

1. Hold a work session to discuss the City of Rockwall proposed budget for fiscal year 2023
(Note: a Public Hearing to hear public input re: the FY23 budget will appear on the Tues., Sept. 6, 2022 City Council Mtg. agenda)

Mayor Fowler provided brief, introductory comments related to the tax rate, sharing that this proposed budget aims to lower the effective tax rate. He commented about how the City Manager has been very conservatively projecting sales tax revenues for many years now, and she's done a good job over the years ensuring that the city has healthy 'reserves' in place. He generally indicated that he will allow City Manager Mary Smith to brief Council on the proposed budget at this time, and thereafter they will go section-by-section through the budget proposal. City Manager Mary Smith shared that her main focus for this upcoming fiscal year budget proposal is to ensure that staff salaries are adjusted so that the city can try and retain the employees it currently has while also remaining competitive in the market place. She indicated that other, neighboring cities in the area are all either proposing healthy raises or have already instituted those. So she feels strongly like this is an important focus for this upcoming budget year. She especially wants to ensure retention in public safety and also specifically in the Dispatch (911) center. She commented that the city dispatch center is fully staffed, and the current slate of employees we have in place work well together. She went on to provide a lengthy explanation regarding the "no new tax rate," under which a city must stay in order to avoid having to take the tax rate before the public for voter approval and chancing a tax rate rollback.

General discussion ensued between staff members and members of Council pertaining to the various departmental budget proposals and proposals for other, miscellaneous funds (i.e. the city's 'Recreational Development Fund;' 'Airport Special Revenue Fund;' '(Police) Seized Funds).

Mayor Fowler suggested having Mrs. Smith round the proposed tax rate down to 29.25 cents (per \$100 dollars of assessed value). Mrs. Smith indicated that she can do so, as that will only cause her to have to adjust downward by about \$3,000.

V. ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Fowler adjourned the work session at 5:47 p.m.

PASSED AND APPROVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ROCKWALL, TEXAS ON THIS 6th DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 2022.



KEVIN FOWLER, MAYOR

ATTEST:



KRISTY TEAGUE, CITY SECRETARY

