



C O U N C I L M I N U T E S *MAY 28, 2020, 6:30PM, SFD COMMUNITY CENTER*

A duly-noticed special called meeting of the Council was called to order at 6:30pm by BJ Barnes. It was noted that attendance at the meeting was being limited due to the pandemic and state-of-emergency declarations but was being live streamed on the Town's Facebook page. Barnes stated that persons would be allowed to enter the room one at a time to make public comments.

The following were present:

Council

BJ Barnes, Mayor
 Tim Sessoms, Mayor Pro-tem
 Lynne Williams DeVaney
 John O'Day
 Teresa Pegram
 Reece Walker

Staff

Scott Whitaker, Town Manager
 Dee Hall, Finance Officer
 Lance Heater, Town Clerk

Upon motion by O'Day, seconded by DeVaney and carried unanimously, the agenda was approved.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Barnes noted that there were no persons present who wished to comment. A written comment, read by Sessoms, was received as follows:

Beth Kaplan, 7979 Highfill Road, wrote in support of the Manager's proposed budget.

MANAGER PRESENTATION OF FINAL DRAFT OF FY20-21 BUDGET

Whitaker presented the recommended FY20-21 budget, the document of which was distributed to Council members. Whitaker provided an overview of the budget document and responded to questions from members of Council regarding specific budget items. The total expenditure budget proposed was \$2,163,700, which was \$387,485 higher than FY19-20. Budgeted revenues covered all operational costs with a fund balance appropriation of \$868,975 that addressed capital needs. Capital projects and larger expenses were detailed in the amount of \$971,000, with major items including: \$500,000 – town hall development; \$100,000 – contribution toward Bandera Farms property acquisition; \$100,000 – legal fees; and, \$60,000 – town welcome signs construction. The revenue budget proposed no change in the real property tax rate of 2.75 cents per \$100 in property valuation. The budget included and projected reserves in excess of \$7,100,000 for the end of FY19-20. It was noted that a public hearing on the budget would be conducted at the 6/9 Council meeting.



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Council members expressed appreciation to Whitaker and Hall for their work in developing the budget. In response to a question from Walker, Hall stated that projected sales tax revenues were 8% lower due to the effect of lower sales resulting from the pandemic. Pegram expressed support for lowering or eliminating property taxes that would be collected during the fiscal year due to the effects of the pandemic. Sessoms suggested exploring the possible use of the Laughlin Professional Development Center as town hall/meeting space. Barnes noted that half of the accumulated fund balance was due to interest earned on it over the years; therefore, most of the cost for a new town hall/meeting space could be funded through this revenue source.

Upon motion by O'Day, seconded by Sessoms and carried unanimously, the meeting was adjourned at 7:28pm.

BJ Barnes, Mayor

Lance G. Heater, Town Clerk