



**AUSTIN CITY COUNCIL
MINUTES**

**WORK SESSION MEETING
THURSDAY, MAY 8, 2014**

The City Council of Austin, Texas convened in a Budget Work Session on Thursday, May 8, 2014, City Hall at 301 W. Second Street, Austin, Texas.

Mayor Leffingwell called the meeting to order at 9:32 a.m.

1. Council discussion related to the City's economic outlook, five-year financial forecast, and City budget and tax rate issues.
General remarks were made by Marc Ott, City Manager and Ed Van Eenoo, Deputy Chief Financial Officer.

General direction was given to provide Council with the March 4, 2014 memo from Assistant City Manager Snipes to Council Member Morrison on the growth in management level positions and a detailed personnel summary that lists current and proposed FTE's for all departments including Support Services Fund. Provide a list of the identified critical/unmet needs for each department, the priority of those needs and the cost for each.

Questions and answers were responded to by:

Austin Fire:

Michael McDonald, Deputy City Manager, Rhoda Mae Kerr, Fire Chief, Harry Evans, Assistant Fire Chief and Dr. Ronnelle Paulson, Assistant Director.

Direction was given to staff to provide information on the projected vacancy savings compared to the overtime costs; cost estimates on the department's unmet needs including related equipment and full-time employees; and the priority of the unmet needs.

Austin Police:

Michael McDonald, Deputy City Manager and Art Acevedo, Chief of Police.

Direction was given to staff to provide detailed justification for the proposed increases; a cost effective analysis of the use of non-sworn reserve officers for special events and traffic control; an estimate on the number of hours sworn officers currently spend on traffic control; provide information on what is allowed under "Cite and Release", the city's policy and a 3 year snap shot of individuals released under this policy.

Emergency Medical Services:

Ernie Rodriguez, EMS Director and Kerri Lang, Assistant Director.

Animal Services:

Bert Lumbreras, Assistant City Manager, Abigail Smith, Chief Animal Services Officer and Kymberly Maddox, Chief Administrative Officer, Health and Human Services Department.

Health and Human Services:

Bert Lumbreras, Assistant City Manager, Carlos Rivera, Director, Stephanie Hayden, Assistant Director and Kymberly Maddox, Chief Administrative Officer.

Direction was given to staff to provide detailed information on the expected amount in grant funds specifically the 1115 Grant Fund and the amount the City is being paid back relating to this fund; and the funding included in the proposed budget for services provided by Child, Inc. and Meals on Wheels.

Mayor Leffingwell recessed the meeting at 11:45 a.m.

Mayor Leffingwell called the meeting back to order at 12:58 p.m.

Briefing and discussion related to the City's economic outlook, five-year financial forecast, and City budget and tax rate issues continued:

Austin Public Library:

Bert Lumbreras, Assistant City Manager, Brenda Branch, Director, Dana McBee, Assistant Director, Victoria Rieger, Financial Manager.

Direction was given to provide cost estimates and description of the departments unmet needs including increasing the bandwidth required to take advantage of Google Fiber; expansion of the RFID Security System being implemented to track library materials; and replacing the failed printing system.

Parks and Recreation:

Bert Lumbreras, Assistant City Manager, Sarah Hensley, Director, Kimberly McNeeley, Assistant Director, Cora Wright, Assistant Director and Angela Means, Financial Manager.

Direction was given to staff to provide information on the cost to keep selected pools open during winter to allow AISD use the pools for the swim team and reach out to AISD to gauge their interest; provide a summary of successes achieved through the additional funding received by PARD during FY14; and using the parkland acquisition funds included in the 2006 Bond for purchasing parkland located in the 25-year flood plain in the Onion Creek area, what restrictions exist on the use of parkland dedication fees.

Planning and Development:

Sue Edwards, Assistant City Manager, Greg Guernsey, Director and Lisa Nickle, Financial Manager.

Direction was given to staff to provide details on the impact the additional staff approved during the FY14 budget has had on customer service; and clarification on the responsibilities of the additional FTE requested for FY15 and the reorganization occurring within the department.

Municipal Court:

Rebecca Stark, Municipal Court Clerk, Pete Valdez, Downtown Austin Community Court Administrator and Judge Michael Coffey, Downtown Community Court.

Austin Energy:

Larry Weis, General Manager and Ann Little, Vice-President of Finance and Corporate Services.

Direction was given to staff to provide details on the growth in management positions; to a status report on how the Green Choice Program rate structure is working and its impact on customers; and a status report on the CAP Funding and the waitlist for services

Austin Water:

Robert Goode, Assistant City Manager, Greg Meszaros, Director and David Anders, Assistant Director.

Direction was given to staff to provide information on the division between Austin Water and the Fire Department relating to prescribed burns; on the requirements needed to use reclaimed water for Pease Park; information on the Infrastructure Leak Index and how the City compares with this standard; and a historical rationale for funding the water quality lands program and the Wild Lands Division through the department.

An additional Budget Work Session may be scheduled to discuss budget questions for the remaining departments.

Mayor Leffingwell adjourned the Work Session at 4:35 p.m. without objection.

The minutes were approved on this the 15th day of May, 2014 on Council Member Spelman's motion, Mayor Pro Tem Cole's second on a 7-0 vote.