



**AUSTIN CITY COUNCIL
MINUTES**

**BUDGET WORK SESSION MEETING
MONDAY, AUGUST 10, 2015**

The City Council of Austin, Texas convened in a Budget Work Session Meeting on Monday, August 10, 2015, City Hall at 301 W. Second Street, Austin, Texas.

Mayor Adler called the meeting to order at 9:57 a.m.

BRIEFINGS

1. Briefing and discussion related to the departmental proposed budgets.
Presentation was made by Ed Van Eenoo, Deputy Chief Financial Officer.

Direction was given to staff to provide a detail summary of the reserve transfers for all departments.

The following department staff answered questions.

Community Services Departments

- **Animal Services:** Bert Lumbreras, Assistant City Manager, Tawny Hammond, Chief Animal Services Officer, Aaron Caldwell, Acting Deputy Chief Animal Services Officer and Kymberly Maddox, Chief Administrative Officer, Health and Human Services Department.
- **Austin Code:** Rey Arellano, Assistant City Manager, Carl Smart, Director and Franklin Fejarang, Financial Manager.

Direction was given to staff to provide: additional information on the key performance indicators for Fiscal Year 2016; a recommendation the feasibility of a "SWAT" team or flex scheduling of staff to allow the Department to respond to compliance issues quicker than the proposed three day for first response; a breakdown of the number of staff currently allocated to short term rentals and other licensing programs; an update on the response to the University of Texas report on the City's Repeat Offender Program; additional information on the Department's goals for enforcement actions; a breakdown of the fees for licensing programs compared to the cost of the programs including enforcement; a recommendation the feasibility of incorporating the community relations staff into the Health and Human Services Department which provides similar services; information on the possibility of creating a program to address unregulated properties that operate as group homes; the breakdown of the cost for short term rentals for each of the three types of short term rentals; a recommendation on the option of reallocating staff based on the demand of the various licensing programs rather than adding additional staff; and a breakdown and explanation for the fee increase. Direction was also give to staff to consider reviewing existing goals including increasing the goals and performance measures and to evaluate the type of vehicle used by the Department and consider the use of more energy efficient vehicles.

Mayor Adler recessed the meeting at 12:28 p.m.

Mayor Adler called the meeting back to order at 1:13 p.m.

BRIEFINGS CONTINUED:

- **Austin Public Library:** Bert Lumbreras, Assistant City Manager, Brenda Branch, Director and Victoria Rieger, Financial Manager.

Direction was given to staff to provide: a report that details the number of customers using the Central Library by district; a detailed explanation on how benefits are budgeted for employees who are not anticipated to be hired at the beginning of the fiscal year; a breakdown of positions, salaries and start dates for the new positions for the Central Library; and a recommendation on the feasibility of having the branch libraries open on Sunday compared to a different day of the week.

- **Health and Human Services (HHSD):** Bert Lumbreras, Assistant City Manager, Shannon Jones, Director, Stephanie Hayden, Assistant Director and Kymberly Maddox, Chief Administrative Officer.

Direction was given to staff to provide: information on how the City is tracking the prior Council Resolution relating to increasing funding for HHSD based on growth in the population; information on how the City compares to peer cities based on the services provided; a recommendation on coordinating with Departments who have social service counseling service needs and the feasibility of combining the services under HHSD; a breakdown of the amount of requests received from the Austin Independent School District which are funded by the City; a recommendation on the feasibility of including support for the new high school youth leadership development program internship program; and a list of all of the social service contracts.

- **Neighborhood Housing and Community Development (NHCD):** Bert Lumbreras, Assistant City Manager, Betsy Spencer, Director and Rebecca Giello, Assistant Director.

Direction was given to staff to provide: information and recommendations on the Emergency Rental Program and the Best Single Source Program including any funding needs for any required studies related to the programs; a breakdown if possible on the number of households/persons assisted through the departments services by the various Medium Family Income (MFI) by district; and information on the impact of eliminating the “fee in lieu of” as an option for developers.

- **Parks and Recreation:** Bert Lumbreras, Assistant City Manager, Sara Hensley, Director and Angela Means, Financial Manager.

Direction was given to staff to provide: information on temporary staff including the salaries and length of employment; a list of each specific park and the funding increases by district; the cost for funding a position for an additional community liaison; additional information on the ratings for on the Trust for Public Land Rating for park quality scores; an update on the strategic plan for pool maintenance and a link to the Aquatics’ Master Plan; a cost breakdown for repairs for Mable Davis and Metz Pools; information about the requested position requested for the Zilker Park Botanical Garden Conservancy including cost projections and fund-raising expectations.

Public Safety Departments

- **Municipal Court: Rey Arellano, Assistant Director, Yolanda McKnight, Acting Municipal Court Clerk, Pete Valdez, Downtown Community Court Administrator and David Coleman, Financial Manager.**

Direction was given to staff to provide additional information on the amount of penalties assessed and the rate of collection of the fines.

Mayor Adler adjourned the meeting at 5:00 p.m. without objection.

The minutes were approved on this the 20th day of August 2015 on Council Member Gallo's motion, Council Member Troxclair's second on an 11-0 vote.