



**AUSTIN CITY COUNCIL  
MINUTES**

**BUDGET WORK SESSION MEETING  
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 26, 2017**

The City Council of Austin, Texas convened in a Budget Work Session Meeting on Wednesday, April 26, 2017, City Hall at 301 W. Second Street, Austin, Texas.

Mayor Pro Tem Tovo called the Council Meeting to order at 9:25 a.m. Council Members Casar was absent.

**DISCUSSION ITEMS**

1. Discussion of policy topics related to department overviews, finances, and the City's financial forecast.

**Presentation was made by Elaine Hart, Interim City Manager, and Ed Van Eenoo, Deputy Chief Financial Officer. An additional budget work session is being scheduled for May 17, 2017.**

The following topics were discussed:

- AFD/EMS wellness center

**Presentation was made by Rey Arellano, Assistant City Manager; Rhoda May Kerr, Chief; and Tom Todd, Assistant Fire Chief, Austin Fire Department.**

**Direction was given to staff to provide Council with the following: confirmation on whether the benefit of the wellness center is a consideration when comparing the employee benefits of City firefighters with other cities; information on how the wellness program benefits fit into the overall cost of health insurance premiums; and a list of the cities who were selected to participate in the initial wellness program.**

- Third party service EMS provider versus consolidated EMS/AFD service delivery model  
**Presentation was made by Rey Arellano, Assistant City Manager; Ernesto Rodriguez, Chief; Jasper Brown, Chief of Staff; Dr. Mark Escott, Medical Director; and Kerri Lang, Assistant Director, Emergency Medical Services Department.**

**Direction was given to staff to provide Council with the following: a copy of the 2015 EMS Report; staff recommendations on service delivery models and criteria for determining which department Fire or EMS should respond to a call; details on the service agreement between the City and County; staff recommendations regarding a**

**Fire/EMS merger; information on how we track multiple call locations to better know which public safety department should respond; and cost information to patients based on the different service delivery models.**

- **Level of EMS cost recovery**  
**Presentation was made by Rey Arellano, Assistant City Manager; Ernesto Rodriguez, Chief; Jasper Brown, Chief of Staff; Dr. Mark Escott, Medical Director; and Kerri Lang, Assistant Director, Emergency Medical Services Department.**

**Mayor Adler recessed the meeting at 11:43 a.m. without objection.**

**Mayor Adler reconvened the meeting at 1:20 p.m. without objection.**

- **Enterprise transfers**  
**Presentation was made by Ed Van Eenoo, Deputy Chief Financial Officer and Diane Siler, Deputy Budget Officer.**

**Direction was given to staff to provide Council with the following: information on any legal constraints preventing the City from using or transferring revenue to the general fund from that generated by Convention Center from sources other than the Hotel Occupancy Tax; and details on how the allocations are calculated for the transfers between enterprise funds to general fund departments.**

- **Special event fee waivers**  
**Presentation was made by Ed Van Eenoo, Deputy Chief Financial Officer.**

**Direction was given to staff to provide Council with the following: a breakdown of the fee waived for each of the City Co-sponsored events; details on when fee waivers result in costs absorbed by a department; breakdown of overtime costs relating to special events and how much is reimbursed by the event; and the status of the special events ordinance.**

- **Level of general homestead exemption**  
**Presentation was made by Ed Van Eenoo, Deputy Chief Financial Officer.**

**Direction was given to staff to provide Council with the following: information on the amount needed to increase the senior exemption to keep it cost neutral with any proposed increase; the total dollar amount of tax savings for each percentage increase in the general homestead exemption; and to confirm whether Council has the ability to lower the general homestead exemption once an increase has been approved.**

**Mayor Adler adjourned the meeting at 2:45 p.m. without objection.**

**The minutes were approved on this the 11<sup>th</sup> day of May 2017 on Council Member Houston's motion, Council Member Pool's second on an 11-0 vote.**