



**AUSTIN CITY COUNCIL  
MINUTES**

**BUDGET WORK SESSION MEETING  
WEDNESDAY, MAY 17, 2017**

The City Council of Austin, Texas convened in a Budget Work Session Meeting on Wednesday, May 17, 2017, City Hall at 301 W. Second Street, Austin, Texas.

Mayor Adler called the Council Meeting to order at 9:14 a.m.

**DISCUSSION ITEMS**

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

**Presentation was made by Ed Van Eenoo, Deputy Chief Financial Officer.**

**The following topics were discussed:**

- **Percentage Cap on Public Safety Expenditures**  
Presentations were made by Brian Manley, Chief, Austin Police Department; Rhoda Mae Kerr, Chief, Austin Fire Department; and Jasper Brown, Assistant Chief, Austin Emergency Medical Services.

**Direction was given to staff to provide Council with the following: a breakdown of per capita cost for City services such as police, fire, health and human services, transportation, etc.; the breakdown of per capital for the entire budget for Austin, Dallas and San Antonio; summary of public safety budgets by personnel and non-personnel costs; when was the last year that Austin Police was fully staffed; breakdown of command staff and sworn officers compared by rank; status of developing metrics for the community policing recommendations; any required recertification to maintain the specialty pay for areas such as mental health certification; information on testing for bilingual stipend pay city-wide; amount of overtime that is being reimbursed by the permitting fees; is the cost of service study up to date regarding the impact of increased overtime costs for services such as building inspections; information on the needs of the Homeless Outreach Support Team (HOST) and whether the additional police officers requested will meet the demand; the plan for expanding and providing supporting to HOST including cost; a briefing on the Homeless Outreach Support Team; data on the number of calls involving indigents since the creation of Central Health; how does Austin compare with other cities regarding the increase in police incidents; an analysis of public safety pay scales over a five year period and recommendations on pay**

using different pay structures such as whether pay was based on a certain percentage of median pay of other cities; assumptions used in the projected increase for public safety over the next five years; information on how overtime and vacancy rate with respect to the fire department were factored into the projected five year period; number of fire stations are single, double or triple company crews listed by fire station; cost of living analysis including salary data for public safety employees; and to include the City of Fort Worth in the comparison data.

**Mayor Adler recessed the meeting at 12:35 p.m.**

**Mayor Adler reconvened the meeting at 1:35 p.m.**

- **Prospective Tax Swap with Austin Independent School District**  
**Presentation was made by Ed Van Eenoo, Deputy Chief Financial Officer.**
- **General Fund Reserve Policy**  
**Presentation was made by Ed Van Eenoo, Deputy Chief Financial Officer.**
- **Prioritization of Council Initiatives**  
**Presentation was made by Ed Van Eenoo, Deputy Chief Financial Officer.**

**Mayor Adler adjourned the meeting at 3:10 p.m. without objection.**

**The minutes were approved on this the 8th day of June 2017 on Council Member Flannigan's motion, Council Member Alter's second on a 9-0 vote. Council Members Garza and Kitchen were absent.**