



**AUSTIN CITY COUNCIL
MINUTES**

**SPECIAL CALLED BUDGET WORK SESSION
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2016**

The City Council of Austin, Texas convened in a Special Called Budget Work Session Meeting on Thursday, September 8, 2016, City Hall at 301 W. Second Street, Austin, Texas.

Mayor Adler called the meeting to order at 2:42 p.m. Council Member Troxclair absent.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. Discussion and possible action on the Council Budget Concept Menu.
The following items from the Council Budget Concept Menu were discussed:

Revenue

Asset Forfeiture Funds – Funds for eligible uses including sexual assault kits, and other relevant one-time costs such as overtime (e.g., SXSW, Rundberg Walking Beat)

Reallocation of Public Safety monies – Funds not related to salaries/benefits or front line operations for HHS

Community Incentive Development Fund (one-time sweep) – One-time: Unallocated balance

Eliminate unallocated Economic Incentives Reserves Fund – One-time: Staff okay with releasing after reviewing fund history

Hold on Body Camera implementation (recurring) – Recurring: \$75k from APD and \$762k from CTM for iPhones

Hold on Body Camera implementation (one-time) – One-time unexpended CIP funds

Partial delay of Central Library full staffing – Potential savings for 38 vacant of 48 positions approved in FY16; 11 positions and contractual and commodities in FY17 already delayed in anticipation of April opening.

EMS 42hr work week transition – One-time: three year vs. two year phase-in

Equity Assessment Tool – Already funded through grant and work underway

10% reduction in select memberships, subscriptions, and travel

Building Maintenance 10% reduction (one-time) – One-time: This would leave \$2.5M for general building maintenance (double the FY16 amount)

Music venue Assistance program (one-time) – one-time (for \$375k): Sweeps all but \$22,356 of the fund for music industry expense

Senior Exemption - - hold to current \$80k – This matches Travis County and Central Health

Increase Convention Center payment to Downtown PID and have DAA use the funds for museum security and/or downtown loo – under legal review. Based on increase Convention Center property valuation (would require agreement with DAA)

Watershed Department – One-time: Monies transferred to CIP budget for Upper Onion Creek buy-outs (with understanding that these are the next highest)

Increase Tax Rate to .4418 – Rate set below roll-back. Impact to homeowner for median family home is \$1.79 per year or \$0.16 per month more than at proposed rate

Drawdown of ending balances – drawing down available ending balances of ARR, AE, AWU, and ATD

Labor Negotiations – Wage survey ad outside council can be moved to FY18 if negotiations delayed

Affordability Audit – Phase II of audit to be deferred for departmental reviews from November to March

Expense

HHS, Equity, Access:

-Child Care Continuity (HS1.05) – funded at same level matched by Travis County

-Food Access (HS1.04a) – FTE for program administrator

-Healthy food Retail Initiative (HS1.04b) – What are the metrics for this project? Have all funds been spent for this year?

Direction was given to staff to provide the impact the Healthy Food Retail Initiative will have should funding remain at \$200k

-Tenant Relocation (OT1.14) – Tenant relocation

-Parent Support Specialist (HS1.07) – Social Service spending through AISD

-Prime Time After-School (HS1.08) – Social Service spending through AISD

-Housing Trust Fund full appropriation (HS1.02) – As allowed by Council ordinance (in addition to the \$1.1M already in proposed budget)

-Workforce Training (Capital Idea) (ED1.04) -

-Eastern Crescent Infrastructure: Jain Lane (OT1.01) and Meadow Lake Blvd (OT1.07) – Certificate of Obligation (Cos)

-Quality of Life, Eastern Crescent, Spirit of East Austin, and additional HHS (QL1.01-1.30) – Includes Quality of Life and Spirit of East Austin

-HHS (Block allocation: in addition to above items) HS1.01 – Triples the \$500K additional undesignated amount already in proposed budget

Public Safety: Process Evidence Backlog (PS1.07) – Rape kits and other evidence awaiting testing

Public Safety: Forensic lab staffing (PS1.04) – DNA analysis

Downtown museum security for O.Henry and Dickinson Museums (PK1.10)- See above funded with additional Convention Center PID contribution (under legal review)

Downtown loo (HS1.14) – Funded with additional Convention Center PID contribution (under legal review)

Park Department Master Plan – PARD first priority, to be supplemented with DAA and Austin Park Foundation gifts

Music/Arts: arts space crisis, two entertainment services FTE's, music revenue development (ED1.02, 03, 05) – See above, funded with one-time sweep of music venue assistance program funds (would need to find continuing funding in future years)

Summer internships (PB1.03) – including Aviation, funded out of existing budgets

Northern Onion Creek Flood Buyouts (OT1.19) – funded with existing Watershed Department monies moved to CIP budget (assuming these acquisitions are among the next and highest priorities)

FTE in Transportation Department dedicated to identifying and seeking funding opportunities (OT1.11)

HOST Pilot additional year (PS1.03) – Continue homeless inter-disciplinary intervention team pilot

Increase reserves – to maintain reserve level at 12%

The following Budget Q&A Questions were discussed:

224 – With regard to new positions in the FY2017 Proposed Budget that are assigned partial-year funding, please list each position; the potential savings for the City if each position were budgeted for 6 months, 5 months or 4 months; as well as the total potential savings.

264 – As a follow up to Budget Question No. 180 which stated (Employees will pay less for services when utilizing Tier 1 providers,” will reproductive services be covered under this Tier as well?

Mayor Adler adjourned the meeting at 5:17 p.m. without objection.

The minutes were approved on this the 22nd day of September 2016 on Council Member Zimmerman's motion, Council Member Gallo's second on a 9-0 vote. Council Member Casar was off the dais. Council Member Troxclair was absent.