



City of Hutto

Minutes

City Council Special Meeting

Thursday, September 12, 2024 at 7:00 PM

Council Chambers, City Hall – 500 W. Live Oak Street

1. **CALL SESSION TO ORDER – 7:00 PM**
2. **ROLL CALL**

Members of City Council present: Mayor Mike Snyder; Mayor Pro Tem Peter Gordon; Councilmember Brian Thompson; Councilmember Dan Thornton; Councilmember Randal Clark (virtual); Councilmember Amberley Kolar; Councilmember Evan Porterfield

Members of staff present: James Earp, City Manager; Matt Wojnowski, Assistant City Manager; David Amsler, Director of Strategic Operations; Ashley Bailey, Executive Director of Development Services; Kristi Barnes, Community & Culture Officer; Alberta Barrett, Finance Director; Christina Bishop, Controller; Sara Cervantes, Director of Real Estate Services; Rick Coronado, Public Works Director; Cheney Gamboa, Director of Economic Development; Laura Hallmark, City Secretary; Jake Isbell, Emergency Management Coordinator; Dwain Jones, Assistant Police Chief; Shayna Jung, Communications Manager; William Kelly, Budget Analyst; Kate Moriarty, Assistant to City Manager; Kristin Phillips, Library Director; Matt Rector, City Engineer; David Reeves, IT Manager; Anna Rodriguez, Executive Management Assistant; Ethan Sims, Management Specialist; Kristiana Spencer, Human Resources Manager; Irene Talioaga, Director of Human Resources; Jeff White, Parks and Recreation Director; Jeffrey Yarbrough, Police Chief

3. **PUBLIC COMMENT**
 1. Corina Zepeda
 2. Beatriz Bocanegra
 3. Mara Rodriguez
 4. Martha Mangum
 5. James Weaver for Thomas Cook
 6. Kathleen Cook
 7. Rudy Perez
4. **PUBLIC HEARINGS AND RELATED ACTION**

- 4.4. Consideration and possible action relating to updating the 2024 Update: Hutto Transportation Impact Fee Program by adding the TxDOT on-system projects to the Capital Improvement Plan including the CR 132 Overpass Project to include

in the calculation of the updated maximum allowable service unit calculations for the Roadway Service Area.

Matt Rector, City Engineer and Eddie Hass – Freese & Nichols, reviewed the updated information. Clarification that if rates are higher than what was noticed, then approve at maximum rate noticed or have to re-notice.

Motion by Councilmember Clark, second by Councilmember Kolar, to approve \$1,237 for residential across the board and \$765 non-residential. Motion passed 4:3 (Thornton, Snyder, Porterfield).

- 4.5. Continue a public hearing and possible action on Ordinance No. O-2024-053, amending the Hutto City Code Section A.12.004, Impact fees; adopting updated Land Use Assumptions; adopting updated Capital Improvements Plans for Water and Wastewater and for Roadway Impact Fees; and Updated Maximum Allowable Service Unit Calculations per service area. (Matt Rector)

Mr. Rector and Lance Parish – Kimley-Horn, presented the information for this item and provided clarification on the difference between current and proposed measures/units. The public hearing closed at 7:55 PM with no additional speakers. Possible conflict of interest with Rick Porterfield (spoke during public hearing when originally opened – father of Councilmember Porterfield). Dottie Palumbo, City Attorney, stated there is no conflict of interest based on Rick Porterfield's employment status. Ms. Palumbo provided clarification of proposed ordinance.

Motion by Councilmember Clark to adopt the rates as presented. Motion died for lack of a second.

Motion by Councilmember Kolar, second by Councilmember Clark, to approve the water rate at a maximum of \$6,808. Motion passed 7:0.

Motion by Councilmember Clark, second by Councilmember Thompson, to approve the wastewater rate at \$12,670 as presented. Motion passed 5:2 (Snyder, Porterfield).

Motion by Councilmember Kolar, second by Councilmember Clark, to adopt Ordinance No. O-2024-053 for water/wastewater and include maximum allowed rates, remove section 3 with roadways and direct staff to re-notice for transportation/roadways. Motion passed 5:2 (Porterfield, Snyder).

- 4.1. Conduct a public hearing and related items in consideration and possible action to approve Ordinance No. O-2024-058 of the City of Hutto, Texas approving and adopting a budget for the City of Hutto for the Fiscal Year beginning October 1,

2024 and ending September 30, 2025 for the City of Hutto, Texas (Alberta Barrett)

Public hearing opened at 8:53 PM. Speaker: Rick Porterfield. James Earp, City Manager, provided clarification of parity pay and proposed increases in salaries. Council discussion regarding the possibility of alternate parameters for new/recent hires or lateral transfers; and cost difference if parity pay were capped at a lower number.

Motion by Councilmember Kolar, second by Councilmember Thompson, to reduce the proposed budget as follows:

<i>Sidewalk/drainage crew (4 FTEs)</i>	<i>\$412,713.56</i>
<i>Street Repairs</i>	<i>\$500,000</i>
<i>Parity Pay</i>	<i>\$289,997</i>
<i>Longevity Pay</i>	<i>\$ 54,595</i>
<i>Certification Pay</i>	<i>\$164,000</i>
<i>Aquatic Feasibility Study</i>	<i>\$ 75,000</i>
<i>Contributions to Civic Programs</i>	<i>\$ 22,000</i>
<i>TOTAL</i>	<i>\$1,518,305.56</i>

Councilmember Thompson asked to include a friendly amendment to include the Library Study, which Councilmember Kolar declined stating those funds were allocated elsewhere.

Motion by Councilmember Clark, second by Councilmember Kolar, for a friendly amendment that parity pay be capped at \$4,500 to equate to an aggregate of \$500,000. Amendment motion passed 5:2 (Porterfield, Snyder)

Amended original motion passed 5:2 (Porterfield, Snyder)

Motion by Mayor Snyder, second by Councilmember Porterfield, to reduce the proposed City Council budget as follows:

<i>Office Supplies</i>	<i>\$ 150</i>
<i>Reference Books</i>	<i>\$ 650</i>
<i>Food/meals</i>	<i>\$ 8,000</i>
<i>Clothing</i>	<i>\$ 700</i>
<i>Tech Equip</i>	<i>\$ 300</i>
<i>Fuel mileage</i>	<i>\$ 250</i>
<i>Other supplies</i>	<i>\$ 200</i>
<i>Professional Services</i>	<i>\$ 3,353</i>
<i>Training & Development</i>	<i>\$ 34,300 24,300</i>
<i>Travel & Lodging</i>	<i>\$ 3,748</i>
<i>TOTAL</i>	<i>\$ 51,651 38,298</i>

Motion by Councilmember Kolar, second by Mayor Pro Tem Gordon, for an amendment to maintain \$10,000 for Strategic Planning in Training & Development and \$3,353 in Professional Services for the CAPCOG Clean Air initiative/membership. Motion passed 5:2 (Porterfield, Thompson)

Amended original motion passed 7:0.

Motion by Councilmember Kolar, second by Councilmember Thompson, for salaries for Councilmembers Place 2, 5, 6 and the Mayor to be allocated to a fund to assist with resident utility payments.

Motion by Mayor Snyder, second by Councilmember Porterfield, for the entire Council's salaries to be allocated toward a utility fund to assist with utility payments.

Ms. Palumbo stated there could not be such an allocation as the salaries are outlined specifically in the Home Rule Charter, but Councilmembers could on their own donate those funds to a special fund that could be created for that purpose.

Councilmember Kolar rescinded her original motion.

Motion by Mayor Snyder, second by Councilmember Porterfield, to reduce the proposed City Manager's Office budget as follows:

<i>Seasonal Labor</i>	<i>\$ 20,000</i>
<i>Vehicle Allowance (ACM)</i>	<i>6,000</i>
<i>Longevity Pay</i>	<i>780</i>
<i>Reference Books</i>	<i>690</i>
<i>Special Events</i>	<i>7,235</i>
<i>Food/Meals</i>	<i>12,240</i>
<i>Clothing</i>	<i>500</i>
<i>Fuel Mileage</i>	<i>250</i>
<i>Professional Services</i>	<i>45,000</i>
<i>Training & Development</i>	<i>50,480</i>
<i>Travel & Lodging</i>	<i>13,500</i>
<i>TOTAL</i>	<i>\$156,675</i>

Council discussion regarding a potential conflict with contractual obligations, changing employee "pay" and the necessity for training for some professional affiliations.

Motion failed 3:4 (Gordon, Kolar, Thompson, Clark).

Mr. Earp suggested the requested Demographer position for reduction.

Motion by Councilmember Thompson, second by Councilmember Clark, to reduce the proposed budget by \$45,000 for the proposed Demographer position. Motion passed 5:2 (Gordon, Kolar).

*Motion by Mayor Snyder, second by Councilmember Porterfield, to reduce the proposed budget for the City Secretary's Office as follows:
Iron Mountain (records storage) \$ 15,000*

Motion passed 5:2 (Kolar, Thompson)

Motion by Mayor Snyder, second by Councilmember Porterfield, to reduce the proposed budget for Communications as follows:

<i>Multi-Media Specialist</i>	<i>\$ 90,511</i>
<i>Digital Marketing Specialist</i>	<i>76,633 position filled</i>
<i>Business meals</i>	<i>500</i>
<i>Clothing</i>	<i>580</i>
<i>Digital Ads</i>	<i>21,825</i>
<i>Marketing Giveaways</i>	<i>4,000</i>
<i>Internal Performance Poll</i>	<i>14,085</i>
<i>Supplemental Multi-media</i>	<i>6,500</i>
<i>Software (Hootsuite)</i>	<i>15,000</i>
<i>Longevity pay</i>	<i>240</i>
<i>Training & Development/TAMIO</i>	<i>8,050</i>

David Amsler – Director of Strategic Operations and Shayna Jung – Communications Manager, provided additional information and clarification of items requested. Council discussion regarding possibility of delaying filling position later in year, and public submitting photos for events.

Motion failed 2:5 (Clark, Gordon, Thompson, Thornton, Kolar)

Motion by Councilmember Clark, second by Councilmember Thornton, to postpone hiring Mutli-media Specialist for ½ the year at a cost of \$45,000. Motion failed 2:5 (Kolar, Gordon, Thompson, Porterfield, Snyder).

Motion by Mayor Snyder, second by Councilmember Clark, to approve the remainder of the budget presented by the City Manager. Council discussion on the motion. Motion failed 0:7.

Motion by Councilmember Kolar, second by Mayor Snyder, to direct staff to calculate the remainder of food and clothing.

Friendly amendment to not include uniforms (i.e. PD, Parks, Streets).

Motion passed 7:0.

Motion by Councilmember Kolar, second by Councilmember Clark, to reduce the proposed budget as follows:

<i>Public art</i>	<i>\$ 2,500</i>
<i>Partner education</i>	<i>6,300</i>
<i>Non-profit Fair</i>	<i>2,050</i>
<i>Weather stations</i>	<i>40,450</i>
<i>Employee recognition sw</i>	<i>6,000</i>
<i>Holiday banquet facility</i>	<i>10,000</i>
<i>Tuition reimbursement</i>	<i>10,400</i>
<i>TOTAL</i>	<i>\$77,700</i>

Motion passed 7:0.

Motion by Mayor Pro Tem Gordon, second by Mayor Snyder, to remove the Scorpion traffic mitigation vehicle in the amount of \$75,000. Motion passed 7:0.

Motion by Mayor Snyder, second by Mayor Pro Tem Gordon, to lessen the amount allotted to "Legal" by \$400,000 and add \$400,000 for land and/or building for an American Legion facility. Council discussion on the motion.

Motion failed 3:4 (Clark, Kolar, Thompson, Gordon)

Motion by Councilmember Thornton, second by Councilmember Kolar, to make the following changes to the proposed budget:

Community Benefit Fund:

<i>remove Library Feasibility Study</i>	<i>\$119,000</i>
<i>remove Recreation Facility Study</i>	<i>175,000</i>
<i>remove Aquatic Facility Study</i>	<i>200,000</i>
<i>TOTAL</i>	<i>\$494,000</i>

Move to Community Benefit Fund:

Economic Development:

<i>Holidays in Hutto</i>	<i>\$ 88,000</i>
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Parks and Recreation:

<i>Special events</i>	<i>\$207,225</i>
<i>Downtown Christmas Lights</i>	<i>60,000</i>

TOTAL

\$355,225

Motion passed 7:0.

The public hearing closed at 11:40 PM.

Motion by Councilmember Clark, second by Mayor Pro Tem Gordon, to approve the remainder of the budget as presented by the City Manager.

Councilmember Kolar made a friendly amendment to add in the materials and labor for sidewalk maintenance as the Streets/Drainage Crew was removed earlier: \$150,000 labor, \$50,000 sidewalk materials, and \$50,000 drainage materials. Council discussion on the amendment.

Councilmember Kolar rescinded the motion.

Motion by Mayor Snyder, second by Councilmember Porterfield, to amend motion to remove the proposed Chief Building Official position (\$134,889) and reallocate those funds for land and/or building for the American Legion.

Council discussion on the motion. Mr. Earp and Ashley Bailey – Executive Director of Development Services provided additional information. Question the validity of the motion. Ms. Palumbo stated it was allowed.

Motion by Councilmember Clark to appeal the ruling of the City Attorney to allow the amendment. Motion failed due to lack of a second.

Motion failed 3:4 (Kolar, Clark, Gordon, Thompson).

Motion by Mayor Pro Tem Gordon, second by Councilmember Thompson to amend motion to remove the trip to Charleston (\$2,500). Motion passed 7:0.

Councilmember Clark called for the vote on his original motion.

Motion by Mayor Snyder, second by Councilmember Thornton to continue the discussion. Motion passed 6:1 (Clark).

Motion by Mayor Snyder, second by Councilmember Porterfield, to amend motion to reduce the mowing line item by \$121,639 and allocate those savings toward the purchase of land and/or building for the

American Legion. Mayor Pro Tem Gordon requested the motion be separated into two votes.

Motion to reduce the mowing line item passed 6:1 (Kolar).

Motion to amend motion to allocate those funds toward the American Legion failed 3:4 (Kolar, Gordon, Clark, Thompson).

Motion by Councilmember Thornton, second by Councilmember Kolar, to amend motion to add in additional funds for DEI training from the proposal Council received as follows:

<i>Proposal #1</i>	<i>\$3,800</i>
<i>Proposal #2</i>	<i>4,600</i>
<i>Proposal #3</i>	<i>2,850</i>
<i>Additional</i>	<i>4,000</i>
<i>TOTAL</i>	<i>\$15,250</i>

Motion passed 7:0.

Council discussion regarding HOT funds, contracted savings and possible reductions.

Motion by Mayor Snyder, second by Mayor Pro Tem Gordon, to amend motion to reduce budget by \$55,000 from the contractual savings from audit and financial advisory services. Motion passed 7:0.

Motion by Councilmember Clark, second by Councilmember Thornton, to amend the motion to add back in \$225,000 for street maintenance. Motion passed 7:0.

Motion by Mayor Snyder to move \$139,000 from Community Benefit Fund to be allocated toward land and/or building for American Legion. Mayor Snyder rescinded this motion.

Council discussion regarding Community Benefit Fund, unused PID funds, and legalities for approving the tax rate and the budget.

Councilmember Clark called for the vote on his original motion.

Motion by Mayor Snyder, second by Councilmember Thornton, to continue the discussion. Motion passed 4:3 (Kolar, Clark, Gordon).

Council discussion regarding veterans memorial and American Legion facility.

Councilmember Clark called for the vote on his original motion.

Motion by Mayor Snyder, second by Councilmember Thornton, to continue the discussion. Motion passed 5:2 (Thompson, Clark).

Council discussion regarding non-profit organizations, American Legion, veterans, PID funds, and the Economic Development budget.

Councilmember Clark called for the vote on his original motion.

Original motion, as amended, passed 4:3 (Thornton, Porterfield, Snyder).

- 4.2. Consideration and possible action to approve Resolution No. R-2024-201 ratifying the property tax increase reflected in the City of Hutto Fiscal Year 2024-2025 operating budget (Alberta Barrett)

Motion by Councilmember Kolar, second by Mayor Pro Tem Gordon, to set the tax rate at 0.422194, which is effectively a 5.6% increase in the tax rate above the no new revenue for fiscal year 2025.

Council discussion on the motion, clarification of agenda item and order of approval.

Mayor Pro Tem Gordon rescinded his second. Councilmember Kolar rescinded her motion.

Motion by Councilmember Clark, second by Mayor Pro Tem Gordon, to reconsider Item 4.1 to adjust the revenue side to reflect the no new revenue tax rate with additional funds to go to fund balance. Motion passed 7:0.

- 4.1 Conduct a public hearing and related items in consideration and possible action to approve Ordinance No. O-2024-058 of the City of Hutto, Texas approving and adopting a budget for the City of Hutto for the Fiscal Year beginning October 1, 2024 and ending September 30, 2025 for the City of Hutto, Texas (Alberta Barrett)

Motion by Councilmember Thornton, second by Mayor Snyder, to reduce the revenue in the FY 2025 budget by \$3,083,644. Motion passed 4:3 (Kolar, Thompson, Clark).

Motion by Councilmember Clark, second by Councilmember Kolar, to approve Ordinance No. O-2024-058 of the City of Hutto, Texas, adopting the budget for Fiscal Year 2024-2025 beginning October 1, 2024, and ending September 30, 2025, for the City of Hutto, Texas. Motion passed 7:0.

No action is necessary on Item 4.2 as there is no increase.

- 4.3. Conduct a public hearing and related items in consideration and possible action to approve Ordinance No. O-2024-059 of the City of Hutto, Texas, levying Ad Valorem taxes for the use and support of the municipal government for the City of Hutto for the Fiscal Year 2024-2025 (Alberta Barrett)

Public hearing opened at 1:28 AM and closed at 1:45 AM with the following speakers: Beatriz Bocanegra, Corina Zepeda, Brandon DeLeon and Travis Boucher.

Motion by Councilmember Thompson, second by Councilmember Clark, to approve Ordinance No. O-2024-059, setting the tax at the no new revenue rate of 0.399553, of that M&O is 0.265921 and I&S is 0.133632. Motion passed 7:0.

5. EXECUTIVE SESSION

The City Council for the City of Hutto reserves the right to adjourn into executive session at any time during the course of this meeting to discuss any of the matters listed above as authorized by the Texas Government Code Sections 551.071 (Litigation/Consultation with Attorney), 551.072 (Deliberations regarding real property), 551.073 (Deliberations regarding gifts and donations), 551.074 (Deliberations regarding personnel matters) or 551.076 (Deliberations regarding deployment/implementation of security personnel or devices) and 551.087 (Deliberations regarding Economic Development negotiations).

- 5.1. Receive legal advice pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 551.071 (Consultation with Attorney) and deliberate pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 551.087, (Deliberation Regarding Economic Development Negotiations) relating to claims related to the redesign of the Megasite Spine Road Construction project.

There was no executive session held.

6. ACTION RELATIVE TO EXECUTIVE SESSION

- 6.1. Consideration and possible action related to Executive Session agenda items, listed above.

7. ADJOURNMENT – 1:52 AM

ATTEST:


Laura Hallmark, City Secretary


Mike Snyder, Mayor