



City of Hutto

Minutes

**City Council Special Meeting
Thursday, August 22, 2024 at 6:00 PM
City Council Chambers
Hutto City Hall
500 W. Live Oak Street**

1. CALL SESSION TO ORDER – 6 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; 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; Conor Mitchell, Police Lieutenant; 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; Amanda Taylor, Assistant City Secretary; Jeff White, Parks and Recreation Director; Jeffrey Yarbrough, Police Chief

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

1. *Jacqueline Coleman*
2. *Perry Savard*
3. *James Weaver*

4. *Will Williams*
5. *Ida Weaver*

Online comments received from: Tanya Ward, Kyle Thomas, John Tesauro, Terrie Thibodeaux, Julia Anderson, George Zuniga, Jessica Nomura, Isaac Campbell, Ravi Ranjan, Carolyn Wrinkle, Maggie Connaughty, James Griner, Carly Krohn, Doris Dlouhy, Amy Williams, Kathleen Cook, Douglas Masters

4. OTHER BUSINESS

4.1 Discussion and possible action on Proposed Fiscal Year 2025 Budget.

Motion by Councilmember Kolar, second by Councilmember Thompson, to discuss proposed budget items over \$100,000 for potential cuts. Motion passed 7:0.

Mayor Pro Tem Gordon suggested the 4 FTE's for the Streets & Drainage Crew with associated equipment and benefits. Rick Coronado – Director of Public Works, provided information on the crew.

Cost of crew (benefits & equipment): **\$412,713.56**

Mayor Pro Tem Gordon suggested amount taken from General Fund fund balance to keep it at the 20% reserve amount set by policy.

Additional funds from fund balance: **\$738,000**

Mayor Pro Tem Gordon suggested the Multi Media Specialist position be reviewed (\$65,000). Shayna Jung – Communications Manager, provided information on the position.

Councilmember Thompson inquired about the proposed calendar software. Ms. Jung provided that information. Councilmember Thompson suggested increased use of Hootsuite this year and perhaps next year add the calendar software.

Calendar software **\$23,000**

Councilmember Clark expressed interest in recommendations from Councilmembers wishing to proceed with the No New Revenue rate.

Councilmember Kolar suggested reducing the road maintenance allocation.

Road Maintenance Funding – reduce amount **\$500,000**

Councilmember Porterfield requested an explanation for employee insurance benefits. James Earp – City Manager, provided that information. Mr. Earp provided information regarding parity begun the previous year in keeping with City Council's policy direction that employee pay be in the 50th percentile of comparison cities. He then further explained the pay steps process.

Councilmember Clark inquired about the necessary funds should the parity cap be changed from \$10,000 to \$5,000.

Councilmember Thornton suggested reducing the funds allocated for parity.

Parity reduction

\$289,997

Councilmember Porterfield suggested reviewing the funds allocated for Training and Development (\$275,000) by what is not required for professional certifications.

Councilmember Porterfield suggested reviewing the following line items for reductions or deletions:

Special Events	\$324,000
Travel	\$61,000
Tuition reimbursement	\$20,000
Car Allowance	\$24,000
Employee Functions	\$24,450
Longevity	\$58,000
Food & Meals	\$46,853
Outside Organization Fund	\$208,602

Council discussion regarding smaller amount items that add up; food allocation for City Council; focus on taxpayers more than employees; provision of necessary resources for staff to provide services; high employee turnover rate in 2019 that has been significantly reduced.

Councilmember Clark suggested reducing the parity amount along with street/drainage/materials.

Mayor Snyder suggested reducing training and development.

Continued Council discussion regarding issued and unused debt, possible debt issuances for FY 2025 and timeline for use of funds already issued.

Motion by Mayor Snyder, second by Councilmember Porterfield, to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed 4:3 (Gordon, Clark, Thornton).

5. ADJOURNMENT – 9:19 PM

ATTEST:


Laura Hallmark, City Secretary


Mike Snyder, Mayor

