
ROCKWALL CITY COUNCIL BUDGET WORK SESSION MEETING
Wednesday, August 23, 2023 - 5:30 PM
City Hall Council Chambers - 385 Goliad St., Rockwall, TX 75087

I. CALL PUBLIC MEETING TO ORDER

Mayor Johannesen called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. Present were Mayor Trace Johannesen, Mayor Pro Tem Anna Campbell, and Councilmembers Mark Moeller, Clarence Jorif, Dennis Lewis and Tim McCallum. Also present were City Manager Mary Smith and Assistant City Manager Joey Boyd. Councilmember Sedric Thomas joined the meeting at 5:56 p.m.

II. EXECUTIVE SESSION.

THE CITY OF ROCKWALL CITY COUNCIL WILL RECESS INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS THE FOLLOWING MATTER AS AUTHORIZED BY CHAPTER 551 OF THE TEXAS GOVERNMENT CODE:

1. Discussion regarding (re)appointments to city regulatory boards and commissions, including conducting applicant interview(s), pursuant to §551.074 (Personnel Matters)

III. ADJOURN EXECUTIVE SESSION

Council adjourned from Ex. Session at 5:56 p.m.

IV. RECONVENE PUBLIC MEETING (6:00 P.M.)

Council reconvened the public meeting at 6:00 p.m. with all seven councilmembers being present.

V. INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE - MAYOR PRO TEM CAMPBELL

Mayor Pro Tem Campbell delivered the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

VI. TAKE ANY ACTION AS A RESULT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION

Council took no action as a result of Ex. Session at this time. However, see below for action(s) taken later in the evening.

VII. OPEN FORUM

Mayor Johannesen asked if anyone would like to come forth and speak at this time. No one indicated such, so he closed Open Forum.

VIII. WORK SESSION

1. Hold work session to discuss and consider the proposed City of Rockwall budget for the upcoming 2024 fiscal year.

City Manager Mary Smith started out the discussion by briefing Council on the high points of the budget proposal. The budget proposes a tax rate of 27.0245 cents per one hundred dollars of assessed value. This is a decrease of 2.22 cents from the previous year, which represents the city's efforts to maintain a low tax rate, while maximizing benefits provided to residents and businesses. Of this tax rate, approximately 59% will be dedicated to operations and maintenance in the General Fund, and 41% will be allocated to debt service. Brief discussion took place regarding what's known as the "No New Revenue Rate," and Mrs. Smith indicated that this proposed tax rate complies with this fairly new legislative requirement. She explained that sales tax revenues remain healthy; however, with the impending IH-30 reconstruction project, the city cannot assume that sales taxes won't be

impacted by the construction and the disturbances it will cause for businesses along IH-30. So, this budget presumes a 'flat' sales tax projections because that is the safest thing to do. Discussion took place regarding proposed 'market rate' adjustments to employee salaries, with varying percentages being proposed for police (sworn) personnel, fire personnel, (emergency) communications personnel and non-sworn city employees. Indication was given that our city benchmarks against seven other, similar cities within the metroplex in order to try and stay competitive in the job market. Mrs. Smith explained that the hardest positions within the city to recruit for are police positions and 'field maintenance workers' (i.e in the streets, water, wastewater departments). So, she stressed the importance of the city remaining competitive in the job market as far as salaries are concerned.

Council and staff then proceeded to go through the various sections of the proposed budget, one-by-one, engaging in questions, answers and general discussion while doing so.

Councilmember McCallum expressed a desire for the City to look into what it would take in order to have our municipal court become a 'court of record.' Staff indicated they will evaluate this possibility further and return back at a later date to discuss this topic further.

Following discussions that ensued pertaining to the various sections of the proposed budget, indication was given that a public hearing on the budget and tax rate will be held at the Sept. 5 council meeting, and then Council will be asked to take action on the budget at the Sept. 18 council meeting.

At 7:42 p.m., Mayor Johannesen recessed the public meeting to go back into Ex. Session to discuss (re)appointments to city regulatory boards and commissions.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Council came out of Ex. Session at 8:25 p.m., and Mayor Johannesen called the public meeting back to order. As a result of post-meeting Executive Session discussions, Council took the following actions:

Mayor Pro Tem Campbell moved to appoint Jay Odom to the city's Planning & Zoning Commission (replacing Jerry Welch who is 'terming out' this month and for a three-year term to run through August of 2026). Councilmember McCallum seconded the motion, which passed by a vote of 7 ayes to 0 nays.

Councilmember McCallum moved to appoint John Hagaman to the city's Architectural Review Board (replacing Julien Meyrat who has 'termed out') (for a two-year term to run through August of 2025). Councilmember Jorif seconded the motion, which passed unanimously of those present.

Councilmember Lewis moved to appoint Revi Menasche to the city's ART Review Team / ART Commission (replacing Sean Charles Martin for a partial term to run through Aug. of 2024). Mayor Pro Tem Campbell seconded the motion, which passed by a vote of 7 ayes to 0 nays.

Mayor Johannesen adjourned the meeting at 8:27 p.m.

PASSED AND APPROVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ROCKWALL, TEXAS ON THIS 5th DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 2023.

ATTEST:

KRISTY TEAGUE, CITY SECRETARY




TRACE JOHANNESEN, MAYOR