

KENNEDALE CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
SPECIAL MEETING VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE
JULY 14, 2020 AT 6:00 PM

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I. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Brian Johnson called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

A. ROLL CALL

Participating via VideoConference: Mayor Brian Johnson; Josh Altom, Place 1; Chris Pugh, Place 2; Mayor Pro Tem Lee, Place 3; Linda Rhodes, Place 4; Chad Wandel, Place 5; **Absent:** None. **Staff Participating via VideoConference:** City Manager George Campbell, City Secretary and Communications Coordinator Leslie E. Galloway, Finance Director Lakeita Sutton, Public Works Director Larry Hoover, Fire Chief James Brown, Police Chief Tommy Williams, Library Director Amanda King, Director of Human Resources and Administrative Services Danielle Clarke, and Director of Planning and Economic Development Melissa Dailey

II. WORK SESSION

- A. Receive a report, hold a discussion, and provide staff direction regarding FY2020–21 Budget priorities

City Manager George Campbell first announced that, for the first time in 13 years, the City's FY19-20 Budget received the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award from the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA), and congratulated Finance Director Lakeita Sutton and all associated staff. Sutton stated that she and her staff had focused on making the budget more user-friendly and meaningful and were proud of the accomplishment. The Mayor and Council expressed their appreciation and congratulated the staff on the achievement.

Campbell then stated that this meeting had been requested by the Council to provide input to staff regarding budget priorities. Finance Director Lakeita Sutton then offered a presentation that included end-of-year FY19-20 projections, high level FY20-21 revenue and expenditure projections (noting that final numbers had not yet been received from the County Tax Assessor), new program requests submitted by each department (but not yet evaluated by Finance or the City Manager), a budget timeline, and next steps. There was some discussion of savings realized through personnel vacancies, staff's continued dedication to preserving the bond rating and encouraging development, actual expenditures versus approved amounts, the continued drawdown of the General Fund Balance, the potential for the City Manager's Proposed Budget to be supported by an ad valorem tax rate increase, and the impacts that COVID-19 might continue to have on revenues.

There was also some discussion among the Council of the requests to add a Fire Marshall and Assistant City Manager position, succession planning, the requested ambulance, a recent hiring freeze, minimal staffing levels, staff salaries, the effects of COVID-19 on local businesses, CARES Funding, the possibility of obtaining a Buxton Report to assist in development efforts, and generally weighing the desire to avoid a tax rate increase against the need to maintain service levels and adoption of a balanced budget.

City Manager George Campbell thanked the Council for their input that would be instrumental in finalizing his budget proposal, adding that several meetings to continue budget discussions were already scheduled, but that more could be added at the request of the Council. He then asked that the Council reach out to staff with any questions or additional input that they might have throughout the budget process.

Finally, he noted that the Council had recently been provided with an informal staff report detailing those capital projects recommended for funding during the next five years and that, having not received any objections, staff planned to move forward on the recommendations within. Councilmember Josh Altom requested that the staff also provide an update on residential development.

III. ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Brian Johnson adjourned the meeting at 7:24 p.m.

APPROVED:


BRIAN JOHNSON, MAYOR

ATTEST:


LESLIE E. GALLOWAY, CITY SECRETARY

