

KENNEDALE CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
SPECIAL MEETING VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE
AUGUST 27, 2020 AT 5:30 PM

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I. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Brian Johnson called the meeting to order at 5:32 p.m.

A. ROLL CALL

Participating via VideoConference: Mayor Brian Johnson; Josh Altom, Place 1 (*disconnected from the meeting from 5:51 to 6:20 p.m.*); 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, Acting Fire Chief Brian King, Fire Chief James Brown, Police Chief Tommy Williams, Library Director Amanda King, Director of Human Resources and Administrative Services Danielle Clarke, Director of Planning and Economic Development Melissa Dailey, Administrative Assistant Rosie Ericson, Library Clerk Lucy Shonkweiler

II. WORK SESSION

A. Continued discussion regarding the City Manager's Proposed Fiscal Year 2020-2021 Annual Budget (Program of Services)

City Manager George Campbell stated that there was no formal presentation, but that the Council had been provided with a spreadsheet of potential budget reductions, noting that there was not much room for cuts without negatively impacting services.

Campbell added that estimates regarding the outsourcing of ambulance service were also provided, but that he did not believe that the minimal savings would measure up to the potential loss of service to the community, including increased costs to patients. Following some discussion, it was the consensus of the Council to issue a Request for Proposals (RFP) to evaluate the options, but to keep ambulance service in the FY20-21 Budget, as presented. Campbell noted that results of an RFP likely would not be available until midway through the fiscal year.

Campbell stated that the Council had already approved the bid for employee health insurance – which came in lower than expected – and would include a savings of about \$20,000; and that the only other recommended savings would be the termination of the contract with Sixty & Better (the Tarrant County entity currently managing the Senior Center) so that internal staff could plan and implement carry out the programming for that facility.

At the request of Councilmember Pugh, Campbell briefly outlined each of the other potential cuts on the spreadsheet provided to the Council, reiterating that he would not recommend that any of these other cuts be made.

There was some discussion of the need to identify year-over-year (rather than one-time) cuts, ambulance response times, reduced control when outsourcing services, the reduction in spending on programs and events due to COVID-19 restrictions, retail and commercial development, projected end-of-year fund balance, reducing the City Manager's approved spending limit, employee retention, impacts of various tax rates, utilization of furloughs or compensatory time (in place of overtime), and the total tax burden across all entities.

Finance Director Lakeita Sutton noted that the average home value was about \$221,000, which would be an annual increase of ~\$78 under the 77-cent tax rate; and ~\$132 at the 80-cent rate. Following discussion, it was the consensus of the Council to post the notice of tax rate increase at a maximum of \$0.801026 per \$100.00 of valuation so that the Council could consider a rate up to and including that amount.

City Manager George Campbell asked that the Council continue sending questions to staff and that, if there were any cuts that a Councilmember would like to see implemented, to please send those to him as well.

III. ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Brian Johnson adjourned the meeting at 7:19 p.m.

APPROVED:


BRIAN JOHNSON, MAYOR

ATTEST:


LESLIE E. GALLOWAY, CITY SECRETARY

