

City Council Minutes
Tuesday, August 22, 2023

On the 22nd day of August 2023, at 6:30 p.m., the City Council of the City of Hurst, Texas, convened in a regular meeting at City Hall, 1505 Precinct Line Road, Hurst, Texas, with the following members present:

Henry Wilson	)	Mayor
Gary N. Waldron	)	Mayor Pro Tem
Cathy Brotherton	)	Councilmembers
Cindy Shepard)	
Jon McKenzie)	
John Miller)	
Jimmy Meeks)	
Clay Caruthers	)	City Manager
Sarah Walsh	)	City Attorney
Clayton Fulton	)	Assistant City Manager
Rita Frick	)	City Secretary
Greg Dickens	)	Executive Director of Public Works
Michelle Lazo	)	Executive Director of Planning and Development
Shelly Klein	)	Assistant to the City Manager

With the following Councilmember absent: none, constituting a quorum; at which time, the following business was transacted:

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. and the Pledge of Allegiance and Texas Pledge were given.

Mayor Henry Wilson gave the Invocation.

CONSENT AGENDA

1. Consider approval of the minutes for the August 15, 2023 City Council meeting
2. Consider authorizing the city manager or his designee to enter into a Discretionary Service Agreement with ONCOR Electric Delivery Company, for electrical line relocation work at the Mary Drive 0.75 MG Elevated Storage Tank site

Mayor Pro Tem Waldron moved to approve the consent agenda. Motion seconded by Councilmember Miller. Motion prevailed by the following vote:

Ayes: Councilmembers Brotherton, McKenzie, Waldron, Shepard, Miller and Meeks

No: None

BUDGET RELATED ITEM(S)

3. Consider Ordinance 2546 (a), second reading, adopting budget for fiscal year beginning October 1, 2023 and ending September 30, 2024

Assistant City Manager Clayton Fulton provided a summary of the proposed budget noting the public hearing and presentation at the August 15, 2023 City Council meeting. Mr. Fulton reviewed the General Fund budget of \$42,679,293, which is an increase of 5.17% over fiscal year 2022 budget. Mr. Fulton reviewed current tax rate of \$0.614043, a proposed rate of \$0.581150 being comprised of a maintenance and operation (M&O) rate of \$0.495572 and interest and sinking (I&S) rate of \$0.085578. Mr. Fulton reviewed the proposed Debt Service Fund budget of \$3,415,385 a -6.04% decrease over FY 23. He noted the proposed Enterprise Fund budget with revenues of \$24.5 million and an operating budget of \$23.8 million, with a proposed 4% increase in water/wastewater rates noting rising wholesale costs as the main driver for the increase. Mr. Fulton reviewed the Crime Control and Prevention District \$5.75 million operating budget, which was recently adopted by the Board and Council. The Community Services Half Cent Fund \$4.09 million operating budget and stated both of these funds together are a property tax equivalent of approximately \$0.28. City Manager Caruthers noted the proposed budget includes a special one-time payment for employees as discussed at the previous public hearing and reviewed the full budget process noting it starts with citizen input at the townhall forum. He stated the number one priority brought forward is public safety and is reflected in the budget along with several enhancements of services and Council priorities.

Councilmember Miller moved to approve Ordinance 2546 (a), second reading, adopting the budget for fiscal year October 1, 2023 through September 30, 2024. Motion seconded by Councilmember Shepard. Motion prevailed by the following vote:

Ayes: Councilmembers Brotherton, McKenzie, Waldron, Shepard, Miller and Meeks
No: None

4. Consider Ordinance 2546 (b), second reading, ratifying the Property Tax Revenue Increase reflected in the Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Budget

City Manager Caruthers stated this item is required by the truth and taxation laws in Texas, and explained if the proposed rate is higher than the no new revenue rate, then this item must come before Council. He noted the presentation at the last Council meeting with a comparative between area cities and explained the impact of being a built-out city compared to a city with a lot of new growth. He also noted the County's ability to lower their rate based on higher interest rates and amount of cash, which allowed them to increase revenue and offset the reduction. Mr. Caruthers stated staff has done everything they can to keep the rate a reasonable level.

Councilmember Shepard moved in compliance with the Local Government Code, adoption of Ordinance 2546 (b), second reading, will ratify the property tax revenue increase in the 2023 – 2024 fiscal year budget. Motion seconded by Councilmember Waldron. Motion prevailed by the following vote:

Ayes: Councilmembers Brotherton, McKenzie, Waldron, Shepard, Miller and Meeks
No: None

5. Consider Ordinance 2547, second reading, setting the tax rate for the 2023 tax year

City Manager Caruthers stated this item was discussed with Agenda Item 4.

Councilmember McKenzie moved with the adoption of Ordinance 2547, "I move that the property tax rate be increased by the adoption of a tax rate of 0.581150 which is effectively a 1.66 percent increase in the tax rate." Motion seconded by Councilmember Brotherton. Motion prevailed by the following vote:

Ayes: Councilmembers Brotherton, McKenzie, Waldron, Shepard, Miller and Meeks
No: None

6. Consider Ordinance 2548, second reading, adopting water and wastewater rates for Fiscal Year 2023-2024

Assistant City Manager Clayton Fulton noted the city is part of the Trinity River water system with wholesale water from the City of Fort Worth. He stated even though Hurst is currently built-out and consumption doesn't change a lot; as part of the consortium, the city still has the responsibility to make sure the system serves the public and with that comes the increases in wholesale charges. He stated wholesale charges are the vast majority of the increase and that this fund is largely infrastructure, and not personnel. Mr. Fulton stated staff is proposing a 4% rate increase as part of the rate smoothing policy.

Councilmember Meeks moved to approve Ordinance 2548, second reading, including the proposed Water and Wastewater rates effective October 1, 2023, to be included in all City utility bills processed on, or after, November 1, 2023. Motion seconded by Councilmember Brotherton. Motion prevailed by the following vote:

Ayes: Councilmembers Brotherton, McKenzie, Waldron, Shepard, Miller and Meeks
No: None

RESOLUTION(S)

7. Consider Resolution 1839 adopting the City of Hurst Investment Policy

City Manager Caruthers noted this item is routine in that state law requires this item be brought forward annually. He explained municipalities in the state must conform to specific rules, and the main goal for cities is not yield, but more about principles and investment safety for the community. Mr. Caruthers stated there are no major changes to policy.

Councilmember Brotherton moved to approve the City of Hurst Investment Policy by

Resolution 1839, as required by Section 2256.005, Texas Government Code. Motion seconded by Councilmember Miller. Motion prevailed by the following vote:

Ayes: Councilmembers Brotherton, McKenzie, Waldron, Shepard, Miller and Meeks
No: None

8. Consider Resolution 1840 to meet match requirements for expenditures under the Tarrant County Home Investment Partnership Program

Executive Director of Planning and Development Michelle Lazo reviewed the proposed Resolution to meet the match requirements for expenditures under the Tarrant County Home Investment Partnership Program. She stated 48 homes have been completed since 2007 through this program and this year the city's match maximum is \$60,000. Ms. Lazo noted the funds must be used for major rehabs and primarily for senior and disabled citizens.

Councilmember Meeks moved to approve Resolution 1840 authorizing the city manager to allocate up to \$60,000, as matching funds for the HOME Program, administered by the Tarrant County Community Development and Housing Department for projects in Hurst. Motion seconded by Councilmember Waldron. Motion prevailed by the following vote:

Ayes: Councilmembers Brotherton, McKenzie, Waldron, Shepard, Miller and Meeks
No: None

OTHER BUSINESS

9. Consider engagement with Forvis for Professional Auditing Services

City Manager Clay Caruthers reviewed the proposed engagement for auditing services noting the city has utilized Forvis the last few years after RCO and BKD were acquired and merged with Forvis. He noted a 5% increase in fees with the total contract not to exceed \$120,000, which also includes a single audit. He stated the audit provides a full comprehensive review of the city's financials.

Councilmember Shepard moved to engage the services of Forvis to audit the City's financial records for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2023 for an overall base, Single Audit and new accounting standards implementation fee not to exceed \$120,000. Motion seconded by Councilmember Miller. Motion prevailed by the following vote:

Ayes: Councilmembers Brotherton, McKenzie, Waldron, Shepard, Miller and Meeks
No: None

10. Board, Commission, and Committee Minutes – Council reviewed the following minutes:
- Library Board
 - Hurst Community Arts and Historic Landmark Preservation Committee
 - Parks and Recreation Board

11. Review of upcoming calendar items – City Manager Clay Caruthers reviewed the future events calendar.
12. City Council Reports - Items of Community Interest – Councilmember Meeks noted the Mayor’s Birthday and thanked him for his many years of service. Councilmember McKenzie provided an overview of his recent TML Advisory Board meeting regarding ERCOT and the request for voluntary conservation during the current heat and to reduce energy consumption.

Mayor Wilson next moved to Agenda Item 13.

PUBLIC INVITED TO BE HEARD – A REQUEST TO APPEAR CARD MUST BE COMPLETED AND RETURNED TO THE CITY SECRETARY TO BE RECOGNIZED. CITIZEN COMMENTS ARE LIMITED TO A MAXIMUM OF 3 MINUTES PER SPEAKER.

Mayor Wilson recognized Michelle Wagner in attendance for her TCC Government class.

EXECUTIVE SESSION in Compliance with the Provisions of the Texas Open Meetings Law, Authorized by Government Code, 551.072, deliberation of the purchase, exchange, lease, or value of real property (1848 Precinct Line Road) and to reconvene in Open Session at the Conclusion of the Executive Session to consider and take any necessary action – Council met in Executive Session during the work session.

13. Take any and all action necessary ensuing from Executive Session


Councilmember Miller moved to authorize the city manager to take any and all actions necessary to acquire property at 1848 Precinct Line Road. Motion seconded by Councilmember Brotherton. Motion prevailed by the following vote:

Ayes: Councilmembers Brotherton, McKenzie, Waldron, Shepard, Miller and Meeks
No: None

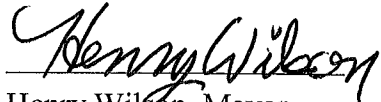
ADJOURNMENT – The meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

APPROVED this the 12th day of September 2023.

ATTEST:


Rita Erick, City Secretary

APPROVED:


Henry Wilson, Mayor