

MINUTES OF AN ONLINE STUDY SESSION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF HIGHLAND PARK, TEXAS, HELD VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE, AT 8:16 A.M. ON TUESDAY, JUNE 1, 2021.

Prior to the study session, Joanna Mekeal, Town Secretary, explained that as provided by the State of Texas, this online Town Council study session could be viewed via the Town's website, or listened to by telephone, and gave the toll-free and alternate telephone numbers, as well as the access number for the public to call. Mrs. Mekeal conducted a roll call of the Town Council Members. Present at the meeting were Mayor Margo Goodwin, Mayor Pro Tem David Dowler, and Town Council Members Marc Myers, Lydia Novakov, and Craig Penfold. Absent from the meeting was Council Member Jimmy Grisham.

UPCOMING AGENDA DISCUSSION

Future Agenda Discussion

Review and discuss the Fiscal Year 2021-22 Combined Operating and Capital Budget. Steven Alexander, Director of Administrative Services and Chief Financial Officer, explained the purpose of this agenda item is to provide an opportunity for staff to receive comments from the Town Council relating to the Fiscal Year 2021-22 Combined Operating and Capital Budget ("FY 2022 Budget") process and any items the Town Council would like staff to consider, study, or incorporate into the FY 2022 Budget. While there will be additional opportunities for the Town Council to provide direction regarding the FY 2022 Budget, Mr. Alexander provided the schedule of the future meeting dates, this meeting is designed to receive initial input from the Town Council while the departments are in the process of making submittals to be incorporated into the proposed budget. There have been initiatives underway for budget development which includes a water and wastewater rate study, employee compensation and benefit study, and health insurance provider bids. Town staff should have the results of the studies and bid by July 2021. Council Member Penfold asked how many bids are received and what is the process for selecting a proposal. Mr. Alexander explained Town staff partners with Lockton Consultants to review submitted bids and evaluate the proposals for the best benefit and cost. Council Member Myers inquired about the process of reviewing the compensation package. Mr. Alexander stated Town Council will receive the report, staff will present the findings during the budgetary process, and a recommendation would be offered. Mayor Goodwin added the compensation portion of the budget is more complex compared to other items regarding the budget, and recommended that staff continue, as they have in the past, to provide ample time to review and discuss compensation. Bill Lindley, Town Administrator, confirmed this, and then asked Mr. Alexander to explain the preliminary indications received on potential rate increases related to the water and wastewater rate study. Mr. Alexander stated that an email was received from Larry McDaniel, General Manager of the Dallas County Park Cities Municipal Utility District, indicating the Town should anticipate around a 4% – 5% increase for the cost of water next year. Compared to prior years, this is a significant rate increase; according to Mr. McDaniel, this year's revenues did not meet expectations. Mayor Goodwin asked, that the Town Council be able to review the data to justify the potential rate increase. Mr. Alexander confirmed that the information is public, and the Town Council would be able to review the report. Council Member Novakov asked when citizens experienced a drought in the past, were the water rates adjusted at a lower cost. Mr. Alexander affirmed that rates have been slightly adjusted in the past. He explained that the utility district currently uses a ten-year rolling average

of the amount of water they anticipate selling; from that research the rate is set for the upcoming year. Mayor Goodwin asked if there were any further questions or comments, to which there were none.

CLOSED SESSION

- 1. In accordance with the Texas Government Code, Chapter 551, Subchapter D, Section 551.072 – REAL ESTATE – the Town Council will convene into closed session to deliberate the purchase, exchange, lease, or value of real property, to wit: a parcel of land owned by the Town located at 2500 Conveyor Lane, in the City of Dallas.*

Mayor Goodwin recessed the study session at 8:33 a.m. and convened a closed session pursuant to: (1) Section 551.072 of the Texas Government Code to deliberate the purchase, exchange, lease, or value of real property, to wit: a parcel of land owned by the Town located at 2500 Conveyor Lane, in the City of Dallas.

Mayor Goodwin ended the closed session at 8:53 a.m., and reconvened the study session in open session at 8:55 a.m.

OPEN SESSION

Pursuant to Section 551.102 of the Texas Government Code, the final action, decision, or vote regarding Closed Session Item 1. above, shall be made, if any. Motion was made by Council Member Novakov and seconded by Council Member Myers to approve the First Amendment to the Contract of Sale and authorize the Mayor and Town Administrator to execute same and all other associated documents and to take all other necessary action.

Mayor Goodwin adjourned the Town Council meeting at 8:56 a.m.

APPROVED on this 15th day of June 2021.

APPROVED:



Margo Goodwin
Mayor

ATTEST:



Joanna Mekeal
Town Secretary