

CITY OF ROSENBERG SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

On this the 30th day of July 2024, the City Council of the City of Rosenberg, Fort Bend County, Texas, met in a Special Session, open to the public in the Rosenberg City Hall Council Chamber, located at 2110 4th Street, Rosenberg, Texas.

Present: William Benton, Mayor
Richard Olson, Councilor At-Large, Position 1
Jessica Jaramillo-Moreno, Councilor At-Large, Position 2
Felix Vargas, Jr., Councilor, District No. 1
Steve DeGregorio, Councilor, District No. 2
Hector Trevino, Councilor, District No. 3
George Zepeda, Councilor, District No. 4

Staff Present: John Maresh, City Manager
Joyce Vasut, Assistant City Manager
Danyel Swint, City Secretary
Rigo Calzoncin, Executive Director of Public Services
Jonathan White, Police Chief
Daryl Maretko, Fire Chief
Luis Garza, Finance Director
Shelton Besson, Director of Information Services

Call to order: City Hall Council Chamber

Mayor Benton called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance.

Reverend Buford of the Church of Rosenberg led the invocation and pledge.

COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE FOR SPECIAL AGENDA ITEMS.

Citizens who have registered with the City Secretary prior to the meeting being called to order and desire to address the City Council with regard to matters on the Special Agenda will be heard at this time, or the time the item is considered. Speakers may speak on up to three (3) specific agenda items. Each speaker is limited to three (3) minutes, except that a speaker who addresses the City Council through a translator is limited to six (6) minutes. Speakers are not allowed to distribute documentation while addressing City Council. Speakers making personal, impertinent, profane or slanderous remarks may be removed from the room and shall be barred from reentering the Chamber during the session of City Council. Comments or discussion by the City Council Members will only be made at the time the agenda item is scheduled for consideration. It is our policy to have all speakers identify themselves by providing their name and residential address when making comments.

SPECIAL AGENDA

1. **File the Proposed Fiscal Year 2025 Annual Budget for the City of Rosenberg, Texas, as submitted by the City Manager.**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The annual budget is a planning and policy document that sets the course for the City for the fiscal year, which begins October 1, 2024, and ends September 30, 2025. Under section 8.02 of the City Charter, the City Manager is charged with filing a proposed budget between forty-five (45) and ninety (90) days prior to the beginning of each fiscal year.

This item allows for the City Manager to submit the FY2025 Proposed Budget for the City of Rosenberg and the Rosenberg Development Corporation (RDC) to the City Council. A printed copy of the Proposed Budget will be handed out to the City Council members and filed with the City Secretary on Tuesday, July 30, 2024. The FY2025 Proposed Budget will also be posted to the city's website on Tuesday, July 30, 2024.

City Council will be given the opportunity to discuss the Proposed Budget in detail at future workshops and meetings.

KEY DISCUSSIONS

- Mayor Benton asked John Maresh to explain the reasoning behind this item. John Maresh explained that, in accordance with the City Charter, the City Manager is tasked with preparing and submitting the budget to the City Council. The purpose of tonight's meeting is to formally submit the budget document to the Council. Luis Garza would provide a presentation highlighting some key items in the budget. Following this, there will be items on the August 6 agenda that will require Council action, and the first budget workshop will take place on Monday, August 12.
- Mayor Benton asked John Maresh if, after Luis Garza's presentation, he would like to go over anything on the August 6 meeting agenda. John Maresh stated that staff would be better prepared to present the items at the August 6 meeting as they are still waiting for information, particularly related to property tax rates.
- Mayor Benton suggested that next year they could receive the budget document via email or have a physical copy delivered to avoid this meeting if staff does not have all the information to present the items. John Maresh agreed, noting it was a good point, and explained that this occurred due to timing issues, they typically try to present the budget at a workshop or another meeting. However, the timing from when the RDC was able to meet to make their budget recommendations to staff did not align.
- Mayor Benton suggested that since the tax roll needs to be certified to determine the revenue municipalities will generate, and this happens around the same time the City does their budget, it might be beneficial to change the fiscal year from October 1 - September 30 to January 1 - December 31 through a charter amendment.
- Councilor Trevino stated that when he was on the Charter Review Committee, he supported making that change and asked Joyce Vasut why it did not go through. Joyce Vasut explained that it is doable, but almost all cities have a fiscal year from October 1 - September 30, likely for specific reasons. She would need to consider this in more detail to better explain why.
- Councilor Trevino asked if there were minutes from that meeting. Joyce Vasut confirmed there were.
- Councilor Trevino explained he thought it was a good idea, but there were not enough people interested at the time.
- Luis Garza read the Executive Summary and reviewed a presentation of the proposed FY2025 budget.
- Councilor Trevino asked how many linear feet would be covered in the sidewalk improvements included in the general fund. Rigo Calzoncin explained that it depends on the size of the sidewalks, as some are 4 feet, others are 5 feet, and the ones in downtown Rosenberg are much wider, but he estimated about \$7.00 per square foot.
- Mayor Benton noted there are additional sidewalk funds through the RDC. Councilor Trevino clarified that those are for new sidewalks, but his concern is with the improvements of existing sidewalks and suggested increasing the funds for sidewalk improvements.
- Councilor Trevino asked John Maresh if the sidewalk improvement funds could be increased. John Maresh confirmed that is something they could look into.
- Mayor Benton reiterated to the Council that they hold the purse strings to this operation and have the final say on the budget. They can add and remove what they feel is necessary. He stated they certainly want to take staff's advice, but at the end of the day, it is their decision. He explained there might be items staff disagrees with but that Council agrees with and wants in the budget, and items in the budget that Council will remove to fulfill their pledge to the people.
- Luis Garza continued with the presentation.
- Mayor Benton discussed the importance of lowering tax rates.
- Councilor Trevino asked for confirmation that the \$433,000 revenue added was due to new property being added. Luis Garza confirmed it was.
- Councilor Trevino asked if there were funds left over from last year's budget. Luis Garza provided preliminary estimates.
- Mayor Benton asked the Council, for the benefit of the staff, about their stance on tax relief, noting that in the spring when they campaigned, they advocated for more tax relief. He asked if the Council still adhered to that.
- Councilors Olson, Trevino, DeGregorio, and Vargas agreed with Mayor Benton.
- Councilor Jaramillo-Moreno stated that she is not in favor of charging citizens more in taxes, as she is a Rosenberg resident too, but would like to review the budget before making any comments.
- Councilor DeGregorio stated that if possible, he is all for it. Mayor Benton stated it can be done; it is just a matter of having the desire to do it.
- Mayor Benton asked John Maresh if they were clear on their expectations regarding the taxes. John Maresh confirmed they were.
- There was no further discussion on this item.

2. Adjournment.

ACTION

Motion by Councilor At-Large, Position 2 Jessica Jaramillo-Moreno, seconded by Councilor, District No. 3 Hector Trevino to adjourn the meeting at 6:56 p.m.

VOTE: 7 - 0 Carried - Unanimously



Danyel Swint, City Secretary