



# News Release

## CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE

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Contact: Laurie Mullens  
972-899-5131 / 940-597-3721  
lmullens@highlandvillage.org

1000 Highland Village Road  
Highland Village, TX 75077  
www.highlandvillage.org

### ***City Council Receives Recommended 2017-2018 Budget***

At the August 22 meeting, Council held a public hearing and received the FY 2017-2018 recommended budget. The base General Fund Budget expenditures total \$16,692,194, only a 2% increase over last year. A Supplemental Budget totaling nearly \$600,000 is also included, resulting in a total increase of 4%. Initiatives are focused on public safety and parks. Public safety supplemental items include an upgrade to the outdoor warning siren system with the addition of a siren at Sunset Point to provide full coverage of the City and a Lucus device, which provides continuous mechanical compressions for CPR, for the second ambulance. Parks initiatives include shade covers for several existing playgrounds, light shields and upgrade of the ballfield lights at Unity Park and a ThorGuard Lightning detection system at Brazos Park. The FY 2017/2018 budget includes a decrease to the ad valorem tax rate, going from \$0.56963 to \$0.568022. Also effective for the 2017 tax year is the increased exemption amount from \$50,000 to \$75,000 for homeowners over 65 and disabled persons. Approximately 22% of the homeowners in Highland Village will benefit from this exemption. Assessed valuations came in at an overall 6% increase. The second public hearing for the budget will be held on September 12.

During Council comments, Mayor Wilcox announced a Town Hall meeting to be held on Thursday, September 14 at the Municipal Complex. The meeting will provide information on two specific topics:

- Utility rate increase - The Utility Fund has seen a decrease in revenues due to recent flooding, wet summers and resident conservation efforts over the last several years. A utility rate adjustment and increase was approved by Council in June. The new rate will take effect in October and will provide sufficient revenue to fund associated expenditures for water and wastewater costs. The new rate will provide an estimated 20% increase, however the percent of increase will vary with usage level. Detailed information on the new rate structure and example utility bills can be found on the city [website](#).
- Bond election for street and park improvements – A bond election totaling \$7,150,000 will be included on the November 7 ballot to address the reconstruction of several streets and improvements to Unity Park, the extension of the parking lot at Brazos Park, the development of Sunset Park, the walking track at Victoria Park, and construction of a trail segment from Highland Village Road to Sellmeyer Lane.

Council is also interested in addressing other questions and concerns from residents. Questions should be sent to the City Secretary at [citysecretary@highlandvillage.org](mailto:citysecretary@highlandvillage.org) to be included in the meeting.

Also at this meeting Council approved an ordinance authorizing a fee to defray the costs of collecting delinquent fines, fees and court costs as well as a resolution authorizing the agreements for the collection of delinquent utility accounts and Municipal Court fines and fees.

The [HVTV Update](#) provided information from School Resource Officer David Harney on the upcoming school year, the TXFallenPD memorial t-shirts, and the concert in the park on Saturday, August 26 at Doubletree Ranch Park featuring Infinite Journey.

The City Council early work session and regular session is available on HVTV (Spectrum 16; Frontier 43) and via website streaming by searching HVTV. The meetings are also available for on-demand viewing on the city [website](#).