



News Release

CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE

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Council Approves FY 2017-2018 Budget; Appoints Board and Commission Members

On September 26, the City Council approved the final read of the 2017-2018 Budget. 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 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.

Council appointed members to the City's boards and commissions. Council appointed the following:

Board of Ethics – Kevin McMahan, James Burmeister and Benjamin Somero

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board – Gary Patz, Place 4; Tamara Lisby, Place 5; Kenneth Koonsman, Alternate Place 1

Planning and Zoning Commission – Richard Turner, Place 1; Deedee Ricketts, Place 4; Robert Fiester, Place 5; James Romo, Alternate Place 1; Thomas Heslep, Alternate Place 2

Zoning Board of Adjustments – Christian Hart, Place 1; Denver Kemerry, Place 2; Thomas Peck, Place 3; Guy Skinner, Alternate Place 1

Highland Village Community Development Corporation – Dale Butler, Citizen Representative; Michelle Schwolert, City Representative; Fred Busche, City Representative; Barbara Fleming, City Representative

Public Art Advisory Board – no action was taken at this time.

Council approved a resolution appointing Dianne Costa as the Highland Village representative to the Denton County Transportation Authority.

During the Mayor's comments a proclamation was presented to United Way of Denton County designating September as Live United Month. Two presentations were given to the Fire Department, Fire Prevention Week and the Life Safety Achievement Award. The Fire Department received the Life Safety Achievement Award in recognition of exceptional fire statistics including zero fire deaths and effective fire prevention programs for the community. Mayor Wilcox also presented the Fallen Officer Bike Race and 5K committee members the City-County Communicators and Marketing Silver Circle Award for the marketing of the Fallen Officer Bike Race and 5K event held the third Saturday of October. The city competed against cities and counties of all sizes across the nation for this award. The judges said the marketing

provided a consistent and comprehensive approach bringing together the city, business community, residents and law enforcement in a meaningful way.

The [HVTV Update](#) informed residents of the 10th Annual Fallen Officer Bike Race & 5K to take place on October 21, the online auction supporting the Fallen Officer fund, the upcoming utility rate increase and adjustment and the Farmers Market at Highland Village Town Center every Sunday from 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

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](#).