



News Release

CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE

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Council Approves FY 2018-2019 Budget Which Includes Tax Decrease

At the September 25 meeting, Council approved the FY 2018-2019 Budget. Assessed valuations came in at an overall 5.6% increase. The base General Fund Budget expenditures total \$17,380,424, a 1.25% decrease over last year. The combination of the increase in property tax roll and a solid finish to the current fiscal year provided the opportunity to include the cash purchase of a new fire engine and ambulance, totaling \$1,104,000. This capital expenditure was included in a future year budget however paying cash now saves the interest on a short term loan. This addition increases the base General Fund Budget to \$18,484,424, a 5.0% increase over last year. A Supplemental Budget totaling \$335,658 is also included, resulting in a total increase of 6.9%. Also proposed is a two stage tax decrease with the first stage implemented with the Fiscal Year 2018 – 2019 Budget and the second phase targeted for 2021 with consideration of current economic conditions. The proposed decrease would lower the tax rate from \$0.56802 to \$0.56302.

Initiatives this year include two new positions - the addition of a School Resource Officer in the police department and an Applicator Technician in the parks department. A Master Plan for Coperas Branch and the eastern quadrant of Highland Village over to Doubletree Ranch Park is also included to gather input and determine the best use and development of the area. The proposed Utility Fund Budget for FY 2018-2019 will maintain the current rate structure for water and sewer services. The utility rate and structure change implemented last year is working as designed with enough funds in reserves to pay for repairs to three wells that have failed this year.

The resolution to purchase the fire engine and ambulance was approved at this meeting. The new engine will replace a 2005 Pierce Dash and the ambulance will replace the Ford F450 2013 Horton. Engines are replaced on a 15-year cycle and ambulances on a seven-year cycle. A ten-year service agreement was also included to lock in the price to cover all the engine service requirements. The engine will be purchased from Siddons-Martin Emergency Group for \$754,563 plus the service agreement at \$54,885. The ambulance will be purchased from Professional Ambulance in the amount of \$265,753.

Council held a public hearing and approved a Conditional Use Permit to allow a video arcade in the Highland Plaza Shopping Center located at the northeast corner of Sellmeyer Lane and Justin Road. The property is located within a Retail District which requires the approval of a Conditional Use Permit to allow a video arcade. The location will be home to a retro video arcade, table top board games and a full service bar and food service. The second read of the ordinance will be considered at the October 9 meeting.

Council also approved an ordinance amending the code of ordinances in relation to weeds, grass and other vegetation. The amendment was made to provide consistency in the City's nuisance code and the City's fire code. The City's nuisance code allowed tree limbs to overhang a public road not less than 12-feet and over a sidewalk not less than seven feet. The City's fire code

specified not less than 13-feet-six-inches. The approved ordinance changes the requirements to a minimum of 14-feet overhang over a road and eight-feet over a sidewalk or trail.

Council discussed board and commission attendance record and performance and considered appointments and removals to the City's boards and commissions. Council removed Parks and Recreation Advisory Board member Tamara Lisby (Place 5) and Zoning Board of Adjustment member Denver Kemery (Place 2). Council appointed:

Board of Ethics – Steven Deel and Brian Tackett

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board – William Irwin, Place 1; Janet Gershenfield, Place 2; Dave Rush, Place 3; Kenneth Koonsman, Place 5; Kevan Fenderson, Alternate Place 1; Vanessa Boyd, Alternate Place 2

Planning and Zoning Commission – San Lemko, Place 2; Tom Heslep, Place 3; Angelina Robinson, Place 5; Denver Kemery, Alternate Place 2

Zoning Board of Adjustments – Richard Holderby, Place 2; Richard Metivier, Place 4; Darrah Boxberger-Torres, Place 5; Annette Brunken, Alternate Place 2; David Smith, Alternate Place 3

Highland Village Community Development Corporation – Elisabeth Mechem, Citizen Representative; Manika Kataria, Citizen Representative; Charlotte Wilcox, City Representative

In the City Manager Report, the [HVTV Update](#) shared the Foodie Friday segment featuring Froyo Joe's in The District of Highland Village and informed residents of the September 29 Paper Shredding Day at Pilot Knoll Park. Paper Shredding Day is for Highland Village residents only and does not include business shredding.

During the Mayor and Council presentations a proclamation for Fire Prevention Week was presented.

The City Council early work session and regular session is available on HVTV (Spectrum 15; Frontier 43) and via website streaming by searching HVTV. The meetings are also available for on-demand viewing on the city [website](#).