



News Release

CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE

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City Receives Distinguished Budget Award for 15th Year; Council Continues Budget Discussions

At the August 13 meeting, Council continued FY 2019-2020 budget discussions. Assessed valuations came in at an overall 3.9% increase. The proposed base General Fund Budget expenditures total \$18,260,005. A Supplemental Budget totaling \$424,986 is also included. The current tax rate of \$0.56302 is recommended for the upcoming fiscal year. Council held a record vote for the proposed rate and scheduled public hearings for August 27 and September 10.

Staff also presented the Utility Fund Budget and Special Revenue Funds. The proposed Utility Fund Budget for FY 2019-2020 will maintain the current rate structure for water and sewer services. Council received presentations on the Special Revenue Fund Budgets which include the parks leased by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. These parks are revenue generating parks. The Master Plan process for Copperas Branch Park is underway this year with the public input portion of the project complete and the master plan design in process. At Pilot Knoll Park funds are allocated to replace lights in the boat ramp parking lot and crack seal, coat and stripe all parking lots. Budget presentations and public hearings will continue at the August 28 and September 11 City Council meetings.

During the Mayor and Council reports, Mayor Wilcox presented Assistant City Manager Ken Heerman the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA) Distinguished Budget Presentation Award for its current budget. This award represents a significant achievement by the City and it reflects the commitment of the governing body and staff to meet the highest principles of governmental budgeting. In order to receive the budget award, the city had to satisfy nationally recognized guidelines for effective budget presentation designed to assess how well an entity's budget serves as a policy document, a financial plan, an operations guide and a communication device. Budget documents must be rated "proficient" in all four categories, and the fourteen mandatory criteria within those categories, to receive the award.

"This is the fifteenth year the city has received this award. I am pleased to present this award to Ken Heerman, Assistant City Manager and to congratulate the entire Finance department, on a job well done," stated Mayor Charlotte Wilcox.

Residents are invited to attend the "Push-In Ceremony" for the Highland Village Fire Department's new engine and ambulance. The event will take place on Friday, August 23 at 6:00 p.m. at the Highland Village Fire Department located at 1200 Highland Village Road. Commemorative towels will be distributed to help dry off the apparatus.

Mayor Wilcox also invited residents to attend the Kids Kastle rebuild Design Day scheduled for September 7 at Briarhill Middle School from 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. At Design Day residents will learn about the community-build process, where they can be involved, and share ideas for the design of the new Kids Kastle. Then at 6:30 p.m. that evening attendees return for the design reveal for the new Kids Kastle. All information on Kids Kastle can be found at

www.speakuphv.com and residents are encouraged to register on the site to stay up to date on the project.

In the City Manager Report, the [HVTV Update](#) informed residents of the upcoming Highland Village Lions Club Balloon Festival to take place August 16-18 at Unity Park, the Kids Kastle Design Day scheduled for September 7, and reminded residents to be cautious around the schools now that school is back in session.

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](#).