



News Release

CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE

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Council Approves First Read of the Annual Budget

At the September 14 meeting, Council held a public hearing and approved the first read of the FY 21-22 Budget. The Certified Estimate from the Denton Central Appraisal District provided a 5.3% growth in estimated property values which will provide an additional \$711,707 in property tax revenues. The tax rate of \$.56302 remains unchanged from last year. Sales tax revenues reflect a large increase of 15.2% from last year's budgeted amount. General Fund expenditures total \$20,599,521 with \$842,535 of this amount identified for supplemental requests. This year's budget includes proportional funding for a joint fire training facility in conjunction with Lewisville and Flower Mound and a partnership with Enterprise Fleet Management to manage the bulk of the City's service vehicles providing efficiency from optimized resale as well as operating with a significantly newer fleet and a stabilized expenditure level for vehicles. Additionally, a bond issuance is anticipated for FY 2022 to focus on numerous maintenance issues across all city parks, needed street reconstruction, and enhanced services at Pilot Knoll Park with the addition of rental cabins. This bond issuance will not have an impact on the tax rate as it will coincide with retiring debt. Looking to the future, funding is included for a Comprehensive Plan Update; Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan Update; Trail System Master Plan Update and a FM407 Trail Corridor and Amenity Plan. These plans will work in concert in formulating a direction to improve economic development opportunities and the quality of life for our residents and visitors and will provide opportunities for input from our residents and business owners. The final read of the budget will be approved at a special meeting on Tuesday, September 21.

Council approved the final read of an ordinance amending the Animal Control Ordinance as it relates to the Regulation of the Care and Keeping of Animals within the city limits. The animal control regulations have not been reviewed and updated since 1999. The ordinance was in need of review to comply with state laws, current operational practices of the City's Animal Care Services, and consistency in terms and wording for better understanding and enforceability. The comprehensive review began in September 2020 with numerous internal reviews and meetings, two work session discussions with City Council, and review and updates provided by the City Attorney.

Council approved a resolution approving the annual rate adjustment with Community Waste Disposal for the solid waste, recycling, and household hazardous waste collection contract. As part of the City's contract with CWD, updated rates can be considered annually effective on Oct. 1. The annual rate adjustments are based on three criteria: the Dallas/Fort Worth Consumer Price Index, the change in US Price of Natural Gas Sold to Commercial Customers Index, and the percentage change in the gate rate charged to CWD by the disposal site they utilize. This is the third requested adjustment for the five-year agreement term which began on September 1, 2018 and ends on September 30, 2023. Residential bills will change from \$18.13 to \$18.83 per month and senior rates will change from \$16.34 to \$16.95 per month.

In the Mayor and Council Reports, a proclamation was given recognizing the Highland Village Fire Department's 50th Anniversary. The department was created in 1971 by ordinance and has since grown to a full-service department with a frontline fire engine and medic, a reserve fire engine and medic, brush truck, three command vehicles, and 18 well-trained and equipped firefighters.

During the City Manager and Staff Reports, the [Foodie Friday video](#) featured Salerno's Italian restaurant.

The City Council early work session and regular session is available on HVTV (Spectrum 16; Frontier 43) and via website live streaming at www.highlandvillage.org/hvtv. The meetings are also available for on-demand viewing on the city [website](#).