

**City Council Budget Workshop #2
MINUTES**

August 10, 2022, at 5:30 PM

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Byron Sanford called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

Present:	Byron Sanford	Mayor
	Carol Langley	City Council Place #1
	Casey Olson	City Council Place #2
	T.J. Wilkerson	City Council Place #3
	Cheryl Fox	City Council Place #4
	Patricia Easley	City Council Place #5

Also Present:	Dave McCorquodale	Assistant City Administrator & Planning Development
	Nici Browe	City Secretary & Director of Administrative Services
	Alan Petrov	City Attorney
	Chris Roznovsky	City Engineer

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Byron Sanford called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M.

Mr. Dave McCorquodale informed City Council that this is the second budget workshop. In their packet they have the full budget but with yellow highlights. That shows the changes from the first workshop.

Mr. McCorquodale also stated that the handout in front of them this evening is the updated budget after the Tax Assessor provided the certified values.

BUDGET WORKSHOP:

1. Proposed Budget 2022-2023 Summary
2. General Fund Revenue

Mr. Anthony Lasky updated Council on the Ad Valorem Tax and where the preliminary numbers were based on estimates, now he is in receipt of the certified values the was just a very slight difference.

Mr. McCorquodale spoke about the PID fund and where the transfer out shows here as it has been placed, per the auditors in its own fund, a tab in the back of the binder.

Mr. Lasky stated that some of the interest rates have been adjusted and there are signs of the money market rates going up, so he is trying to get to investing and move money into Texpool to get better rates.

Mr. McCorquodale stated that some of the questions from the first workshop were what type of Permits, this was Photos and Golf Carts. Right of Way Fees, these were for the local telecommunications company. Court Security this was for court night only. this has been adjusted down.

3. General Fund Administration

Highlighted changes were Payroll Taxes, A new line item - Employee Appreciation to provide an annual banquet and awards to employees throughout the year.

Council held a brief discussion on employee appreciation with Ms. Nici Browe.

Councilmember Casey Olson inquired what the expenses went down.

Mr. McCorquodale explained that this was covered right before Mr. Olson arrived and explained the PID transfer out.

4. General Fund Police Department

Anthony Solomon, Police Chief addressed City Council and explained the two positions he is wanting to hire. He provided Council with a staffing assessment, which includes staffing of shifts, the additional hours being worked by the Sergeants to cover vacant slots on the night shift. He cautioned Council on the dangers of fatigue and provided an example of one sergeant working 133 hours of overtime, not for any other reason than shifts need covering.

He went on to advise council that he found the data on the traffic study, and it was 17,000 vehicles that move through Montgomery daily, however, its likely much more as the study did not look at FM1097 or FM149.

Looking at the oncoming Subdivisions, and now that School Officers are not allowed to be outside patrolling any longer providing much needed backup, due to changes in their needs since Uvalde, his officers will now patrol the outside of the school when doing their patrols. It is intention to promote two officers and hire two more. There is one open position at this time which he needs to fill. This itself has proved challenging. They had 37 enquiries, they narrowed it down to 8, further review intere3viewd 4 and we did not take any, department checks provided on the job issues at their current unit. We would like to hire but not anyone, need to hire the right person.

Chief Solomon addressed the \$168,000 from the American Rescue Plan Act and stated that the preliminary report when first initiated was for infrastructure, however as COVID continued the White House provided a further report adding Public Safety for hiring of officers, and equipment. He would like the second issuance of \$168,000 to be designated for hiring the officers.

Mr. McCorquodale led a comprehensive discussion between Chief, Councilmembers and himself over ARPA funds and the changes in designation. Council directed questions at Chief on what would happen if they only used the funds for hiring officers, how would he budget for them after the funds were gone.

Councilmember Carol Langley wrapped up this conversation by clarifying the number of officers he has, he needs and if there were any equipment, vehicles etc. that he needed.

5. General Fund Municipal Court Department

Ms. Kim Duckett, Court Director stated that the only change for her was taking her part time position and making it a full time. She provided council with a detailed plan of the duties that the new fulltime position could assist with in the first instance. Ms. Duckett explained about the

new program out of Harris County which would require every warrant manually being input into the system. As the City grows as does the court cases.

Council and Ms. Duckett held a brief discussion on the proposed full-time position.

6. General Fund Public Works

Mr. Mike Muckleroy began his item by stating that after discussions with the EDC, a new position is being created which will be housed under the Public Works umbrella" Recreation and Events Coordinator or Specialist. This would be funded as a 50/50 split with the MEDC. There is a cost for a vehicle for this new position also, this is estimated at 30K.

He went on to describe the repairs that his crews can work on, thus reducing the specialist street repair line item, saving on contract labor.

The engineering costs are discussed by WGA, Chris Roznovsky.

Discussions took place around the position, a job description, and vehicle.

Chief Solomon stated that he had a spare SUV which was going to go to Auction, if it is usable, he is welcome to take it on. The vehicle is currently being worked on, having the seats placed back and the cages removed. It has approximately 70,000 miles on it.

Councilmember Patricia Easley stated that she wanted HR to work on the Job Description and to make sure that no position holder is asked to make their own job description.

Ms. Browe confirmed that both she and Mike would be working on the job description however, the position holder, will have the latitude to grow and bring value to the city, which may result in a change to the description.

7. Debt Service Fund

No discussion was held on the Debt Service Fund.

8. Water & Sewer

Mr. Muckleroy explained that there were two changed highlighted.

9. Special Fund - Capital Project Fund

Mr. Lasky explained that the changes on this fund were due to the Water and Sewer Fund.

Mr. Lasky went on to explain the changes with revenues such as a raise in the impact fees, proceeds from the GLO, and where Redbird will pay when they plat. There are approximately 260 lots. This will place a surplus just down a little.

Mr. Lasky explained the expenses were mostly items that Chris Roznovsky and Mike had explained both tonight and at a prior meeting.

Councilmember Patricia Easley made her feelings known about no sidewalks on MLK, she felt that removing monies from a sidewalk fund not appropriate and wanted to make sure MLK was not left out of the sidewalk project.

Mayor Sanford stated that he hasn't been able to get much feedback or conversations with the County, he was able to meet with Commissioner Walker, however.

Councilmember Patricia Easley stated that the City needs to prioritize, right now it appears we can spend about \$45,000 for a new vehicle but nothing on sidewalks.

Councilmembers held a lengthy discussion over funding of projects, engineering costs, construction costs, and TXDoT. A discussion and brief debate over the ARPA funds on Infrastructure was also held.

Councilmember Patricia Easley was still unhappy that someone decided to move the funds out of the sidewalk project fund.

Councilmember Casey Olson addressed what looked like an error in a formula and asked Mr. Lasky to go over the numbers again. Councilmember Casey Olson consulted Mr. Lasky and they concluded it was correct, but clarification would be bought to him first thing in the morning.

10. Special Fund - Court Security Fund

Ms. Duckett explained that the change here was the bailiff costs were reduced.

11. Special Fund - Court Technology Fund

Ms. Duckett explained the change here was that they were not proceeding with incode 10.

12. Special Fund - Hotel Occupancy Tax

Mr. Lasky explained the revenue for HOT Fund.

13. Special Fund - Police Asset & Forfeiture

No Discussion.

14. Special Fund - PID #1

Mr. McCorquodale explained to Council that this was the fund that was separated per the auditors. From General Fund into its own fund.

15. Montgomery Economic Development Corporation

No Discussion on this item.

16. Discussion of Tax Rate

No discussion on this item.

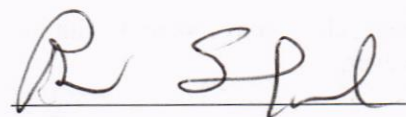
Councilmember TJ Wilkerson moved to adjourn the workshop.
Councilmember Carol Langley seconded the motion. Motion passed (5-0).

ADJOURNMENT 7:17 PM

Submitted by: 

Date Approved: 8-23-2022

Nici Browe, City Secretary



Byron Sanford, Mayor