

Minutes

August 10, 2020 @ 10:00 am
Special Council Meeting

1. Called to Order @ 10:00am.
2. Roll Call: Fladmark, McDonald, Austin, Hamaker, Sestito and Harrison. Quorum was established with Mayor Austin presiding.
3. Citizen Comments were made in person by item #.
4. General discussion took place on various concerns regarding the structure of the new recycling program for the City. Citizens Roland Napoles and Lisa McDonald addressed Council about their concerns. Majority consensus from Council was to go back to curbside and check with Republic if there is an option to purchase bigger recycling bins with covers. Council will act on this issue next meeting.
5. General discussion on 2020 / 2021 fiscal year tax rate and budget. Mayor Austin began the discussion explaining that the proposed tax rate would be the same as it currently is at .465434. Council member McDonald expressed that he thought it might benefit the citizens if the tax rate was lowered, due to the financial impact that many people are currently feeling during the national pandemic. The majority consensus was in favor of keeping the proposed rate. As the discussion turned to the budget, Mayor Austin addressed Council for their feedback on each line item by page in the proposed budget draft:
 - #5170-3 – Council Member McDonald wanted everyone to know that the large number from the 19/20 budget was for the tractor purchase.
 - #5230 – Because of renegotiations with insurance carrier, the increase in rate is only \$600 even though 2 new positions are being added.
 - #5320 – Council Member Fladmark asked about the reduced maintenance expense for buildings. Mayor Austin explained that it is usually \$25,000 however, in anticipating new buildings the maintenance costs would decrease exponentially.
 - #5370-1 – It was clarified that the cost increase is because of more use.
 - #5430 – Council Member McDonald said that he spoke with the GBC Mayor about what they are doing for office salaries, he also summarized an article about Mabank ISD, and concluded that he is concerned about the level of proposed increase. Mayor Austin reiterated that 78% of cities the size of Tool currently have the positions that are being proposed, including Mabank, and the increase is necessary for the current and continual growth of the City. After discussion of various points from Council, the majority consensus was in favor of the proposed rate.
 - #5430-2 – the increase is for a Sergeant position, which has been budgeted for in the past. There was discussion about certification pay for officers and will be an initiative for next year.
 - Mayor Austin made an action item to revise the City Hall administrative job descriptions to include the scope of work that each position will hold when the City Administrator position is created.
 - #5470 – The increase is for more Police training.
 - Council Member Harrison asked about the need for radio conversion. Mayor Austin and City Secretary Lyons explained that Henderson County is converting to a new system, and in order for Tool to be able to communicate with them over radio, we will have to upgrade on our end as well. It has been advised by the Henderson County Emergency Management Coordinator that we make the necessary upgrades to stay in communication in the event of an emergency or disaster situation.
 - After discussion had ended for this agenda item, Citizen Napoles addressed council with concerns, including that this meeting should have been held at a later time so that more people could attend. Mayor Austin recapped the history of budget meeting times in her history as both Mayor and Council Member, and that not once have they been held at a normal meeting time.
 - Council Member Sestito asked for Council and staff to think about doing a drive-thru trick-or-treat in lieu of Fall Fest this year.
 - Council Member Fladmark mentioned the need for poll workers this election season.
6. Adjourned @ 11:51am.

Tawnya Austin
Tawnya Austin, Mayor



Attest:

Makenzie Lyons
Makenzie Lyons, City Secretary