

Minutes

City Council – Special Session Meeting – Budget Workshop #2

CITY OF SIMONTON

August 13, 2024

This is a true and correct copy of the Minutes of the City Council – Special Session Meeting – Budget Workshop #2 held on August 13, 2024 at 6:00 p.m.

1. **Call to Order at 6:00 p.m.**

A quorum was present with the following City Council Members in attendance:

Laurie Boudreaux, Kelli Matula, Courtney Cox, Faith Haley, Justin Boudreau, and Burns Turner

City Staff present:

City Secretary Nanci Mohr

Public Present:

Dan McJunkin

2. **Invocation and Pledge**

Mayor Boudreaux gave the invocation.

Mayor Boudreaux led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. **Public Comments**

In accordance with Texas Open Meetings Act and Texas Government Code 551.007, City Council may not discuss or take action on any item NOT listed on the Agenda. Each member of the public wishing to speak must sign-up prior to the meeting and is limited to 3 minutes.

There were no speakers to address the City Council.

4. **New Business – Review of 2024-2025 Proposed Budget**

Mayor Boudreaux gave a detailed explanation of each new section of the Proposed Budget. She stated that EDC A, EDC B and roads were funded by a percentage of the sales taxes, and that Fort Bend County anticipates an increase in costs for road repair.

After a lengthy discussion regarding general ledger coding, Council Member Courtney Cox requested a monthly summary of city operational costs. Council Member Courtney Cox asked what would happen if the encumbered costs were removed from the budget worksheets. Mayor Boudreaux stated that the Council has already approved those amounts for projects.

Council Member Burns Turner stated that there have been no road repairs that he is aware of and that we are just “sitting in line” waiting for Fort Bend County to fix them. He stated that he does not want to accumulate money while we are waiting for Fort Bend County. Council Member Justin Boudreau asked if Fort Bend County will do the complete road repair when it is our turn. Mayor Boudreaux stated yes, they will do the repair work requested up to the amount of funds that are available.

Council Member Burns Turner requested a status on the CDBG grant application. Mayor Boudreaux stated that grant money is allocated towards low-income projects first, then it can be opened up for urgent need, but that we won't know if we will receive grant money until the spring of 2025 or later.

After a discussion of the percentage of interest for each of the CDs and when the CDs were opened, the Mayor stated that it would be irresponsible not to put the money in interest-bearing accounts to make the most money possible for the projects.

Council Member Courtney Cox stated that she wants Fort Bend County to “move us up the list” on road repairs. A lengthy comparison of tax rates ensued.

Mayor Boudreaux asked each Council Member to speak to their personal list of priorities. Council Member Kelli Matula stated zoning, then roads, then code enforcement are her highest priorities. Council Member Justin Boudreau agreed. Council Member Courtney Cox stated that zoning is a necessity but requests a schedule/plan/proposal. Mayor Boudreaux stated that we cannot request a proposal without public bid under the rules. Council Member consensus on zoning.

Council Member Courtney Cox stated that she would like ditch mowing to resume. Mayor Boudreaux stated that the most-recent cost was \$86,000 per year, and that the property owner is ultimately responsible for mowing on the right-of-way.

Council then agreed as a whole to transfer the \$36,000 budgeted for code enforcement into zoning as zoning is a much higher priority.

Council Member Justin Boudreau requested information regarding the life expectancy of roads. Mayor Boudreaux stated that we need to create an updated priority list of which roads need to be repaired first. Mayor Boudreaux agreed to provide detail of road tax balance since last roadwork was paid by the City.

5. The next City Council Special Session Meeting – Budget Workshop #3 is on August 27, 2024 at 6:00 p.m.
6. Adjournment
The Mayor adjourned the City Council Meeting at 8:01 p.m. without objection.

Respectfully submitted,



Mayor Laurie Boudreaux



Nanci Mohr, City Secretary

