

Minutes
Budget Workshop Session of the Breckenridge City Commission
July 23, 2020 – 5:30 P.M.
Breckenridge City Offices Commission Chambers
105 North Rose Avenue, Breckenridge, Texas 76424

Those Present: Bob Sims, Mayor; Tom Cyprian, Mayor Pro-Tem; David Wimberley, Commissioner; Heather Robertson-Caraway, Interim City Manager of Administration / City Secretary; Houston Satterwhite, Interim City Manager of Operations;; Stacy Harrison, Public Services Director; Calvin Chaney, Fire Chief; Diane Latham, Asst. City Secretary; Sage Diller, e-HT

Those Absent: Russell Blue, Commissioner

1. **Call to Order:** Bob Sims, Mayor at 5:45 P.M.
2. **Public Testimony:** None
3. **Consideration and possible approval of Final Project Acceptance and Release of Retainage for the USDA – Rural Development funded Parks Street Project**

Sage Diller, e-HT explained there will be a deduction of \$36,000 contingent upon construction change order all close out documents will be on the August 4th agenda.

Commissioner Wimberley made a motion, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Cyprian to approve the Final Project Acceptance and Release of Retainage for the USDA – Rural Development funded Parks Street Project contingent upon all closing documents being completed including deduction change order. When the motion was put to vote, it prevailed as follows: Ayes: Sims, Cyprian, Wimberley, and Durham. Nays: None. Absent: Blue

4. **Consideration and possible approval of Amendment No. 2 to the Owner-Engineer Agreement for the USDA – Rural Development funded Parks Street Project**

No Action Needed

Commissioner Wimberley made a motion, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Cyprian to approve Amendment No. 2 to the Owner-Engineer Agreement for the USDA – Rural Development funded Parks Street Project. When the motion was put to vote, it prevailed as follows: Ayes: Sims, Cyprian, Wimberley, and Durham. Nays: None. Absent: Blue

BUDGET WORKSHOP

5. 2020-21 Fiscal Year Budget Workshop

Interim City Manager of Administration, Heather Robertson- Caraway reviewed the proposed 2020-21 budget:

General Fund:

Commissioner Wimberley requested that we add to the August 4th Agenda an item from Breckenridge Industrial Foundation with regard to an audit. That they will hire an organization to perform an audit on all

departments structure, staff - overpaid, finances, etc. This will put to rest all the current rumors and accusations of where the money went and someone absconding with the money. Discussion ensued with regard to the actual intent of the Industrial Foundation and exactly how no one at City Office knew anything about any of this. Fire Chief Chaney mentions that everything is supposed to go through the City Manager and the Commission has appointed that position and by not going through them goes against the City Charter. Commissioner Wimberley stated he needed to see where it states that - Interim City Manager of Administration Robertson-Caraway stated that it has been printed, and hand delivered to all Commissioners several times in May.

Commissioner Wimberley passed out to the other commissioners some red folders and stated that what they told him was that they wanted to pay for an audit and that is what they described to him. Interim City Manager of Administration Robertson-Caraway stated that if it is a company called Strategic Government Resources that they need to research this entity a little more. This is the entity that the City used back in 2011 to get City Manager Brad Newton (this cost the City a lot of money to get out of that contract with Mr. Newton, just after 6 months of employment). I do know that I personally receive emails from Strategic Government Resources almost weekly with jobs from other states for Finance Director, City Secretary, Human Resource Director, Accounting Manager, CFO, City Manager, etc.

Several department heads and Commissioner Durham showed Commissioner Wimberley in the paperwork he handed out where it reflects that their true intent is not an audit but to hire a City Manager.

Interim City Manager of Administration Robertson-Caraway stated I will do whatever it is the Commission feels is needed, but I strongly recommend that the Commission locate an independent firm for the audit. She also asked them if they were prepared for the repercussions that will ultimately result from the audit? She mentions that it will put the minds of the skeptics to rest but it will highlight how the employees are underpaid and they will expect a sizeable raise.

Animal Welfare:

Commissioner Wimberley insisted that a part-time person be hired for the purpose of Animal Welfare and further stipulated that \$10,000.00 be put in the budget to accommodate this. Discussion ensued about all the complaints coming in - City staff asked what complaints - we aren't getting any. Commissioner Wimberley mentioned that they are all going to the Humane Society - no one knows to call the police department; they think it is closed. Interim City Manager of Administration Robertson-Caraway stated that it will get added to the budget; however, I think we just need to get it out that the public needs to call the police for any issues with animals. Police Chief Bacel Cantrell stated that they are not getting complaints, it is running smoother than it ever has, and that he has spoke to Kathy with the Humane Society just a couple days ago and she never mentioned complaints and agreed it was running smoothly.

Park Department:

Commissioner Wimberley directed that no matter what the cost, the pool will be fixed and opened next year. With the added stipulation, that the pricing will be increased to at least have the pool break even and no longer be in the red each year. Interim City Manager of Administration Robertson-Caraway stated that she can definitely provide them with the records and information; however, it is simply not possible for the pool to break even next year - the repair costs are going to be \$50,000 to \$70,000.

Water Fund:

Interim City Manager of Administration Robertson-Caraway reviewed with the Commission the Rate Sheet provided and the proposed changes and additions to raise revenues. Base water and sewer to increase, sanitation fee, revenue deficit surcharge and sanitation rates to increase. She requested that the commission review these and let her know of any changes by early next week. She explains her thought & intent behind the sewer irrigation credit. Commissioner Wimberley stated that's the best idea he's heard in years.

SUMMARY


In summary, 2020-21 will be an exceptionally difficult year requiring additional revenues to be generated in the Water, Wastewater and Sanitation Funds to have ending fund balances that are in the black. The 2020-21 year will be an extremely challenging year to build reserve balances and maintain existing services. We feel we have projected revenues low and expenditures high to aid the build of reserves and help to cover unexpected expenditures that always arise. We believe the budget plan we are proposing will rise to the challenge.

Adjourn

Mayor Pro-Tem Cyprian made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Wimberley, to adjourn the meeting. When the motion was put to vote, it prevailed as follows: Ayes: Sims, Cyprian, Wimberley, and Durham. Nays: None. Absent: Blue

Meeting adjourned at 8:18 P.M.

ATTEST



Bob Sims, Mayor



Heather Robertson-Caraway, CCCII, TRMC
Interim City Manager of Administration / City Secretary

