

CITY COUNCIL

BUDGET WORKSHOP SESSION

AUGUST 10, 2017

The City Council of the City of Athens met in a Budget Workshop Session on Thursday, August 10, 2017, 5:30 p.m. in the Conference Room of the Development Services Center, 622 S. Prairieville St., Athens, Texas with the following members present, to-wit:

Monte Montgomery, Mayor
Tres Winn, Mayor Pro-Tem
Joe Whatley
Toni Clay
Ed McCain

Bonnie Hambrick, City Secretary
Gary Whittle, Interim City Manager

others present: Ryan Adams, Thanasis Kombos, Marty Coursey, Barbara Holly, John McQueary, Rodney Williams, Jennifer Robertson, Mary Francis Eggleston, David Hill, Mary Ensign, Dr. Marylyn Wright, Deborah Deas, Tara Rigby, Chris Tinsley, Mary Farmer, Linda Amos, Lacey & John Lowry, Mandie Quigg, Janicia Evans, Carol Morton, Rachel Cox, Bob Miers, Benita Littleton and Steve Barksdale,

and other interested citizens;

constituting a quorum at which time the following proceedings were enacted, to-wit:

INVOCATION

The invocation was given by Gary Whittle, Interim City Manager.

DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

No action was taken.

Mayor Montgomery thanked the citizens for attending the Budget Workshop. He stated the input from Citizens helps tremendously. He further informed the citizens that it is a workshop session and no action would be taken.

STAFF PRESENTATIONS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2018 HOTEL OCCUPANCY TAX FUNDING, AS RECOMMENDED BY THE CULTURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION

- A) EAST TEXAS ARBORETUM AND BOTANICAL SOCIETY
- B) HENDERSON COUNTY FAIR PARK
- C) ATHENS TEENAGE BASEBALL ASSOCIATION
- D) UNITED STATES EQUESTRIAN DRILL TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP (SUPERRIDE)
- E) HENDERSON COUNTY PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

Thanasis Kombos, Assistant City Manager, informed the City Council that Staff received nine (9) applications through the Fiscal Year 2018 Call for Projects (Hotel Occupancy Tax Funding). He stated the Cultural Resources Commission (CRC) heard presentations from the local organizations seeking funding and the following recommendations were made by the CRC for Fiscal Year 2018 Call for Projects. Mr. Kombos summarized the request as follows:

- **ATHENS TEENAGE BASEBALL ASSOCIATION (ATBA): \$12,000.00**

To pursue one or more Dixie Baseball of Texas State Tournaments to be held in Athens

- **HENDERSON COUNTY REGIONAL FAIR PARK COMPLEX (HCRFPC): \$10,600.00**

The HCRFPC is seeking funding for the renovation of their north side restrooms and concessions stands.

- **EAST TEXAS ARBORETUM & BOTANICAL SOCIETY (ETABS): \$7,425.00**

Critical maintenance repairs and renovations to the historic Wofford House.

ADVERTISING FUNDING RECOMMENDATIONS

- **UNITED STATES EQUESTRIAN DRILL CHAMPIONSHIP- SUPER RIDE EVENT: \$5,000.00**

The USEDC is seeking funding for advertising and promotion of the 2018 Super Ride Event.

- **EAST TEXAS ARBORETUM & BOTANICAL SOCIETY (ETABS): \$2,500.00**

The ETABS is seeking funding for radio advertising

- **ETX MAKERS COOPERATIVE: \$2,500**

The Athens area wineries and brewery are seeking funding for brochures and miscellaneous advertising

ART PROMOTION FUNDING RECOMMENDATIONS:

- **HENDERSON COUNTY PERFORMING ARTS CENTER (HCPAC): \$2,500.00**

HCPAC is requesting funding to host the Athens Regenerates Theater Festival.

David Hill, Executive Director of Henderson County Performing Arts Center, provided an update on the HCPAC request for funding to host Athens Regenerates Theater Festival.

Ms. Littleton provided an update on the ETX Makers Cooperative, which is Athens area wineries and brewery, for miscellaneous brochures and advertising funding.

HEAR PRESENTATIONS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2018 PUBLIC FUNDING FOR AID TO OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

- A) HENDERSON COUNTY CLINT W. MURCHISON MEMORIAL LIBRARY
- B) KEEP ATHENS BEAUTIFUL
- C) EAST TEXAS ARBORETUM AND BOTANICAL SOCIETY
- D) THE FAMILY PEACE PROJECT
- E) ATHENS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
- F) HENDERSON COUNTY REGIONAL FAIR PARK
- G) HENDERSON COUNTY ARTS COUNCIL
- H) HENDERSON COUNTY PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

Ryan Adams, Managing Director of Public Services, provided background information on the application program for Public Funding for Aid to other organizations. Mr. Adams stated the program does require applicants to make presentations to the City Council. He further stated the program is a reimbursement based funding or an invoice based funding to the applicant.

The following organizations provided a description of their organization and their proposal for public funding:

- David Hill, Henderson County Performing Arts
- Rachel Cox, Henderson County Clint W. Murchison Memorial Library
- Mary Farmer, The Family Peace Project
- Deborah Deas, East Texas Arboretum and Botanical Society
- Bob Miers, Henderson County Regional Fair Park
- Tara Rigby, Athens Chamber of Commerce
- Carol Morton, Keep Athens Beautiful
- Dr. Marylyn Wright, Henderson County Arts Council

Mayor Montgomery reiterated to the citizens that no action would be taken during the Budget Workshop Session.

The City Council recessed at 6:43 p.m.

The City Council returned to the Budget Workshop Session at 7:08 p.m.

DISCUSS AND REVIEW PROPOSED FISCAL YEAR 2018 BUDGET

Gary Whittle, Interim City Manager, thanked the City Council for attending the Budget Workshop Session. He stated Staff is presenting the proposed Fiscal Year 2018 Annual Operating Budget. Mr. Whittle stated it is a balanced budget.

He introduced the agenda and stated an education session on Fund Balance will be presented. He further stated that Staff will present accomplishments for Fiscal Year 2017 and 2018 budget requests.

Marty Coursey, Finance Director, presented Budget Highlights including: Proposed Tax Rate remaining at \$.0685221; maintain Committed Fund Balance \$1.7 million (60 days operating); recommendation for a balanced budget in Fiscal Year 2018.

Ms. Coursey presented information on Fund Balance and Spendable General Fund Balance according to Statement No. 54 of the Governmental Accounting Standards Board, otherwise known as GASB54. There was much discussion.

Councilmember McCain requested Staff investigate outstanding Court Fines and Fees.

Ms. Coursey reviewed General Fund Revenue Summary, Tax Rate Comparisons, Assessed Valuation Comparison, and General Fund Expenditure Summary.

Ms. Coursey reviewed highlights and presented the proposed budget for Mayor and Council, City Manager, Legal, and City Secretary, with general discussion and clarification.

Jennifer Robertson, Director of Human Resources, reviewed highlights from 2017 and presented the proposed budget for the Human Resources Department with general discussion and clarification.

Ms. Coursey reviewed 2017 highlights for Court and the Finance Departments. She presented the proposed budgets for Court, Finance and General Fund Non-Departmental, with general discussion and clarification.

Mr. Kombos stated the Community Development Department has been added to the City Manager's department accounting for personnel costs only for the Community Development Director. He stated this position has been unfunded for Fiscal Year 2018.

He presented the proposed budget for Facilities, Streets, Parks and Fleet Maintenance.

There was discussion regarding the Henderson County Memorial Hospital property. It was the consensus of the City Council that Staff investigate the cost for a possible sprinkler system to make the property more presentable. There was general discussion and clarification.

The City Council recessed at 8:20 p.m.

The City Council returned to the Budget Workshop Session at 8:28 p.m.

Barbara Holly, Managing Director of Development Services, presented the proposed budget for Code Enforcement and Planning and Development, with general discussion and clarification.

John McQueary, Fire Chief, provided an update on the Emergency Management System. He presented the proposed budget for the Fire Department, with general discussion and clarification.

Rodney Williams, Assistant Chief of Police, provided 2017 department highlights. He presented the proposed budgets for Animal Control, Police Administration, Police Investigation, Police Patrol, and Police Support Service, with general discussion and clarification.

Mr. Kombos reviewed Airport Fund and Hotel Occupancy Tax Fund.

Ms. Coursey reviewed the Equipment Replacement Fund and Debt Service Fund.

Mr. Adams reviewed Utility Expenditure Summary, Utility Administration, Water Production, Utility Distribution and Collection, Wastewater Treatment, Utility Billing, and Utility Non-Departmental, with general discussion and clarification.

Ms. Coursey explained the Capital Improvement Program is a “work in progress”. She stated Staff will prepare a beginning list of Capital Improvement Projects for future budget years. General discussion and clarification took place.

Mr. Whittle explained the first public hearing on the Budget and Tax Rate is scheduled for August 14, 2017. The first reading of the Ordinances and the second public hearing on the Budget and Tax Rate is scheduled for August 28, 2017.

Mayor Montgomery thanked Gary Whittle and Staff for their work.

ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 9:24 p.m.

PASSED AND APPROVED THIS THE 28th DAY OF AUGUST, 2017.

Monte Montgomery, Mayor

ATTEST:

Bonnie Hambrick, City Secretary