

SPECIAL CALLED MEETING**City Council****May 23, 2022**

The City Council of the City of Brownwood, Texas, met in a Special Called Meeting on Monday, May 23, 2022, at 4:00 p.m., in the Upstairs Breakroom of City Hall, 501 Center Avenue, Brownwood, Texas, with the following members present:

**	Stephen E. Haynes	:	Mayor
	H. D. Jones	:	Councilmember Ward 1
	Ed McMillian	:	Councilmember Ward 2
	Melody Nowowiejski	:	Councilmember Ward 3
	Draco Miller	:	Councilmember Ward 4
	Walker Willey	:	Councilmember Ward 5
	Emily Crawford	:	City Manager
	Christi Wynn	:	City Secretary

with no members absent constituting a quorum of the City Council. Other City Staff in attendance was Deputy City Manager, Marshal McIntosh; Executive Director of the Brownwood Municipal Development District, Ray Tipton; Finance Director, Melanie Larose; Chief Accountant, Leah Thomas; and Director of Public Works, Henry Wied.

Mayor Pro Tem Willey called the meeting to order.

WORKSHOP:

Pre-Budget Workshop Session, including, without limitation, projects review, goal setting, staffing, economic development, revenue and expenditure projections and other related issues.

Enterprise vehicles – Mrs. Crawford stated that we are in the fifth year of our contract with Enterprise. Due to vehicle shortages, an order has been placed for three Police Tahoes. They will not be constructed until October. In this year’s contract, we planned to purchase twelve vehicles. We are unsure if we will be able to order the remaining eight vehicles.

County Agreements - ** Mayor Haynes entered during this conversation. Mrs. Crawford stated that after the election, we need to begin talking to the County Judge about cost sharing more evenly for the Health Department, Fire service, Library, and Senior Citizens Center. Currently, the City to County funding for the Health Department split is 70/30 and we would like to request a 50/50 split or base the split on population. Mayor Haynes commented that it may not be realistic to have significant changes to any agreements in the coming fiscal year, but we need to begin the conversations with the Judge in preparation for a change, like we did for the Dispatch Agreements.

Revenues, sales tax, tax roll, and tax rate – There was discussion about the ad valorem tax valuation increasing approximately \$940,000 because Brown County Tax Appraisal District increased the values of properties. Sales tax is anticipated to decrease some due to inflation. However, adding Marshal’s Department Store and Boot Barn may help offset the decrease. Other city revenue sources like utility rates may need to increase to cover

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expenses. There was mention that Brown County Water Improvement District will likely raise water rates because of the drastic increase in chemical costs to treat water. The Mayor and each Councilmember expressed their level of comfort for an increase in the tax take as long as we reduce the tax rate as much as possible. Several expressed their desire to see a 5% tax levy change or 0.6749 tax rate. There was much discussion about fuel costs, material costs, and other increases in cost of goods. Council requested staff attempt to keep the budget at 4.5% increase over last year, which is more than usual, but is justified with an 8% inflation rate.

Salaries – Mrs. Crawford asked the Council to consider an increase for non-civil service employees, as we are behind compared to other comparable cities' pay and are having trouble hiring and retaining front-line workers. The Council agreed and discussed allocating about \$1 million for pay adjustments. Mrs. Crawford said she would more heavily weight raises for front-line, lower paid employees and may need to have a two year plan to address manager-level pay. Civil Service employee salaries will increase according to the Meet and Confer Contracts. Police Department will receive 3% and Fire Department 2%.

Fuel surcharge – There was discussion about adding a fuel surcharge for the delivering and pickup of the Roll-off dumpsters. There is already a \$35 delivery fee, but it may increase because the cost of fuel is very high and only expected to rise.

An additional meeting will be set to discuss Council priority projects.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Council convened into Executive Session at 7:15 p.m., in the Upstairs Breakroom, pursuant to the provisions of the Open Meetings Law, Chapter 551, Government Code Vernon's Texas Codes Annotated, in accordance with the authority contained therein to discuss the following:

Section 551.074 – Personnel Matters

- A. Renew and discuss city council appointees' salaries.

Council reconvened into open session at 7:30 p.m.

ACTION TAKEN AS A RESULT OF THE EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Section 551.074 – Personnel Matters

- A. No action taken.

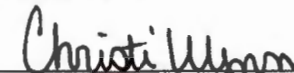
ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business to come before the Council at this time, Mayor Haynes declared the meeting adjourned.



 STEPHEN E. HAYNES, Mayor

ATTEST:



 CHRISTI WYNN, City Secretary