

MINUTES
COMMITTEE-OF-THE-WHOLE WORK SESSION
June 3, 2019
Conference Room A

PRESENT: Mayor Stiehm. Council Members Steve King, Paul Fischer, Rebecca Waller, Jason Baskin, Joyce Poschusta, Laura Helle, Council Member-at-Large Jeff Austin

ABSENT:

STAFF PRESENT: City Administrator Craig Clark, Director of Administrative Services Tom Dankert, Public Works Director Steven Lang, Parks and Recreation Director Kevin Nelson, Planning and Zoning Administrator Holly Wallace, Library Director Julie Clinefelter, Police Chief David McKichan, and City Clerk Ann Kasel

ALSO PRESENT: Austin Daily Herald, Public

Mayor Stiehm opened the meeting at 6:21 p.m.

Item No. 1 – Wellhead Protection Plan

Planning and Zoning Administrator Holly Wallace presented the proposed Wellhead Protection Plan on behalf of the Austin Utilities. She stated Austin Utilities is required to have a plan as to how they are going to protect the public drinking water. Areas were identified that were high risk due to the location of the wells and the geology of the surrounding area. The plan will be used as a guide for future planning in the City.

Public Works Director Steven Lang stated the item was forwarded to the City Attorney's office and there may be comments from the City attorney.

The Austin Utilities Board will review the agreement on June 12, 2019.

No additional Council action needed at this time.

Item No. 2 – 2020 Budget Planning

Director of Administrative Services Tom Dankert stated City staff are beginning to prepare for the 2020 budget. The City is expecting a \$326,000 LGA increase for 2020. Mr. Dankert stated that there are no labor contracts settled for 2020 and beyond.

Mr. Dankert stated the City must certify its tax levy by September 30th of each year. The tax levy for 2019 was in the amount of \$6,873,000. He stated that nearly \$10 million dollars of the budget is for salaries and benefits. Mr. Dankert asked Council if they had any specific budget additions or deletions for 2020 or if they wanted to support the same programs and staffing levels

as set forth in the 2019 budget. He noted that the tax levy has increased 59% in the last four years.

Mayor Stiehm noted that the last time the Council looked at cutting programs, the public responded that they did not want to cut services.

Council Member Helle stated she would support planting additional prairie grass in the parks so there would be less mowing. Parks and Recreation Director Kevin Nelson stated he would look into the matter and report back to the Council.

The Council stated that they want to build the 2020 budget based on the 2019 budget. Mr. Dankert stated the Council should advise him if there are additional programs the Council would like to implement. The Council stated that they were happy with how the budget was built by staff and would review it thoroughly once it is presented.

Council Member Baskin stated the current budget process seems to be working well. He noted he would like departments to identify any programs that can be cut.

Mayor Stiehm noted he would like the tax levy capped at 4% for 2020.

City Administrator Craig Clark noted the City's tax levy is still very low compared to other cities in the state.

After additional discussion, the Council stated they would review limited requests for additional staff; did not desire to hear presentations from outside agencies for additional funding requests; and requested capital requests be in the \$500,000 - \$600,000 range.

Mr. Dankert stated he would meet with the department heads to create a proposed 2020 budget which will be presented to Council at a future work session.

No additional Council action needed at this time.

Item No. 3 - Honorary Council Member Comments

None.

Item No. 4 – Administrative Report

None.

Item No. 5 - Open Discussion

Council Member Baskin would like to see the ride sharing ordinance on a future work session.

Moved by Council Member King, seconded by Council Member-at-Large Austin, adjourning the meeting at 7:04 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ann M. Kasel
City Clerk