

**CITY OF GRAND PRAIRIE
CITY COUNCIL BUDGET WORKSHOP MINUTES
August 21, 2020**

The City of Grand Prairie City Council convened at 9:00 AM on August 21, 2020 via video conference. The following members were in attendance:

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT

Ron Jensen, Mayor
Jorja Clemson, Mayor Pro Tem
Jim Swafford, Deputy Mayor Pro Tem
Greg Giessner
Jeff Copeland
Mike Del Bosque
John Lopez
Cole Humphreys
Jeff Wooldridge

Item #1: Introduction

With a quorum present, Mayor Jensen called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM and introduced City Manager Tom Hart. Councilmember Swafford also gave some opening remarks.

Item #2: Statistical Information Overview

City Manager Tom Hart presented the Statistical Information Overview. Mayor Jensen inquired about the City's population ranking #17 versus #15. Budget staff followed up and verified that based on US Census Bureau data, Grand Prairie is the 17th largest city in Texas.

Item #3: General Fund

Budget Director, Kathleen Mercer presented the General Fund update.

Councilmember Swafford requested an updated General Fund summary, with recalculated ending resources, based on updated revenue projections. Councilmember Clemson requested a list of positions frozen for FY21. Staff provided these items to Councilmembers as part of the follow-up packet.

Item #4: Employee Insurance Fund

Human Resources Director, Lisa Norris presented the Employee Insurance Fund update.

Item #5: Solid Waste Fund

Solid Waste and Recycling Manager, Dr. Patricia Redfearn presented the Solid Waste Fund update including a proposed 3% residential and 5.4% industrial fee increase. Councilmember Wooldridge requested to include Mansfield and Cedar Hill as part of the Solid Waste fee comparisons. Mayor Jensen mentioned that he would like to proceed with the decision on the use of carts. Mr. Dye responded that the pandemic delayed the decision to test the use of carts; however, staff would be bringing it to Council in the near future. He also mentioned that the City is going to retain a consultant to perform a cost analysis of the solid waste options, including carts.

Dr. Redfearn and her staff updated the comparative fee graphs to include Mansfield and Cedar Hill; staff provided these items to Councilmembers as part of the follow-up packet.

Item #6: Water/Wastewater Fund

Public Works Director Gabe Johnson and Debt and Treasury Manager Brady Olsen presented the Water/Wastewater Fund update including a proposed 4.5% water and wastewater fee increase. Councilmember Swafford commented on the rating agencies including TRA's and DWU's debt service in the City's coverage calculation.

Mayor Jensen asked staff to show revenue impact of not applying the 4.5% rate increase to the lowest residential tier for FY21. Based on staff analysis, not increasing the rate for the lowest water consumption tier equates to approximately \$113,792 in revenue. To offset this, the water rates for the other tiers would need to increase 4.76%, rather than the 4.5%

Item #7: CIP Projects

Various department heads presented the CIP projects.

The meeting concluded with Mayor Jensen and Mr. Hart thanking Budget staff and the Finance and Government Committee. Mayor Jensen adjourned the meeting at approximately 11:30 AM.

Submitted by Marlon Pacheco, Senior Financial Analyst, Budget Department