

MINUTES
CITY COUNCIL MEETING

AUGUST 28, 2018

CALL TO ORDER – Roll Call and Determination of a Quorum

The Parker City Council met in a special meeting on the above date at Parker City Hall, 5700 E. Parker Road, Parker, Texas, 75002.

Mayor Lee Pettie called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Councilmembers Cindy Meyer, Cleburne Raney, Edwin Smith, Ed Standridge and Patrick Taylor were present.

Staff Present: Finance/H.R. Manager Johnna Boyd, City Secretary Patti Scott Grey, City Attorney Brandon Shelby, Courts Administrator Lori Newton, Fire Chief Mike Sheff, Police Chief Richard Brooks, and Public Works Director Gary Machado

EXECUTIVE SESSION 7:00 P.M. TO 7:30 P.M. – Pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 551, Texas Government Code the City Council may hold a closed meeting.

1. RECESS TO CLOSED EXECUTIVE SESSION IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE AUTHORITY CONTAINED IN:

- a. Government Code Section 551.074 Personnel—To deliberate the appointment, employment, evaluation, reassignment, duties, discipline, or dismissal of a public officer or employee.
- b. Government Code Section 551.071(1)—Consultation with City Attorney concerning Pending or Contemplated Litigation

Mayor Lee Pettie recessed the regular meeting at 7:01 p.m.

2. RECONVENE REGULAR MEETING.

Mayor Lee Pettie reconvened the regular meeting at 7:24 p.m.

3. ANY APPROPRIATE DELIBERATION AND/OR ACTION ON ANY OF THE EXECUTIVE SESSION SUBJECTS LISTED ABOVE.

No action was taken.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

AMERICAN PLEDGE: Stacy Patrick led the pledge.

TEXAS PLEDGE: Annette Stone led the pledge.

PUBLIC COMMENTS The City Council invites any person with business before the Council to speak. No formal action may be taken on these items at this meeting. Please keep comments to 3 minutes.

Joe Cordina, 4302 Boulder Drive, asked to present an area option for the City's Municipal Complex. He showed pictures of the Lucas, Texas, City Hall and described it as a metal fabricated building, rustic in appearance, with an overhang outside making it comfortable to sit on a bench and enjoy. Mr. Cordina said Lucas' building is beautiful inside, which included a stone foyer. Their complex is surrounded by four and one-half (4 ½) acres, a

recreation area with a park playground, and includes a community building, residents can use free of charge. He commented this is country being truly country at a cost of \$200,000, and said if Parker is truly uniquely country, then rethink the plans for a new City Hall and the cost associated.

John Griego, 6601 Poco Drive, said he wanted to respond to comments from Councilmember Ed Standridge at the last City Council meeting. Mr. Griego said it was Councilmember Standridge's job, as a Parker council member, to come up with solutions and reach out to our citizens. He said he thought Councilmember Standridge's comments were out of line and offensive.

Tom Macduff, 4313 Sycamore Lane, indicated he felt Architect Randall Scott was not being completely truthful, regarding Municipal Complex low/high costs quoted. Mr. Macduff said he was uncomfortable with the architect.

CONSENT AGENDA Routine Council business. Consent Agenda is approved by a single majority vote. Items may be removed for open discussion by a request from a Councilmember or member of staff.

4. REPUBLIC WASTE QUARTERLY REPORT. [BERNAS]
5. DEPARTMENT REPORTS-ANIMAL CONTROL, BUILDING, COURT, POLICE AND WEBSITE

MOTION: Councilmember Taylor moved to accept the quarterly and month reports, as presented. Councilmember Smith seconded with Councilmembers Meyer, Raney, Smith, Standridge, and Taylor voting for the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

INDIVIDUAL CONSIDERATION ITEMS

6. PUBLIC HEARING ON FY2018-2019 BUDGET AND TAX RATE. [PETTLE/BOYD]

Mayor Lee Pettle opened the public hearing to receive comments regarding the FY 2018-2019 Budget and Tax Rate at 7:34 p.m.

Finance/H.R. Manager Boyd stated there were no significant changes to the budget, since the August 21st City Council meeting.

Linda Nelson, 5802 Corinth Chapel, said she has lived in North Texas for forty (40) years. As a Certified Public Accountant (CPA) with over forty (40) years in finance, she has no objection to paying more, if warranted, but she does not see anything to warrant an increase. Ms. Nelson suggested using a zero-based budget. It would be a good starting point. She said it appeared the proposed budget started with a 2-cent tax rate increase and then the budget was brought in line to match that increase. City Council should not increase the tax rate. The proposed tax rate should be reduced. Property taxes brought in enough increased revenue. Ms. Nelson indicated if the proposed tax rate increase remained the same, all lawful means would be used by Parker citizens to oppose it and this would be remembered at the next local election.

Elvis Nelson, 5802 Corinth Chapel, said he is a Harvard educated CPA, who moved to Parker in 2010. He thinks the proposed budget is "non-sensical", especially the contingency funds. Home appraisals have increased bringing in more revenue. Mr. Nelson suggested keeping the tax rate the same. He noted some entities cap what senior citizens may be taxed. The City of Parker does not have a cap, and many can no longer afford to live in Parker. He urged City Council to examine the proposed budget more closely.

Terry Lynch, 5809 Middleton Drive, said she is opposed to the proposed tax rate increase. The Police and Fire Departments are not driving the increase. There is a 25% increase in payroll, over \$187,000 in contingency funds, as well as several vehicles. Ms. Lynch urged City Council to cut items from the proposed budget and work with the current tax rate.

Ed Lynch, 5809 Middleton Drive, said he is a retired CPA. Expenses and/or contingency fund amounts should be cut, and the tax rate should not be increased. If taxes are increased, a rollback petition will be circulated and if the citizens are successful a refund will be necessary. The bottom line is do not raise taxes.

Stephanie Casson, 5401 Westfield Drive, opposed having any tax increase. The budget process was not transparent, and the proposed budget should be cut. With regard to the Municipal Complex, Ms. Casson said Mayor Pro Tem Raney is not representing our citizens and Architect Randall Scott is not responsible to Parker residents. Any bond funding for a proposed Municipal Complex should be voted upon by its citizens. Other needs such as drainage must come first. In closing, Ms. Casson noted she did not appreciate Councilmember Standridge comments at the last meeting.

Tom Brennan, 6002 Tamsworth Court, compared Parker and Lucas. (See Exhibit 1 – Tom Brennan’s handout, dated August 28, 2018.)

Bhawna Oberoi, 6002 Tamsworth Court, remarked that she likes the quiet atmosphere of Parker and she likes the Police Department, which provides vital services. However, she commented it is easy to get caught up in keeping up with other cities. Ms. Oberoi suggested City Council look into options such as the Lucas City Hall; examine the proposed budget more closely for reductions; and use reserves if necessary to avoid a tax rate increase.

Stacy Patrick, 5202 Ravensthorpe Drive, said she was opposed to a tax rate increase. The Fire Department is being supported. She encouraged City Council to examine each line item of the proposed budget and remove contingency funds where possible. Ms. Patrick said there are a lot of Parker residents on a fixed income that a tax rate increase would harm. She encouraged City Council to walk the City like they did when they were campaigning for their current positions to find out what the citizens really think.

Andy Redmond, 7275 Moss Ridge Road, urged a “No” vote, regarding the tax rate increase. Examine salaries ‘big raises’, and line items that can be removed such as vehicles. He also said a new pickup truck was listed for Public Works; the current truck has 160,000 miles on it. He said vehicles were lasting longer and suggested getting a new engine for \$6,300 with a 15-warranty. Mr. Redmond urged City Council to stay within budget and not increase the tax rate. (See Exhibit 2 – Andy Redmond’s email, dated August 27, 2018.)

Michael Booth, 4010 Ann’s Lane, noted that the “Notes” space on the proposed budget were primarily empty. It would be very helpful if notes were provided to explain the changes/increases. Citizens are unsure of what changed and why a line item was increased. As far as items such as Home Rule and the proposed Municipal Complex, Parker residents do not feel there is enough transparency in our city government. The City of Parker needs a well-developed plan in which council/staff explains the direction the City is going and the steps to get that accomplished. The City has a strategic and comprehensive plan, but we are not following it. Mr. Booth

suggested moving toward districts or wards. City officials would be responsible to that district's residents. He encouraged City Council and Staff to revisit the old comprehensive plan to determine where Parker should be.

Vicky Barrera-White, 7281 Moss Ridge Road, said she agreed with Linda Nelson's views on the budget and tax rate. She said Parker residents support the Fire and Police Departments and we enjoy having our own city departments. Ms. Barrera-White said she also agrees the City needs a current strategic plan. She suggested the budgetary needs be justified and serious issues be addressed first, and she urged City Council to examine the budget once again.

Mayor Pettle read the following residents' emails into the record:

- Lay Wah Ooi, 6707 Overbrook Drive (See Exhibit 3 – Lay Wah Ooi's email, dated August 28, 2018.)
- Stephen Loyd, 6308 North Ridge Parkway, (See Exhibit 4 – Stephen Loyd's email, dated August 27, 2018.)
- Diana and Johnson Abraham, 5200 Ravensthorpe Drive (See Exhibit 5 – Diana and Johnson Abraham's email, dated August 27, 2018.)
- Donald Reynolds, 6805 Cheswick Court (See Exhibit 6 – Donald Reynolds' email, dated August 28, 2018.)
- Adnan Tarhoni, 7279 Moss Ridge Road (See Exhibit 7 – Adnan Tarhoni's email, dated August 28, 2018.)
- Mark and Cindy Stachiw, 4404 Pecan Orchard Drive (See Exhibit 8 – Mark and Cindy Stachiw's email, dated August 28, 2018.)

No one else came forward and the Mayor declared the public hearing closed at 8:18 p.m.

7. CONSIDERATION/DISCUSSION AND/OR ANY APPROPRIATE ACTION ON BUDGET AND TAX RATE. [PETTLE/BOYD]

Mayor Pettle said numerous Parker residents have attended both Budget and Tax Rate public hearings, August 21 and August 28; sent emails; and telephoned to convey their thoughts, concerns and discontent with the proposed budget and tax rate increase. Residents have made suggestions for modifying the proposed budget and lowering or even eliminating the tax rate increase. The Mayor said she felt City Council should consider the suggestions, discuss options, and determine any changes to possibly lower or eliminate the tax rate increase.

Councilmember Standridge said there needed to be some discussion to determine how to proceed. He said he appreciated the feedback from John Griego and Mike Booth.

Councilmember Smith agreed with Councilmember Standridge. After hearing the citizens perspective, City Council should revisit the proposed budget and tax rate increase.

Councilmember Meyer said City Council should be good stewards of the tax dollars the City receives. She noted while Council must honor our commitment to the Fire Department, the City received \$200,000 more from the County than anticipated. She said she did not think a tax rate increase is warranted and City Council should take a serious look at the budget.

MOTION: Councilmember Meyer moved to reduce the tax rate to our current rate. The motion died for lack of a second.

Councilmember Smith said City Council should revisit the proposed budget and tax rate prior to the September 4, 2018 City Council meeting.

Councilmember Standridge agreed.

Mayor Pettie reminded City Council they would vote on the proposed budget and tax rate on Tuesday, September 4, 2018; therefore, City Council should be prepared with any changes at the meeting prior to the vote.

8. CONSIDERATION/DISCUSSION AND/OR ANY APPROPRIATE ACTION ON RESOLUTION NO. 2018-580 APPOINTING AN AUDITOR AND ENTERING INTO A SERVICE AGREEMENT WITH SAID AUDITOR FOR 2017-2018 AUDIT. [BOYD]

Finance/H.R. Manager Boyd recommended using BrooksWatson & Company, PLLC, and noted the City has a policy of only using a firm for five (5) consecutive years, there was no law against continuing to use the same firm.

MOTION: Councilmember Taylor moved to approve Resolution No. 2018-580, appointing BrooksWatson & Company, PLLC, as the City's Auditor, and entering into a service agreement with said auditor for 2017-2018 audit. Councilmember Standridge seconded with Councilmembers Raney, Smith, Standridge, and Taylor voting for the motion. Councilmember Meyer voting against the motion. Motion carried 4-1.

ROUTINE ITEMS

9. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Mayor Lee Pettie asked if there were any items to be added to the future agenda. There being no suggestions at this time she asked everyone to please email her any requests. She said the next scheduled meeting would be next Tuesday, September 4, 2018.

UPDATE(S):

- WATER RATES

Mayor Pettie noted North Texas Municipal Water District is raising our water rates effective October 1.

Water Rates - Residential		Effective Oct. 2017	Effective Oct. 2018	Effective Oct. 2019	Effective Oct. 2020
Min Chg. - Includes 1 st 4,000 Gal		40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00
Volume Rate Per 1,000 Gal.					
4,001	15,000	3.85	4.10	4.20	4.35
15,000	30,000	4.75	5.10	5.25	5.40
30,001	50,000	5.95	6.35	6.55	6.75
50,001	70,000	9.50	10.15	10.45	10.75
70,001	Above	13.10	14.00	14.40	14.85

REMINDER(S):

- NATIONAL NIGHT OUT (NNO) – TUESDAY, OCTOBER 2, 2018, 6:00 P.M. – 9:00 P.M.

Mayor Pettle reminded Parker residents to schedule their National Night Out (NNO) activities for October 2. If any resident or group of residents would like the Police Department to visit, please contact Sgt. John Paul at jpaul@parkertexas.us; if anyone would like the Fire Department to visit, please contact Chief Sheff at msheff@parkertexas.us; and finally, if you would like the Mayor and/or City Council members to visit, please contact City Secretary Patti Scott Grey at pgrey@parkertexas.us.

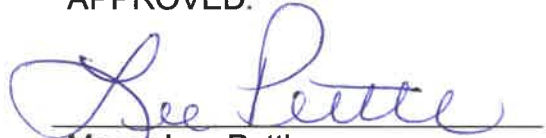
- MAYOR PETTLE OFFICIALLY CANCELED THE TUESDAY, OCTOBER 2, 2018 CITY COUNCIL MEETING DUE TO NATIONAL NIGHT OUT (NNO)

10. ADJOURN


Mayor Lee Pettle adjourned the meeting at 8:33 p.m.



APPROVED:


Mayor Lee Pettle

ATTESTED:


Patti Scott Grey, City Secretary

Approved on the 13th day
of November, 2018.

City Council August 28 at 7:30PM

Population (2017)

Physical Size (mi)

Population Growth Rate %/year (2010-2017)

Property Tax Rate (2017/18)

Property Tax Rate (2018/19 Proposed)

Operational Reserve Fund (Months)

Income (\$K 2017/18 amended budget)

Salaries & Wages (\$K) - 2017/18 budget

Salaries & Wages (\$K) - 2017/18 amended budget

Salaries & Wages (\$K) - 2018/19 Proposed

Police Department? (Lucas uses Collin County)

Police Department (\$K) - 2017/18 amended budget

Conclusions:

Property tax revenue increased 9% from prior year.

Parker continues to grow slowly at 3%

Eliminate Parker contingency to eliminate proposed tax increase. That is what reserve fund is for.

Parker should bring expenses down another 10%+ and reduce property taxes ~10% for 200+ fixed income families.

*Lucas \$300K contract with Collin County gives them 2 dedicated full time patrol officers (15 1/2 hour coverage per day)
Councilmembers Raney, Standridge, Smith, & Taylor have expressed their approval of the Parker tax increase.

Parker Lucas Lucas/Parker Ratio

4610	7483	1.62
8	12.6	1.58
2.9%	5.1%	1.73
0.37	0.32	0.86
0.39	0.30	0.77
15	14	0.93
5250	8181	1.56
1173	2023	1.72
1361	2052	1.51
1753	2072	1.18
Yes	No*	
1315	300	0.23
		700% per resident?

18% higher?

Parker +6.5% increase/Lucas is -6%?

Why \$177K in Parker contingency?

16% increase

+30% increase??



Lee Pettie



Cleburne Raney



Ed Standridge



Edwin Smith



Cindy Meyer



Patrick Taylor

Patti Grey

From: andy redmond [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, August 27, 2018 8:12 PM
To: Edwin Smith; Patti Grey
Subject: Budget

Hello Mr. Smith:

Hope you are well.

Wanted to reach out and request that you vote no on the budget and also on the tax rate increase.

It's the right thing to do! Our city needs to return to it's demure "small services government" vs. what we've seen in the past several years and what we hear they "want to do" on the horizon.

Our taxes have increased at least 10% the in each of the last 5 years, we had hoped to live here for many years, but I'm not sure we will be able to afford to do so. I now work 80+ hrs. per week, my wife one part time job and who also cares for our children. We also care for an aging parent, who lives with us.

If we get a 1-3% raise each year, that's a big deal to our family budget, but yet our city seems to think they can't survive on double digit increases market value valuation increases! In fact some of those increases, should be used to lower Parker City tax rate, not spent or spent plus a proposed tax increase.

My point is that not everyone in Parker is affluent!

Thanks for hearing my concerns!

Best Regards,
Andy Redmond
7275 Moss Ridge Rd.
Parker, TX 75002
[REDACTED]

Patti Grey

From: Lay Wah Ooi <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, August 28, 2018 1:39 AM
To: Patti Grey
Subject: Comments for City Council Meeting

Hi,

I want to thank Mayor Pettie and the City Council for a proposed budget that puts the best interests of the citizens first. The city has been underfunded and understaffed for years leading to many problems. We need to fund the fire department, have competitive salaries for our police department as well as all our city employees, solve road and drainage issues, and provide adequate working transportation for our city employees.

It is unfortunate that the sales tax vote did not pass as that could have offset some of these costs by non-residents. Please pass the proposed budget and the property tax increase.

The people who complain should actually really analyze the budget and come up with a solution instead of working on non-facts. Please do really look at the budget or go to the budget meetings to learn the facts!

Thank you for your time,

Lay Wah Ooi
6707 Overbrook

Patti Grey

From: Stephen Loyd [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, August 27, 2018 12:13 PM
To: Patti Grey
Subject: Proposed city tax increase

Dear Mayor and members of city council, understand the city is considering a City Of Parker tax increase. I would be totally opposed to such an increase. The city must learn to live with our current budget. With home values up at least 30 and 40% over the last five years the city has received those additional tax funds on that basis as well. Also city passed a city tax increase just a couple of years ago. Please stop this measure. There should be no need for additional tax increases at this point. I asked you to not pass any city rate increase.

Regards, Steve Loyd

Resident City Of Parker at 6308 Northridge Parkway.

Sent from my iPad

Patti Grey

From: Diana A [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, August 27, 2018 8:12 PM
To: Patti Grey
Subject: RE: Against Proposed Tax Rate Increase

Name: Johnson and Diana Abraham
Address: 5100 Ravensthorpe Dr, Parker, TX

Comments: Please read this into the public record.

As residents of Parker for the past 2 years, we believe that the city tax rate should not be raised at this time. While the average housing value in Parker is increasing, so is the residual tax income received by the city from this increase. We believe that the city should actually decrease taxes based on this and if that is not an option, maintain the current rate and operate within its means. Raising the property tax rate would cause an undue financial burden on so many new and existing families of this wonderful city.

Thank you.

Patti Grey

From: Donald Reynolds <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, August 28, 2018 3:53 PM
To: Patti Grey
Subject: RE: Opposed to Proposed Tax Rate Increase

To the Parker City Council;

As a resident of Parker, I am opposed to any increase in the current tax rate. The City should already be receiving significant increases in tax revenue without also increasing the tax rate.

This increased tax revenue

will be coming from the number of new and more expensive homes that have been constructed in the last few years.

This together with the increase in appraised value that is allowed each year should easily exceed the cost of City services. The Council should establish a City budget within the available revenue. Please read this into the public record.

Sincerely; Donald Reynolds
6805 Cheswick Court
Parker, TX 75002

Patti Grey

From: A, Tarhoni [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, August 28, 2018 3:18 PM
To: Patti Grey
Subject: Parker Tax increase

Hello Patti,
I work and live in Houston on week days. I am only home in the weekends. Please read this email on my behalf.

To the Honorable Councilors and City Mayor.

It has come to my attention that a 2nd hearing to discuss a City TAX increase is on tonight's agenda. I would love to be there to voice my complete rejection to any TAX increase, and to voice my disappointment in how the City was operating in the last couple of years. Apparently it wants to continue on the same route.

I did come home from my work location in Denver to vote in the city election with the hope that the new Councilors will not just meet, issue rules, but also monitor these rules and the approved public work to completion.

The unnecessary work that was done in my property cost the City over a \$100k, but based on 2 realtors it reduces the value of my home by more than \$85k! Not to mention the neighboring homes. All done with joy on the part of the City administrators, and a lesson and lecturing for me, by one of the councilors, on how to mow a ditch!

The City has promised to fix the problem that they created, but so far nothing was done. For those Councilors who wish to see the detailed and happy email I'd sent last year, please call me or email me. I will be glad to resend it.

On behalf of my family, I object to any changes in the TAX rate.

Best regards,
Adnan Tarhoni
7279 Moss Ridge Rd.
Parker, TX, 75002
[REDACTED]

Honorable City Councilmembers:

Cindy and I have been residents of Parker at 4404 Pecan Orchard Drive for almost 22 years. Unfortunately we could not be at the meeting tonight to express our comments in person on the proposed budget and proposed tax rate increase. We are very concerned about the current budget and the proposed increase in the property tax rate. In a time of significant growth in the number of homes in our community and a significant increase in our home values, we do not think it is necessary or appropriate to enact a budget which would require an increase in the tax rate. We note that a number of citizens at the prior meeting of the City Council agree with us and we urge the Council to heed their comments.

While inevitably the City will need to increase city services as our community grows, the City Council must be mindful to not grow the City's budget beyond the needs (or resources) of the community. With 75 homes going in north of Springhill alone (and each with a home value in the \$800,000 to \$1,000,000 range), we will have a significant increase in the tax base (easily \$20-25million). Coupled with homes being built in other recently opened (and previously opened) development in our community and a continued increase in existing home values, it would not be unreasonable to see \$30 million or more increase in the tax base. We are puzzled as to why with such a significant increase in our tax base the City Council deems it necessary to enact a budget that scoops up all that additional revenue (without changing the tax rate) and then requires a further increase the tax rate. I have considerable experience budgeting in my prior business roles and while it is always easy to approve additional expenditures, the City Council must be mindful of whose money it is spending – the citizens of this community. Parker as a community was built on the premise that it would offer its citizens an important trade-off – lower city services for a lower tax rate. However, as the City continues to increase its tax rate without a commiserate increase in discernable city services, that trade-off is not being respected.

As you know, I served on the City Council for two years during some of the most important times of the City's growth when some members of our community thought that we needed to: (a) develop the city fast (and give in to developers who wanted to go away from our traditional larger lots) sacrificing our country lifestyle, and (b) wanted a paid fire department. The community spoke with a single voice and opposed those programs and we were able to turn the tide on development and reinvigorate the volunteer fire department. We are concerned that now that we will snatch defeat from the jaws of victory -- we have succeeded in having significant portions of our community now developed in accordance with our traditional community values that we are going away from those values by increasing the tax rate.

We made pact with our citizens – support the fights with developers to develop our community in accordance with our tradition values and we would maintain low tax rates. The current budget and corresponding tax increase proposal violates that pact in a fundamental way by increasing the tax rate at the very moment that we have a significant increase in property values which are the direct result of the community hoding out for the kind of development it wanted. We urge the City Council to re-examine its budget to reduce the budget to keep it within the current tax rates and to not increase the current tax rate.

Mark and Cindy Stachiw