

MINUTES
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
SEPTEMBER 4, 2018

CALL TO ORDER – Roll Call and Determination of a Quorum

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

Mayor Lee Pettle 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 (arrived at 7:24 p.m.), Courts Administrator Lori Newton, Police Chief Richard Brooks, Public Works Director Gary Machado, Code Enforcement/Stormwater Manager Sam Hernandez, and Public Works Water Superintendent Bobby Nelson

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

AMERICAN PLEDGE: Jane Marshall led the pledge.

TEXAS PLEDGE: Elvis Nelson 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.

Mayor Pettle read an email from Z Marshall, 7003 Audubon Drive, into the record. (See Exhibit 1 – Z Marshall's email, dated August 31, 2018.)

Billy Barron, 6709 Overbrook Drive, said there is no "playful" spending. The City must fund services, or the City will decline, and he did not want to see that happen to Parker. Failure to fund services properly will cost the City money in overtime. Mr. Barron said he was happy to pay extra to keep Parker safe.

Joe Cordina, 4302 Boulder Drive, said the City is not using resources available to them such as grants. In the past the Fire Department received a brush truck from a grant. Mr. Cordina indicated Texas Department of Transportation (TxDot) and Collin County were asked for money to help with streets in Parker, but this has not been used since 2008 and 2012. He asked City Council to plan. He also suggested the Police Department rent cars and place a light bar on top. He encouraged City Council and Staff to look for alternative, "think outside the box". Grants are available for cities, including grants to improve City Hall.

Elvis Nelson, 5802 Corinth Chapel, said the proposed budget was inflated and it could be reduced by at least three percent (3%). He challenged City Council and City Staff to find places to reduce the budget and do a better job. Mr. Nelson suggested getting additional revenue from ticketing along Parker Road. There is no need for a tax rate increase.

Stephanie Casson, 5401 Westfield Drive, said the former City Council was against sales tax and sales tax does not make much difference, but it can help. Ms. Casson remarked a rollback election would be embarrassing to the City and no one in favor of a tax increase should be re-elected.

Trudy Jackson, 3607 Hogge Drive, spoke about speeding on Hogge Road. Ms. Jackson said this was an indication the City needs additional police officers and vehicles, vehicles capable of catching speeders. The City needs competently equipped, paid, and trained employees to run a safe City. Ms. Jackson said she is in favor of the tax rate increase to run the City properly.

Ed Lynch, 5809 Middleton Drive, said the budget workshop was confusing. Cut the budget and spend reserves in an emergency. Do not raise taxes.

Don Reynolds, 6805 Cheswick Court, commented a tax rate increase was not justified. A strategic plan is needed. Subdivisions are being constructed, which will increase the City's tax base and revenue. Mr. Reynolds said the need for a tax rate increase is just poor management.

Thurmond Alexander, 4910 Creek Lane, said he was one of the longest tenure residents in Parker, former City Council member, and Mayor Pro Tem and he thanked the current Mayor, City Council, and City Staff for their service. He said in his time, they did not have money, but somehow, they met the City's needs in different ways. Mr. Alexander said he does not come to City Council meetings often, because he has been happy with how the Mayor and City Council have been running things. He said a multi-million-dollar Municipal Complex is not warranted. Taxes are up. He suggested getting additional input from Parker residents before moving forward with the Municipal Complex.

Richard Lavender, 6810 Overbrook Drive, said tonight's meeting should have been postponed due to the Labor Day holiday, which prevented residents from attending. Mr. Lavender said he was opposed to the tax rate increase, as there was no need for a Municipal Complex or additional spending in the Police Department. Mr. Lavender requested Public Works Director Gary Machado receive a raise.

Scott Livesay, 7305 Moss Ridge Road, commented the City has sixteen (16) months of operating expenses in reserve. In the past, the City's reserves were used to balance the budget. Now, the proposed budget has \$187,000 in contingency funds. No tax rate increase was necessary; Use reserves if needed.

John Griego, 6601 Poco Drive, said he had nothing personal against Councilmember Standridge. He did say he has not seen anything done, regarding drainage or code enforcement and he would like to see something accomplished in both these areas. Mr. Griego said he had questions regarding the Municipal Complex. Things did not add up for him. Mr. Griego asked for a record vote on the proposed budget and tax rate increase. He also asked that each Councilmember state why they voted the way they voted.

Thomas Brennan, 6002 Tamsworth Court, opposed a tax rate increase.

Bhawna Oberoi, 6002 Tamsworth Court, opposed a tax rate increase.

Roxanne Bogdan, 6701 Overbrook Drive, supported the tax rate increase. (See Exhibit 2 – Roxanne Bogdan's email, dated September 4, 2018.)

INDIVIDUAL CONSIDERATION ITEMS

1. CONSIDERATION AND/OR ANY APPROPRIATE ACTION ON ORDINANCE NO. 764, ADOPTING THE 2018 TAX RATE. [PETTLE/BOYD]

Property Tax Rate Comparison

	2018-2019	2017-2018
Property Tax Rate:	\$0.365984/100	\$0.365984/100
Effective Tax Rate:	\$0.349210/100	\$0.348108/100
Effective Maintenance & Operations Tax Rate:	\$0.291591/100	\$0.285080/100
Rollback Tax Rate:	\$0.368652/100	\$0.368268/100
Debt Rate:	\$0.053734/100	\$0.060382/100

MOTION: Councilmember Smith moved that the property tax rate be increased by the adoption of a tax rate of 0.365984, which is effectively a 4.80 percent increase in the tax rate. [This motion approves Ordinance No. 764, adopting the 2018 Tax Rate.]

Councilmember Taylor voiced his concern, regarding the tax rate.

Councilmember Meyer seconded with Councilmembers Meyer, Raney, Smith, and Standridge voting for the motion. Councilmember Taylor voting against the motion. Motion carried 4-1.

2. CONSIDERATION AND/OR ANY APPROPRIATE ACTION ON ORDINANCE NO. 765, ADOPTING THE 2018-2019 BUDGET. [PETTLE/BOYD]

After discussion, City Council decided to consolidate \$130,000 from various contingencies, move those funds into the General Fund City Council Contingency Fund, eliminating \$57,000, and use reserve funds to balance the budget.

MOTION: Councilmember Smith moved to approve Ordinance No. 765, adopting the 2018-2019 fiscal year budget, as amended, moving \$130,000 to City Council Contingency Fund, eliminating \$57,000 in contingency from the budget, and using reserve funds to balance. Councilmember Standridge seconded with Councilmembers Meyer, Raney, Smith, Standridge, and Taylor voting for the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

ROUTINE ITEMS

3. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Mayor Lee Pettle 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 18, 2018.

4. ADJOURN

Mayor Lee Pettle adjourned the meeting at 7:55 p.m.



APPROVED:



Lee Pettle
Mayor Lee Pettle

ATTESTED:



Patti Scott Grey, City Secretary

Approved on the 13th day
of November, 2018.

From: Z Marshall [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, August 31, 2018 2:09 PM
To: Lee Pettle; Ed Standridge; Cleburne Raney; Edwin Smith; Patrick Taylor; Cindy Meyer
Cc: Patti Grey; B Shelby
Subject: Tax rate

Please read into the record for September 4th meetings.

Thank you for your service to Parker. I know 1st hand how tough your job is.

As a 13 plus year resident, your former Mayor, Mayor Pro-Tem, City Councilmember, Investment Officer, and P&Z alternate member, who oversaw the last ten annual Budgets, I need to comment on the some of the emails and public statements I have read. I will be out of town on September 4th.

I think it is an apple to oranges comparison to compare Parker to Lucas. Lucas has major retail, an 8.25% sales tax rate, and no full-time police department.

Had Parker voters approved the 1% sales tax increase, funded 2/3 by non-Parker citizens, we probably would not need a tax rate increase this year. The people who voted against it are now the ones complaining. You cannot have it both ways.

It is a mistake to use reserve dollars to fund current operations. Those reserve dollars were paid for by many long-time citizens and should only be used in an emergency or a one-time major capital expense. Also using reserve dollars to fund current operations could affect our AAA credit rating, which we all worked very hard to obtain. Parker is the only Type A General Law City in North Texas to have this rating. If reserve dollars are going to be used, this needs to be discussed with our bond insures first.

Budgeting 101 says you should always have a contingency amount built into any budget. Most business will plan for a 5-10% of the annual budget for a contingency factor.

The only solution to keeping our tax rate the same or lowering it, is to approve a sales tax increase that can be used for any General Government purposes, allow retail into our City, or cut services.

Fortunately, Parker's residential home values and sales prices are at record levels because of the uniqueness of our City. No one likes a tax increase, however, if we continue to provide excellent services, we all benefit from that.

I love our City as all of you do and know you will make the right decision about our future.

Thank you again for your service.

Z Marshall

Patti Grey

From: Ed Standridge
Sent: Tuesday, September 04, 2018 5:02 PM
To: Patti Grey
Subject: Fw: Budget Comments

Thanks

From: Roxanne Bogdan [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, September 4, 2018 11:24:10 AM
To: Cleburne Raney; Ed Standridge; Patrick Taylor; cmeyers@parkertexas.us; Edwin Smith
Subject: Budget Comments

Dear Parker City Council,

I am writing today to voice my support for the proposed .02 tax increase. I realize that making a decision like this is difficult and is being met with some resistance. In my opinion, it is a necessary decision for the future of Parker. All the items that have been requested are very reasonable, and necessary. Parker has been running on a very lean budget and a lot of items get cut out in order to keep it that way. While this at times can be called fiscally responsible, in this instance, I would call it passing the buck to someone else. Someone who will eventually have to vote to increase the tax rate because eventually have to spend that money for the items that are needed. I have seen the condition of the police car that needs to be replaced, I've witnessed the people complaining about lack of code enforcement (which would be helped with a public works vehicle), I've heard the people complain about lack of FD volunteers at night, I know how much our PD is underpaid. All of these things you can fix with a YES vote tonight. I appreciate all the time and effort that you put into this city. You hopefully have all the big picture information you need in order to make solid decisions. That is why you were chosen to represent us. I put faith in you that you will provide the residents of this city with the best facilities, equipment, staff, and government to make this the great place that we live, all while being fiscally responsible, even if it means a small tax increase. Sometimes difficult decisions are necessary for the good of the people, even if it will mean increased taxes. I am one resident, that is willing to pay my small portion increase to have better services, happy, well trained staff and good equipment for the staff to do their jobs.

Thank you for your service,
Roxanne Bogdan
6701 Overbrook Dr.
Parker, TX 75002