

**CITY OF FORT WORTH, TEXAS**  
**CITY COUNCIL WORKSESSION MEETING**  
**TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2023**

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**Present:**

Mayor Mattie Parker  
Mayor Pro tem Gyna M. Bivens, District 5 (Remote)  
Council Member Carlos Flores, District 2  
Council Member Michael D. Crain, District 3  
Council Member Charlie Lauersdorf, District 4  
Council Member Jared Williams, District 6  
Council Member Macy Hill, District 7  
Council Member Chris Nettles, District 8  
Council Member Alan Blaylock, District 10  
Council Member Jeanette Martinez, District 11

**Absent:**

Council Member Elizabeth Beck, District 9

**Staff Present:**

David Cooke, City Manager  
Leann Guzman, City Attorney  
Ronald P. Gonzales, Assistant City Secretary

With a quorum of the City Council Members present, Mayor Parker called the City Council Work Session of the Fort Worth City Council to order 1:07 p.m. on Tuesday, September 19, 2023, in the City Council Conference Room 2020 of the Fort Worth City Hall, 200 Texas Street, Fort Worth, Texas.

**1. Report of the City Manager - David Cooke, City Manager**

**a. Upcoming and Recent Events**

City Manager Cooke called on Brandon Bennett, Code Compliance Director, who provided a post storm report.

**b. Organizational Updates and Employee Recognition(s)**

City Manager Cooke called on Christina Brooks, Diversity & Inclusion Department, who announced that she, Gwen Wilson, and Robert Sturns, Economic Development Director, received the Trailblazer Award to the City of Fort Worth from the National Association of Minority Contractors in recognition of the City's efforts to promote the development of minority-owned businesses.

Assistant City Manager Valerie Washington introduced Bonycle Sokunbi the new Director of the Office of Police Oversight Monitor. Ms. Sokunbi expressed her appreciation for being selected to serve the City of Fort Worth.

City Manager Cooke called on Chief Noakes to make a few announcements.

Chief Noakes introduced the department's new Forensic Division Manager, Tracye Sisco.

Chief Noakes announced the following recent promotions: Deputy Chief - Chad Mahaffey and Monica Martin; North Division Commander, Sean Kenjura; East Division Commander, Antione Williams.

**c. Informal Reports**

[23-0744](#) Contracts with Terms Longer than Five Years - Jessica McEachern, Assistant City Manager

[23-0745](#) COVID-19 Resources for City Employees and the Community - Brandon Bennett, Code Compliance Director and Dianna Giordano, Human Resources Director

Council Member Nettles requested an update on COVID-19 resources now that there has been a rise in new COVID-19 cases.

[23-0746](#) Property Management Director Recruitment Process - Dianna Giordano, Human Resources Director

[23-0747](#) Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning (HVAC) Assistance Programs - Victor Turner, Neighborhood Services Director

Mayor Pro tem Bivens requested staff provide a full briefing.

[23-0748](#) Legislative Changes to Process for Selecting Members for the Board of Directors of Appraisal Districts - Denis McElroy, Senior Assistant City Attorney

[23-0749](#) Monthly Development Activity Report - D.J. Harrell, Development Services Director

[23-0750](#) MyH2O Portal Customer Communications - Chris Harder, Water Director

Council Member Williams requested staff provide an overview of the portal.

## **2. Questions Regarding Changes in Membership on Boards and Commissions for September 26, 2023, Council Meeting**

There were no questions regarding changes in Membership on Boards and Commissions for the September 26, 2023, Council Meeting.

## **3. Questions Regarding City Council M&C Log for September 26, 2023, Council Meeting**

There were no questions regarding the City Council M&C Log for September 26, 2023, Council Meeting.

## **4. Presentation on Fort Worth Public Schools Academic Performance Report – Pete Geren and Brent Beasley, Fort Worth Education Partnership**

Presentation was provided by Pete Geren and Brent Beasley, Fort Worth Education Partnership.

Mayor Pro tem Bivens encouraged that this presentation by Mr. Geren and Mr. Beasley be given to as many groups and communities in the city as possible.

Council Member Williams asked that this presentation be provided at a future Neighborhood Quality & Revitalization Committee meeting.

Mayor Parker suggested that this information be provided to City employees.

**6. Briefing about Recommendations from the 2017-2018 Task Force on Race and Culture – Fernando Costa, Assistant City Manager, Bob Ray Sanders, Rosa Navejar, Rabbi Andrew Bloom, and Lillie Biggins, Task Force Co-Chairs**

Assistant City Manager Valerie Washington, Christina Brooks, Diversity & Inclusion Department, Kevin Gunn, IT Solutions Department, and Joe Freddoso, Sprocket Networks, Inc.

(Mayor Parker left the meeting.)

Council Member Flores presided for the remainder of the meeting.

**5. Update on Broadband – Valerie Washington, Assistant City Manager**

Presentation was provided by Assistant City Manager, Fernando Costa and Task Force Co-Chairs Bob Ray Sanders and Lillie Biggins.

**7. Tarrant County 9-1-1 Budget Overview – Valerie Washington, Assistant City Manager and Sherry Decker, Tarrant County 9-1-1 Executive Director**

Assistant City Manager Valerie Washington introduced Sherry Decker, 9-1-1- Executive Director, who provided an overview of their budget.

**8. City Council Requests for Future Agenda Items and/or Reports**

Council Member Nettles requested an Informal Report regarding the policy for reconsideration of previous Council action; what is the deadline to reconsider an agenda item.

Council Member Nettles requested a presentation regarding the prioritization for filling Police Department vacant positions, which divisions and teams are filled first.

Council Member Nettles requested an Informal Report regarding the budget for the Intelligence Section in the Police Department and what was being done pertaining to stolen guns.

Council Member Crain requested a presentation on the release of property in the City's extraterritorial jurisdiction.

Council Member Nettles requested an Informal Report updating bi-annual presentations from Dr. Angelica Ramsey, FWISD Superintendent, for elected offices.

Mayor Pro tem Bivens requested an Informal Report pertaining to scheduling meetings with all school districts that touch the City of Fort Worth.

Council Member Williams requested an Informal Report to update the Council MBE contracts.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, Council Member Flores adjourned the meeting at 4:23 p.m.