

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

Present:

Mayor Mattie Parker
Mayor Pro tem Gyna M. Bivens, District 5 (Video)
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 Elizabeth Beck, District 9 (Video)
Council Member Alan Blaylock, District 10
Council Member Jeanette Martinez, District 11

Staff Present:

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

CALL TO ORDER

With a quorum of the City Council Members present, Mayor Parker called the City Council Meeting of the Fort Worth City Council to order 5:03 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.

REPORT OF THE CITY MANAGER

1. [M&C 23-0786](#) (ALL) Adopt Ordinance Revising Wholesale Water, Wastewater, Standby and Raw Water Service Rates and Amend Chapter 35 - Water and Sewers, Article III - Charges, Division 1 – Generally, Sections 35-56(g) (h) and (i) of the City Code with an Effective Date of Billing on or After November 1, 2023 for Usage and Flows from and After October 1, 2023 for Water and Wastewater Service

David Martinez appeared before Council in opposition to M&C 23-0785.

Motion: Council Member Crain made a motion, seconded by Council Member Flores, that M&C 23-0786 be approved and Ordinance No. 26450-09-2023 be adopted. Motion passed 11-0.

2. [M&C 23-0785](#) (ALL) Adopt Ordinance Revising Retail Water and Wastewater Rates and Charges by Amending Sections 35-56(b), (c) and (d), Article III - Charges, of Chapter 35 - Water and Sewers of the City Code, Effective January 1, 2024

Motion: Mayor Pro tem Bivens made a motion, seconded by Council Member Crain, that M&C 23-0786 be approved and Ordinance No. 26451-09-2023 be adopted. Motion passed 11-0.

PUBLIC HEARING

1. [23-0597](#) (ALL) Conduct a Public Hearing on the Proposed 2023 Tax Rate

(PUBLIC HEARING - a. Report of City Staff: Ashley Clement; b. Public Comment; c. Council Action: Close Public Hearing)

Mayor Parker opened the public hearing.

a. Report of City Staff

Ashley Clement, Planning and Data Analytics Department, appeared before Council and provided a staff report.

b. Public Comment

The following individuals appeared before Council in opposition to Item 23-0597:

Rose Baker
Al Alu
Adrian Smith (via conference call)
Karen Wiseman
Manuel Mata
Amie Super
Hollie Plemmons
Mike C.

David Martinez
Carlos Turcios
Aaron James
Joe Palma

Kolby Schellhammer completed a speaker card via conference call in opposition to Item 23-0597 and was recognized by Mayor Parker but could not be reached by phone.

c. Council Action

Mayor Parker closed the public hearing.

ORDINANCES

1. [23-0593](#) An Ordinance Amending City Code of the City of Fort Worth Chapter 12.5, Article X, Sections 12.5-340 and 12.5-844; To Reflect Changes in the Fees Stated in those Code Sections; Adding New Fees and Changing Certain Fees; Allowing for Changes in Certain Fees due to Market Conditions; Designating Other Departments Acting on Behalf of the Financial Management Services Department; Providing that this Ordinance Shall be Cumulative; Providing a Severability Clause; Providing a Savings Clause; And Providing an Effective Date

Motion: Council Member Hill made a motion, seconded by Council Member Nettles, that the M&C 23-0593 be approved and Ordinance No. 26452-09-2023 be adopted as amended with the following changes: (1) amend the ordinance to make conforming changes to amend and include code sections for certain fees being changed or added in the ordinance; and (2) change the fiscal year listed in the ordinance to fiscal year 2024. Motion passed 9-2, Mayor Pro tem Bivens and Council Member Williams casting the dissenting votes.

2. [23-0596](#) An Ordinance Appropriating Funding for the Operating Budget of the City of Fort Worth for the Ensuing Fiscal Year, Beginning October 1, 2023, and Ending September 30, 2024, Including an Appropriation to Pay Debt Service Requirements on Outstanding Indebtedness; And Appropriating Funds for Purposes of Enacting the Fiscal Year 2024 Capital Improvement Program, Including Capital Plans, Projects, Outlays, and Community Facility Agreements; And Ratifying City Council Approved Appropriation Ordinances Effecting this Budget; And Acknowledging Prior Appropriations Effecting the Capital Improvement Program; And Incorporating Budget on File with City Secretary, As Revised by City Council; And Approving the Capital Improvement Program; And Acknowledging Approval of Leave; And Prohibiting the Expending, Obligating, or Committing of Funds in Excess of Appropriations or Actual Available Resources; And Establishing Legal Level of Control; And Providing for Publication; And Providing a Severability Clause; And Providing a Savings Clause; And Providing for Repeal of All Ordinances and Appropriations in Conflict Herewith; And Providing an Effective Date

Amie Super appeared before Council in opposition to the ordinance.

Carolyn M. Rodriguez appeared before Council undecided relative to the ordinance.

Motion: Council Member Nettles made a motion, seconded by Council Member Martinez, that M&C 23-0596 be approved and Ordinance No. 26453-09-2023 be adopted. Motion passed 9-2, Council Members Lauersdorf and Blaylock casting the dissenting votes.

3. [23-0594](#) An Ordinance Providing for the Levy and Collection of an Annual Ad Valorem Tax on All Property, Real, Personal and Mixed, Situated within the Territorial Limits of the City of Fort Worth, Texas, and All Personal Property Owned in said City of Fort Worth, Texas, On January 1, 2023, Except Such Property as May Be Exempt from Taxation by the Constitution and Laws of the State of Texas; And Approving the Tax Roll; Detailing the Penalties and Interest Assessed Against Delinquent Taxpayers; Providing a Severability Clause; And Providing a Savings Clause; Providing for the Repeal of All Ordinances in Conflict with the Provisions of this Ordinance; And Providing for the Publication and Final Passage Thereof

Motion: Council Member Blaylock made a motion, seconded by Council Member Lauersdorf, that M&C 23-0594 be approved and ordinance for no new revenue tax rate be increased of 0.635374 per \$100 valuation be adopted.

Council Member Flores made a substitute motion, seconded by Council Member Williams, that M&C 23-0594 be approved and Ordinance No. 26454-09-2023 be adopted and that the property tax rate be increased by the adoption of a tax rate of 0.675 per \$100 valuation which is a 5.84% increase in the tax rate. Motion passed 8-3, Council Members Crain, Blaylock, and Lauersdorf casting the dissenting votes.

RESOLUTIONS

1. [23-0595](#) Ratifying the Property Tax Revenue Increase Reflected in the Fiscal Year 2024 Budget, In Accordance with Section 102.007(C) of the Texas Local Government Code

Adrian Smith completed a speaker card via conference call in opposition to the resolution and was recognized by Mayor Parker but could not be reached by phone.

Robert Buker appeared before Council in opposition to the resolution.

Motion: Council Member Nettles made a motion, seconded by Council Member Martinez, that Resolution No. 5805-09-2023 be adopted. Motion passed 10-1, Council Member Blaylock casting the dissenting vote.

REPORT OF THE CITY MANAGER

1. [M&C 23-0783](#) (ALL) Adopt Ordinance Amending Fire Department Staffing Effective October 1, 2023, to Reflect Increases in the Number of Authorized Civil Service Positions in the Specified Classifications and Adopt Ordinance Prescribing Salaries for the Fire Department

Motion: Council Member Crain made a motion, seconded by Council Member Hill, that M&C 23-0783 be approved and Ordinance Nos. 26455-09-2023 and 26456-09-2023 be adopted. Motion passed 11-0.

2. [M&C 23-0784](#) (ALL) Adopt Ordinance Amending Police Department Staffing Effective October 1, 2023, to Increase the Number of Authorized Civil Service Positions in the Specified Classifications by a Total of Sixty-Three (63) and Adopt Attached Ordinance Prescribing Salaries for the Police Department

Motion: Council Member Crain made a motion, seconded by Council Member Flores, that M&C 23-0784 be approved and Ordinance Nos. 26457-09-2023 and 26458-09-2023 be adopted. Motion passed 11-0.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Mayor Parker adjourned the meeting at 6:40 p.m.