



**MINUTES SPECIAL  
COUNCIL MEETING**

**Tuesday, August 23, 2016 – 6:00 pm**

Police and Courts Building, 100 West Main Street  
Royse City, Texas

**A. CALL TO ORDER 6:00 PM BY MAYOR NICHOL**

Announce the presence of a quorum.

Members Present: Mayor, Janet Nichol  
Mayor Pro Tem, Council Member Place 2, Clay Ellis  
Council Member Place 1, Charles Houk – arrived at 6:10 p.m.  
Council Member Place 3, Bruce Bradley  
Council Member Place 4, Matt Wheatley – arrived at 6:14 p.m.  
Council Member Place 5, James Branch  
Council Member, Place 6, Tom Crowley

Staff Present: City Manager, Carl Alsabrook  
City Secretary, Deborah Sorensen  
City Attorney, Jason Day  
Director of Finance, Shannon Raymond  
Executive Dir. of Development & Community Services, Janet McPherson  
Police Chief, Jeff Stapleton  
Fire Chief, Rickey Bell  
Director of Public Works, Dario Lopez  
Main Street Manager, Paula Morris  
Director of HR, Tauna Ratliff  
Executive Director of Community Development Corp., Larry Lott

**B. INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Mayor Nichol gave invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**C. BUDGET WORKSHOP**

- 1. Discussion concerning overview of proposed FY 2016-2017 Budget, and any matters related thereto.

Carl Alsabrook presented the proposed FY 2016-2017 Budget. The maximum tax rate that can be voted on is \$0.6771. The tax rate that this budget was based on is \$0.665, which would drop the tax rate approximately 1.2 cents. City Council received the proposed budget last week. Staff is ready to answer any questions. Obviously, this is the first pass, so any changes City Council wants to make staff will do their best to facilitate that. Shannon Raymond is also here to answer any questions as well.

Council Member Branch asked about the General Fund. Under the Revenue – Permits, Court Costs and Fees, and Miscellaneous. Just looking back from 2014, 2015, and 2016, he noticed that the budget, for example, permits in 2015

was 426 and then in 2016 it dropped down to 235, and now it is back up to Revised at 338. Now it is being proposed at 235. Why does it vary that much?

Shannon explained that we budgeted conservatively, and the lot count continues to decline. We know that we do not have the available lots as far as housing goes, until some of these other subdivisions come on-line. The big jumps for this year were for commercial lots coming and paying.

Council Member Branch asked about Court Fines and Fees, and what Miscellaneous was. Shannon explained they are just a function of workload and what goes on through the courts. The historicals are what they are. They did not come through like we budgeted, so this number is down. We moved it back up a little bit, not what it was budgeted prior years. The Miscellaneous is the number of things that include library fines and copier fees, interest earnings. The budget amounts are fairly consistent there.

Council Member Branch said he didn't quite understand the little less than fifty percent reduction in revenue out of Court Fines and Fees. He doesn't see how that can be acceptable.

Shannon said the State Traffic Fee doesn't carry across. That only comes up after you are audited. Those aren't shown as actual revenue to the City, because if you look at the Court Expenditure Budget, there is an offset where the Court Fines that belong to the State are paid out to them.

Council Member Branch asked if the numbers reflected on page 10 of the budget are accurate. Shannon replied that they are. They are the audited fund numbers. Chief Stapleton responded that there are more service calls and more accidents, which are taking a lot of time away from other duties. Mayor Pro Tem Ellis asked if that would make his case that more police officers are needed. Council Member Branch stated he only sees an additional investigator, but no other officers. Chief Stapleton replied that he asked for two more officers in addition to the investigator, however, with budget restraints he could only get an investigator. He is in need of an investigator more due to the large number of open cases.

Council Member Branch would like to see City Council's pay increase as well. Council Member Crowley stated that according to the Charter, it would not take effect until after the May 2017 election. Mayor Nichol asked Council Member Branch what he is proposing. Council Member Branch proposed \$200 a month for City Council Members and \$300 a month for the Mayor. It is only \$50 more a month. Mayor Nichol directed staff to raise salaries for City Council and Mayor.

Mayor Pro Tem Ellis doesn't feel that the police department is getting enough. Carl added that he proposed lower sales tax for the proposed fiscal year based on this fiscal year's numbers. He proposes to come back after the first of the year and re-evaluate. Mayor Pro Tem Ellis added we do not have enough staff for the police department. Chief Stapleton replied that he has to prioritize based on the budget. He is proposing the need to rotate vehicles. It becomes a safety factor. He also added that he has good quality officers. Mayor Pro Tem Ellis asked what an average cost is for an officer. Chief Stapleton responded \$90,000.

Carl stated that he would like to address a number of capital projects in April 2017. The Audit will be completed by then and he will have a better financial picture. He asked City Council to let him know if any changes they would like to make by the week prior to September 13, 2016. He reminded City Council that this is their budget.

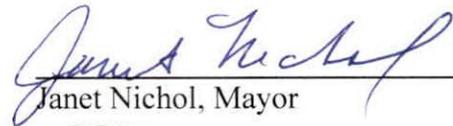
**D. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

1. Consider and/or action to determine and direct City Staff in scheduling topics for discussion at future City Council Meetings, and any matters related thereto.

None

**E. ADJOURN AT 6:36 PM**

Council Member Branch made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Council Member Crowley seconded the motion. **Motion passed 7-0.**

  
Janet Nichol, Mayor

ATTEST:

  
Deborah Sorensen, TRMC, City Secretary

