



City of Pflugerville

Minutes - Final - Draft

City Council

Tuesday, September 17, 2019

6:00 PM

100 East Main Street, Suite 500

Special Meeting

1. Call to order

Mayor Victor Gonzales called the meeting to order at 6:00pm. Councilmembers Doug Weiss, Jeff Marsh, Rudy Metayer, and Jim McDonald were in attendance. Mayor Pro Tem Omar Peña joined the meeting at 6:03pm. Councilmember Mike Heath was absent. City Employees attending: Sereniah Breland, City Manager; Megan Santee, Assistant City Attorney; Trey Fletcher, Assistant City Manager; James Hartshorn, Assistant City Manager; Terri Toledo, Communications Director; Jessica Robledo, Police Chief; Mayo Neyland, Police Commander; Robert Polanco, Building Official; Trista Evans, Deputy City Secretary; Amy Good, Finance Director; Lauren Henkes, Assistant Finance Director; Stephanie Nations, Budget Analyst; Sheila Wiora, Assistant Parks Director; Jennifer Coffey, Library Director; Cindy Pierce, Assistant City Engineer; Suzette Robinson, Public Works Director; Caroline Davis, Associate Judge; Shane Mize, Parks Director; Emily Barron, Planning Director; Rhonda McLendon, PAWS Director; Matt Woodard, Regulatory Manager; Max Walther, Utility Superintendent.

2. Public Hearings

Each person providing public comment at a public hearing will be limited to 3 minutes.

2A. [ORD-0478](#)

Conduct the second of two public hearings on an ordinance with the caption reading: Tax Levy Ordinance of the City of Pflugerville, Texas for Fiscal Year 2020.

Mayor Gonzales read the item to include the caption of the ordinance and opened the public hearing.

David Reichenbach, 603 Willow Wood Drive, spoke in opposition to raising the tax rate and asked the city to lower taxes. He stated that the city can spend less than what it brings in and the citizens need tax relief.

Marc Choquette, 1114 Batavia, spoke in opposition to any new taxes and asked the city not to raise any taxes.

Terry Newsom, 403 12th Street, asked the council to keep Pflugerville affordable to all citizens. Mr. Newsom stated he has seen citizens of Pflugerville asking to please keep the taxes down, and has heard some good

suggestions from council on how to cut the budget. He stated the council approves items that don't matter to the majority of citizens.

Andrew Wark, 1011 Springbrook, signed up to speak but deferred his time to Mr. Newsom.

Michael Loeffler, 17801 Silent Harbor Loop, stated he wants to keep Pflugerville affordable for the future and growth should pay its own way. He shared that he knows elected officials have a tough job, but should not over tax and over spend.

Melody Ryan, 1012 Ripley Castle, spoke in opposition to raising the tax rate and asked to keep tax rate at the current level. Stated she is confident that if council tells the staff to keep the rate the same, the finance staff will find a way to balance the budget and the city can still raise taxes next year if it goes to the voters.

Henri Traugott, 1227 Swenson Farms Boulevard, spoke in opposition to raising the tax rate. Stated property values have raised and nobody's wages have kept up. Asked the council not to ask for more just because they can.

Anthony Nguyen, 19905 Tree Sap Way, spoke in opposition, stating the tax rate can be kept the same while still spending what the city wants next year. Stated the sales tax budget is underestimated and PCDC was set up to increase growth and lower taxes.

Tammy Smith, 1221 New Meister #3102, spoke in support, stating participation in Pf101 class helped her look at the budget and wanted the council to know there are people in the community who feel differently but don't usually come to speak unless something is wrong.

Emmy McDaniel, 702 Geyser Avenue, spoke in opposition stating she has seen taxes raise year after year, asking council to take a conservative look into all of the numbers.

Tamara Edwards, 2800 Grand Mission Way, spoke in opposition stating she loves the growth but is concerned about the taxes. She voted against the ACC tax and had people come thank her for it, she does not want Pflugerville just to be for the rich and most people are upset about the taxes.

Nick Crissy, 2302 Hayfield Square, spoke in opposition, stating he understands that everything costs more and the city needs more money but has an issue with how Pflugerville is getting the money. He asked council to focus on bringing new business to Pflugerville

Jessica Crisler, 604 Portchester Castle Path, spoke in opposition, stating it isn't either/or when it comes to raising taxes or losing quality of life. She stated there are more important things to quality of life than something like a chipping program.

Rosie Riddick, 1705 Brandon Keller Court, presented questions to the council regarding why the tax rate was being raised. Ms. Breland clarified that while they cannot answer questions during public comment, staff can answer her questions later.

Urcha Dunbar-Crespo, 1230 Disraeli Circle, stated she was glad to see the Historic Colored Addition Project and areas that have been neglected in the budget. She then spoke in concern for infrastructure improvements for Historic Colored Addition Project and asked the council not to cut or reduce funding from the project.

Michael Cochrane, 817 Portchester Castle Path, spoke in opposition, stating explosive growth is not sustainable.

Marc Page, 17004 Brewer Blackbird Drive, spoke in opposition, stating if property value and tax rate keep increasing, the quality of life in the city won't matter. He stated concern with talk about loss of revenue as it implies it's the city's money and they are losing it to its citizens.

Bob Reichenbach, 309 Cottonwood Lane, spoke in opposition, stating that Pflugerville does a lot for seniors which shows that Pflugerville cares. He stated that these decisions are going to have a potentially negative effect on seniors and asked for consideration for the seniors. He expressed appreciation for the hard work, time, and dedication of council.

Kathryn Reichenbach, 309 Cottonwood Lane, spoke in opposition, stating she tried to look at it from point of view of the city, but she wants to stay in Pflugerville and social security doesn't cover raising property value and tax rates.

Angela Garcia, 1422 Crete Lane, provided comment about increasing permitting and construction costs and having the developers pay for improvements as a cost saving measure.

Robert Spoonmore, 1005 Pecan Creek Drive, spoke in support stating he can afford \$33.82 more a year for what Pflugerville provides.

Joy Taylor, stated that while she doesn't live in Pflugerville, she has a business in Pflugerville and anything that negatively affects the citizens, negatively affects the businesses.

Bertha Russel, 1209 Lincoln Avenue, spoke in opposition stating she cannot afford an increase in taxes and asked the council to keep the taxes the way they are.

Richard Flores, 1515 Cosmos Way, did not wish to speak but asked the Mayor to enter his opposition for the record.

Cindy Nelson, 16414 Framingham Circle, did not wish to speak but asked the Mayor to enter her opposition for the record.

Deanna Huff, 16501 Edgemere Drive, did not wish to speak but asked the Mayor to enter her opposition for the record.

James Selman, 903 Purple Martin Drive, did not wish to speak but asked the Mayor to enter his opposition for the record.

Danny Selman, 200 Willow Street, did not wish to speak but asked the Mayor to

enter his opposition for the record.

Mayor Gonzales read a letter sent by Chuck Lesniak, 203 Walnut Street, speaking in support.

There were no additional requests to speak at the public hearing.

Mr. Weiss made a motion to close the public hearing. Mr. McDonald seconded the motion. All voted in favor. The motion carried. Mayor Gonzales stated appreciation for everyone's comments and concerns.

2B. [ORD-0479](#)

Conduct a public hearing on an ordinance with the caption reading: An Ordinance of the City of Pflugerville, Texas, Adopting the Fiscal Year 2020 Budget for the City of Pflugerville, Texas.

Mayor Gonzales read the item to include the caption of the ordinance and opened the public hearing.

Mr. McDonald read an email from Ernest Tomes, 16701 Heatherwilde #515, asking council not to cut the Capital Metro Pilot Plan from the budget and reconsider suggestion to cut it.

Anthony Nguyen, 19905 Tree Sap Way, stated that the council should not cut anything, but should raise the estimate of the sales tax and give it back to the citizens by keeping the tax rate the same.

Kathryn Reichenbach, 309 Cottonwood Lane, stated they all love this town and the streets are full. She knows the city must be getting lots of money because the stores are crowded all the time and how much tax money is the city getting every year because the city is growing every year.

Terry Newsom, 403 12th Street, recommended going to a rideshare program instead of Capital Metro which is a ridiculous cost per person,, stating the city has to look at what the benefit is versus the cost to the citizens.

There were no additional requests to speak at the public hearing.

Mr. Weiss made a motion to close the public hearing. Mr. Marsh seconded the motion. All voted in favor. The motion passed.

3. Public Comment

Herman Whitney, President of Pflugerville Area Youth Soccer League (PAYSL), stated he would like cuts in Parks in Recreation to be a small piece and asked the council to diversify the cuts so they don't affect the seniors and kids as heavily.

In accordance with the Texas Attorney General's Opinion, any public comment that is made on an item that is not on the published final agenda will only be heard by the City Council. No formal action, discussion, deliberation, or comment will be made by the City Council. Each person providing public comment will be limited to 3 minutes.

4. Discuss and consider action

4A. [2019-7834](#)

Discuss and consider action to provide direction to the City Manager regarding the proposed FY20 budget and the proposed property tax rate for FY20.

Mayor Gonzales stated it is the council's position to listen accordingly in order to run the city government as well as listen to its citizens.

Mr. Marsh stated he would like to make changes to the City Council Budget Line, keeping \$5000 for groups like Verdunity to come in and educate council. Mayor Gonzales stated there are a number of opportunities to consider within the budget.

Mr. Weiss stated there is under budgeting on sales tax revenue and there is an opportunity to increase those projections to close the gap. Mr. Marsh stated he does not want to close it too much as there have been leaner years. Mayor Pro Tem Peña stated that sales tax revenue is dependent on the same people who are speaking on not raising taxes and if they don't have money for taxes then asking them to go spend the money for sales tax does not make sense. He stated another option is to look at the economic development corporation to supplement. Mr. Weiss stated if the sales tax revenue is overestimated, PCDC could fill that gap.

Mr. Weiss suggested moving the Comprehensive Plan back another year as there are bond projects that have been delayed and to consider focusing on those. Mr. Marsh stated the bond projects have been put off because there isn't the staff to manage them and he hesitates to cut the Comprehensive Plan without utilizing those funds for staff. Mr. Metayer stated that the city has changed quite a bit since 2010 which was the last time the Comprehensive Study was completed.

Ms. Breland stated she is seeking specificity on direction. Mr. Weiss stated he would ask to hit the existing rate. Ms. Breland asked how the council would like to get there. Mr. Weiss stated by sales tax projection, and cutting the Comprehensive Plan.

Mayor Pro Tem Peña stated the city can look at earmarking a single project to be funded by PCDC instead of nickel and diming the budget. Mr. Marsh stated part of the problem is the can has been kicked up the road.

Mr. Metayer stated they want to have an honest conversation and provide for everyone and it costs money for services. He stated concern about not doing due diligence for the citizens and no one wants the city to erode. Mr. Metayer stated it makes sense to assign something to PCDC and have them fund it, but is apprehensive about cutting anything and saying they are doing their job.

Mayor Gonzales read a letter from Councilmember Heath asking Council Members to lead with conviction and vote their conscious, then have a meaningful discussion with the community about the strategic direction of Pflugerville.

Mr. Marsh stated that he thinks the city can do better than the Capital Metro Plan and does not like the idea of a fixed route and spending that much money on a small service area. Mr. McDonald stated the point of the pilot program is to see if this is a long term need and if the city is not spending

money on widening roads then it has to decrease vehicular density. Mr. Marsh suggested starting at the easiest cost effective fix to solve a problem and stated concern that Capital Metro will only want to go bigger. Mr. Weiss stated he has never seen a government program shrink and starting big would only get bigger. Mayor Gonzales stated the cost per rider is always going to be high and it is about if the council wants to make this investment or not. Mr. Metayer stated the council can say no if Capital Metro comes back for more.

Mr. McDonald stated that averages are misleading looking at sales tax, economic indicators suggest another recession, and costs are going up. He stated that \$1.7 million was already cut from the budget to prioritize other projects, if looking at changing sales tax projections then that's an opportunity to bring things back into the budget.

Mayor Pro Tem Peña stated he has faith in staff to manage the budget they built and it is up to council to hold them accountable.

Mayor Gonzales stated that appraisal values are still going to go up and citizens have a recourse to protest. Mayor Gonzales discussed collaborating with PCDC as they have a significant amount of money in their reserves.

Mr. Weiss made a motion to evaluate sales tax projection, fees to offset chipping, evaluation cuts or reallocation to Metro program, review the City Council budget, and defer the Comprehensive Plan. He clarified it is a list of options and may not need to select from all of them. Mayor Gonzales seconded. Discussion followed. Mr. Metayer stated to keep the budget and tax rate as is. Mr. McDonald stated it is fiscally irresponsible not to take care of needs of the city, especially things like public transportation.

The vote was: Mr. McDonald-no, Mr. Metayer-no, Mayor Pro Tem Peña-no, Mr. Marsh-no, Mr. Weiss-yes, Mayor Gonzales-yes. The motion failed.

Mr. McDonald stated to approve the budget and proposed tax rate as presented by staff. Ms. Breland clarified that if there is no action then staff will bring back the same items to the next meeting.

Mr. Marsh made a motion to move the Capital Metro item down to \$128,000, council budget to \$6,000 and reevaluate the rate commensurate with the remaining expenses. Mayor Pro Tem Peña seconded. The vote was: Mr. Weiss-yes, Mr. Marsh-yes, Mayor Pro Tem Peña-yes, Mr. Metayer-no, Mr. McDonald-no, Mayor Gonzales-yes. The motion carried.

5. Discuss only

Mayor Gonzales announced that the City Council was retiring to executive session for discussion on item 5A. He read the item and retired to executive session. The time was 9:01pm.

5A. [2019-7835](#)

1.) Executive Session Item: Deliberation regarding economic development negotiations pursuant to Chapter 551.087 of the Texas Government Code regarding economic development agreements for Project Charm.

Discussion on the item took place in executive session. No action was taken.

Executive Session - Closed

Mayor Gonzales reconvened in open session at 9:11pm. No action was taken.

6. Adjourn

Mr. Metayer made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Weiss seconded the motion. All voted in favor. The motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 9:11pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Trista Evans
Deputy City Secretary

Approved as _____ on October 8, 2019.