

CALL TO ORDER, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE, AND ROLL CALL

Mayor George called the special meeting to order at 6:01 P.M. and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Councilmembers David M. Viafore, Shannon Reynolds, Brett Wittner, Joe Barrentine, Denny Waltier, and Marc Rieke were present.

AGENDA MODIFICATIONS

There were none.

PRELIMINARY 2022 BUDGET

City Manager Pingel presented the Preliminary 2022 Budget General Fund overview, which included personnel changes, capital projects, and transfers. Pingel highlighted that the preliminary budget reflects a 6.3 percent COLA increase for all employees based on the CPI. Personnel changes include changing the City Hall Office Assistant II to Administrative Assistant, Planning and Building Administrative Assistant to Office Assistant I (Passport Specialist), City Clerk to Administrative Services Director, Recreation Supervisor to Recreation Coordinator, Planning and Building Administrator to Permit Coordinator/Code Enforcement Officer, as well as moving half-time Maintenance Worker I position to full-time. The Park Maintenance Supervisor, Facilities Maintenance Supervisor, Recreation Supervisor, and Planning and Building Administrator designations will be eliminated. There was a brief discussion on the Community Center maintenance and operations. Viafore requested a six-month review of housekeeping and maintenance after the Fircrest Community Center opens.

Pingel presented the Equipment Repair and Replacement (ERR) Fund overview, and General Fund projections and changes. Capital Projects for 2022 include HVAC improvements for City Hall, Public Safety Building, and Public Works, purchasing Gator UTV, and the Whittier Park master plan. Public Works Department will be replacing their bucket truck and backhoe. Viafore requested a study session for HVAC improvements. Barrentine commented on looking into purchasing an eco-friendly Gator UTV.

Pingel highlighted General Fund revenue changes, stating the property tax line, retail sales tax, and utility tax increased. Telephone and Cable revenues continue to decrease with trends moving from landlines and cable. Pool and recreation revenue increases are based on the first pool season usage and the new community center. There was a brief discussion on rental and recreation fees. Municipal Court revenue decreased due to the current trend and projected effects of recent legislation. Investment interest is anticipated to increase based on the current market and Cumulative Reserves loan. Discussions included Assigned Defense Counsel, Prosecutor, and City Attorney ongoing costs and training.

Pingel reported that there was a decrease in the Cumulative Reserve-General Fund balance because of the inter-fund loan from Cumulative Reserve to the Park Bond Capital Fund. There was a discussion held on the Whittier Master Plan update to include budgeting for the restroom, and picnic shelter upgrades, and creating a steering committee. A brief discussion was held on the street light maintenance and transfer amount for installation and operating costs. Facilities salary costs increased due to forecasted maintenance needs. There was a decrease in the Contract Maintenance line due to the removal of the custodial contract, which will be handled by facilities moving forward. Viafore commented on the time and temperature sign needing maintenance.

There was an increase in the Information Systems for an on-site technician. Police changes include a decrease in emphasis patrol, an increase in professional services due to body-worn cameras, and an increase in ERR replacement. Barrentine commented on operating costs for officer community outreach. There was a consensus to revisit the emphasis patrol line item and potentially adding a community outreach line item. There was an increase in Fire and Emergency Management Systems of 6.3 percent due to an increase in CPI. Lastly, discussions included the Community Events budget, Community Center utility and supplies, pool operating costs, tree evaluations, and anticipating Christmas tree replacement.

Police Chief Cheesman briefed the Council on body-worn cameras. Axon will be the vendor to provide support for the implementation and ongoing operations of body-worn cameras. Public record requests processes will be streamlined for efficiency. Cheesman reported that tasers and cameras will be replaced every 2.5 years. There was a consensus on the implementation of body-worn cameras. Barrentine commented on using Town Topics to bring awareness of body-worn cameras to the community.

Lastly, Pingel highlighted the Park Bond Debt Service Fund and Park Bond Capital Fund changes. Viafore commented on a Community Center cost schedule. Pingel reported that the Community Center is on track and will not go over budget. Viafore commented on Fox property not to be added to the budget. Waltier requested that the Fox property, Tot Lot Park, and Whittier become part of the Whittier Master Plan to include a steering committee. George commented on the importance to update the PROS plan soon. Viafore commented on freezing any new budget items. Pingel reported an increase in REET for street improvements to include asphalt patching and overlay. The cumulative reserve will start to receive annual inter-fund loan payments from the Park Capital Fund in 2022 and the interest will go into General Fund.

ADJOURNMENT

Viafore MOVED to adjourn the meeting at 8:04 P.M., seconded by Barrentine. The Motion Carried (7-0).



Hunter T. George, Mayor



Wayne Westman, City Clerk