

**CALL TO ORDER, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE, AND ROLL CALL**

Mayor Hunter T. George called the special meeting to order at 6:00 P.M. and led the pledge of allegiance. Councilmembers David M. Viafore, Shannon Reynolds, Brett Wittner, Denny Waltier, and Marc Rieke were present. Councilmember Joe Barrentine was absent and excused.

**AGENDA MODIFICATIONS**

There were none.

**THROUGH LOTS DISCUSSION**

Administrative Services Director Westman briefed the Council on the background of through-lot discussions, their relation to accessory dwelling units, and clarified previous Councilmember's concerns. Westman addressed code limitations on rear setbacks. The current code mandates a 20- or 25-foot setback. Westman presented various options to address the issue. Discussions included conducting further research for the best possible outcome and street parking. There was a consensus to table the amendment to FMC 22.58.003, Accessory Buildings, through lot setback reduction.

Barrentine entered the meeting at 7:15 P.M.

**2022 PRELIMINARY BUDGET CHANGES AND ITEMS FOR ADDITIONAL DISCUSSION**

City Manager Pingel briefed the Council on 2022 preliminary budget changes per Council discussions, to include additional \$5,000 to Emphasis Patrol line item for Community Engagement, removal of \$250,000 for Fox Property improvements, additional \$50,000 for the readerboard, and split Public Utility services expenses between Parks Fund and Recreation Fund. Discussions included addressing budget line-item subcategories for Emphasis Patrol to explicitly state expenses, observing community engagement expenses to be utilized partially on underserved communities' outreach, splitting the patrol expenses between truck and speeding enforcement, and maintaining continuous community outreach. Reynolds asked if officers have utilized crisis intervention at the Wellfound Behavior Health Hospital. Pingel stated that he will research and provide an answer soon.

Pingel presented to the Council banking the one percent property tax revenue, its effects on the budget, and options to mitigate the loss of revenue. Viafore commented on his favor to bank the one percent property tax increase as it may cause financial hardships to residents and favors maintaining conservative financial goals. Barrentine commented on his favor to bank the one percent property tax increase. Waltier asked if the property taxes are banked, what will the outcome be when it comes time to increase the property tax revenue. Corcoran stated that the City may ask for the additional property tax that has been banked. Wittner asked if other jurisdictions have banked their property tax increase. Pingel stated that it may be uncommon for other jurisdictions to be banking due to his conversations with Pierce County Auditor. George stated that four emails were received in favor of not increasing property taxes. George commented that the City uses the property tax revenue to address community needs, such as road and park improvements, and favors the increase. Reynolds commented on protecting the affordability for residents and banking the property tax. Rieke commented on educating the public on the City's operating costs. Pingel requested that the Council provide direction on whether to increase the property tax by 1% or bank it. George requested a roll call consensus on banking the one percent. The roll call resulted in five Councilmembers in favor of banking the

one percent, and 2 Councilmembers not in favor. George and Waltier were not in favor of banking the one percent.

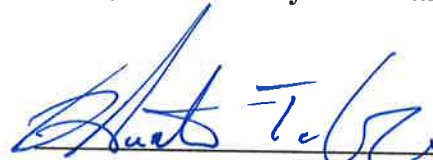
Pingel presented the proposed two percent water rate increase, which follows the recommendation of the 10-year water system plan and allows for the progression of capital projects. Pingel highlighted that it is important to strategize the water rate increase. Viafore commented on the need to specifically allocate ARPA funds. Corcoran stated that strategizing water rate increases will allow for the planning of future capital projects. Viafore asked if a two percent increase was enough to fund future capital projects. Corcoran stated that the water system plan was designed around water rate increases to fund future projects and there has not been a water rate increase in the last couple of years. Corcoran highlighted that the City has not been able to transfer the recommended amounts to the Water Capital Fund due to higher expenditures and low revenue. Although two Councilmembers dissented from the majority, there was a consensus on the two percent water rate increase. Viafore requested that the Council discuss ARPA fund allocations at a future Study Session. Viafore commented on the status and the process of the RFP for the readerboard.


**MOTION TO CANCEL OCTOBER 25<sup>TH</sup>, 2021 BUDGET STUDY SESSION**

There was a consensus to keep October 25, 2021 budget Study Session to include discussion on ARPA fund allocations.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**Reynolds MOVED to adjourn the meeting at 7:17 P.M., seconded by Barrentine. The Motion Carried (7-0).**

  
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Hunter T. George, Mayor

  
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Jayne Westman, City Clerk