CALL TO ORDER, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE, AND ROLL CALL

Mayor Pro Tempore Brett L. Wittner called the special meeting to order at 6:00 P.M. and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Councilmembers David M. Viafore, Shannon Reynolds, Karen Mauer-Smith, and Joe Barrentine, and Mayor Nikki Bufford were present.

Councilmember Hunter T. George was excused at roll call without objection from Council.

Councilmember Viafore, Reynolds, Barrentine, and Mayor Bufford attended virtually.

PRELIMINARY 2027 BUDGET – 3rd BUDGET WORK SESSION

Councilmember George joined the meeting in person at 6:02 P.M.

Finance Director Deskins presented the Preliminary 2027 General Fund revenues, property tax projection, and proposed levies. Council discussions included assessed valuations, the voter-approved EMS levy, and comparisons with other local jurisdictions.

City Manager Masko presented proposed market-based salary adjustments for non-represented employees. The proposed adjustments would align salary ranges with the 50th percentile of comparable cities.

Councilmember Reynolds left the meeting at 6:20 P.M.

There was a brief discussion on market competitiveness, employee retention, and the results of the salary survey.

Finance Director Deskins presented proposed staffing adjustments, including increasing an existing Court Clerk I and Community Events Specialist positions from 0.75 to 1.0 full-time equivalent (FTE) and adding one full-time Court Clerk I position. Discussions included staffing needs, funding allocations, and implementation of the automated traffic safety camera program.

Finance Director Deskins also presented the proposed replacement of computer workstations.

Public Works Director Bemis presented three proposed Public Works vehicle replacements. Council discussed the City's Equipment Rental and Replacement (ER&R) program, vehicle conditions, funding allocations, and replacement schedules. Council requested additional vehicle assessment and fleet information before making budget decisions.

Public Works Director Bemis presented proposed capital expenditures, including City Hall exterior repairs and painting and a robotic pool cleaner. Discussions included long-term capital replacement planning for the pool and community center, and the City's ER&R program.

Public Works Director Bemis presented proposed adjustments to Public Works permit fees. Council discussed cost recovery, fees charged by comparable jurisdictions, and the importance of regularly reviewing fees.

Parks and Recreation Director Grover presented proposed 2027 recreation program and facility rental fee adjustments. Council discussed the potential for additional increases to help offset staffing costs.

Finance Director Deskins reviewed the proposed 2027 budget requests. Council discussed funding priorities, including expenditures from the Automated Traffic Safety Camera Fund and the consideration of the public safety sales tax.

There was Council consensus to include the proposed Court Clerk staffing adjustments and the increase to the Community Events Specialist position in the Preliminary 2027 Budget.

ADJOURNMENT

Councilmember Mauer-Smith MOVED to adjourn the meeting at 7:46 P.M., seconded by Councilmember George.

The Motion Carried (6-0).

Nikki Bufford, Mayor

Arlette Burkhart, City Clerk