

Village of Salado, Texas
Board of Aldermen
Called Budget Workshop

Meeting Minutes

Municipal Building, 301 N. Stagecoach Drive
8:00 a.m., Saturday, August 15, 2015

I. Call to Order.

Mayor Skip Blancett called the budget workshop to order at 8:05 a.m.

Present: Mayor Pro Tempore Fred Brown, Frank Coachman, Alderman Michael McDougal.

Others present: Kim Foutz, Village Administrator; Jack Hensley, Chief of Police; Mary Ann Ray, Village Secretary.

II. Workshop

Administrator Foutz explained that the Village's tax base came in lower than last year and explained effective and rollback tax rates. She said that the Village's tax rate is significantly lower than other communities in the region. The preliminary tax rate appears to be around \$.33/100, still significantly lower than any other community in the region.

She reviewed the appraisal district's chart of tax exemptions, which shows that Salado's exemption for over 65/disabled is disproportionately high compared to other communities in the region.

She reviewed the proposed budget line item by line item; discussion took place when necessary.

Major points of discussion involved the following changes:

Revenues:

- Increasing the sales tax forecast to \$375,000 from \$370,000
- using a tax rate of \$0.1999 instead of the effective rate of \$.1825 and revise revenue forecast commensurately

Expenditures:

- cut Aldermen compensation of \$60
- cut upgrades to website to \$5,000 from \$7,500
- separate the costs for Open Records Requests from Overall Legal, making ORR its own line item

- fund Keep Salado Beautiful \$1,000 from the General Fund and \$1,500 from the Main Street fund
- cut Police capital outlay to \$5,000 for the reserve fund for purchase of new vehicles; will revisit mid-year
- increase Police Chief salary to \$57,964
- cut street capital outlay to \$61,000 from \$75,000, leaving additional funds in other line items for crack-sealing and pothole programs; will revisit mid-year.

These changes should produce:

proposed revenues of \$1,051,588

proposed expenditures of \$1,051,421

excess revenues over expenditures: \$167

The Main Street reserve fund will be increased to \$40,500 to go with \$5,000 already in the Hotel/Motel Fund for wayfinding signs.

Administrator Foutz also proposed for the following future actions:

- research and conduct surrounding city survey on miscellaneous fees. The Ordinance Subcommittee will be charged with making recommendations on adjustments to the fee schedule.
- create a Pace Park information package.

Other areas tagged for research included:

- an audit of franchise fees with a focus on waste disposal
- check on the end date for the municipal judge contract
- check on electrical aggregator revenues and activities
- municipal court collections
- delinquent property tax collections
- is Alderman compensation required by law?
- verify that Bell County Health Services contract will not increase
- gather more information on the Salado Volunteer Fire Department
- research Georgetown Salamander ruling
- check with Salado Chamber Executive Committee regarding Leadership Salado operation in 2016-17
- research CenturyLink phone costs and alternative providers for Police Department
- explore adding more events starting Thanksgiving weekend and extending through Christmas
- Is it too late to have a local option election for mixed drinks in bars?

The Board will discuss the budget further at the regularly scheduled August 20, 2015, meeting.

III. Adjourn

The workshop was called to a close at noon.


Skip Blannett, Mayor

Attest:


Mary Ann Ray, Village Secretary