



Minutes of the Arlington City Council Zoom Retreat

Council Chambers
110 East Third Street
July 30, 2020

Councilmembers Present Remotely: Mike Hopson, Michele Blythe, Jan Schuette, Marilyn Oertle, Jesica Stickles, Debora Nelson, and Don Vanney.

Council Members Absent: None.

Staff Present Remotely: Mayor Barb Tolbert, Paul Ellis, James Trefry, Kristin Garcia, Bryan Terry, Dave Kraski, Jonathan Ventura, Marty Wray, Marc Hayes, Jim Kelly, City Attorney Steve Peiffle, and Wendy Van Der Meersche.

Also Known to be Present: Four (4) YouTube viewers.

Mayor Barb Tolbert called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m., and the Pledge of Allegiance and roll call followed.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Mayor Pro Tem Jesica Stickles moved to approve the agenda as presented. Councilmember Michele Blythe seconded the motion, which passed with a unanimous vote.

DISCUSSION ITEM

2021-2022 Biennial Budget

City Attorney Steve Peiffle introduced himself as facilitator and opened by providing an overview, with a brief review of the agenda, and the ground rules.

City Administrator Paul Ellis proceeded with a review of the Budget Retreat slide deck prepared by Finance Director Kristin Garcia.

Strategic Priorities

Public Safety

Addressing safety needs of the community

Fiscal Sustainability

Providing services within available financial resources

Economic Development

Attracting investments for affordable housing and jobs

2021/2022 Budget Overview

- No new discretionary spending
- Assume Fire/EMS expenses
- Maintaining sufficient reserves
- Economic indicators

Additional items from the slide deck were discussed:

State Shared Revenues, Non-Discretionary Costs, and Actions Already Taken were discussed.

Councilmember Marilyn Oertle submitted items for the parking lot portion of the retreat.

- Crosswalks
- Stop signs
- Property purchase for park in Smokey Point

Discussion followed.

The Budget portion of the retreat ended early.

North County Regional Fire Authority (RFA)

After a short break, Facilitator Steve Peiffle welcomed Councilmembers back. Mr. Peiffle asked for any additional parking lot items. There were none.

Mr. Ellis continued by reviewing the document previously emailed to Councilmembers, titled "**North County Regional Fire Authority (RFA) – Arlington Annexation City Council and Board of Commissioners Briefing**", which is a Summary of Proposed Terms for Annexation of Arlington Fire into North County RFA

The City of Arlington and North County RFA have been engaged in discussions regarding potential annexation of the City's fire department into the RFA for over a year now. A committee of two Councilmembers and two RFA Commissioners has been meeting for this purpose since February of this year, and has provided monthly updates to the full Council and Board of Commissioners. The purpose of this briefing is to summarize the Committee's recommendations made to date. The next step is to complete a formal RFA Plan Amendment incorporating these terms, which would then be submitted for approval of the RFA Board of Commissioners and City Council later this year.

The proposed annexation plan will come forward to both legislative bodies for consideration in October of 2020, in the form of an amendment to the RFA's current operating and finance plan (RFA Plan Amendment). Both the RFA and the City will need to formally approve the RFA Plan Amendment in order for the annexation proposal to proceed. If the parties agree to the annexation plan, the City would then request an annexation ballot measure be placed before the City's voters. For the measure to appear on the February 2021 election, the ballot measure request would need to be transmitted to the County Elections Department no later than December 11, 2020. If approved by a majority of the City's voters at the February 2021 election, the annexation would go into effect in

August 2021, and the RFA's taxing authority would extend to Arlington effective January 1, 2022.

Discussion followed with Mr. Ellis and Mayor Tolbert answering Council questions.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 4:14 p.m.



Barbara Tolbert, Mayor

