

**CARROLLTON CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING AND WORKSESSION
AUGUST 15, 2023**

The City Council of the City of Carrollton, Texas convened in a Regular Meeting and Worksession on Tuesday, August 15, 2023 at 5:45 p.m. with the following members present: Mayor Steve Babick, Mayor Pro Tem Nancy Cline, Deputy Mayor Pro Tem H.A. “Rusty” Pendleton, Councilmembers Christopher Axberg, Jason Carpenter, Richard Fleming, and Daisy Palomo. Also present were City Manager Erin Rinehart, Assistant City Managers Marc Guy and Chrystal Davis, City Attorney Meredith Ladd and City Secretary Chloe Sawatzky.

5:45 P.M. – COUNCIL BRIEFING ROOM

*****PRE-MEETING *****

Mayor Babick called the meeting to order at 5:45 p.m.

1. Receive information and discuss Agenda.

The Executive Session was convened following Worksession Item 5.

*****EXECUTIVE SESSION*****

2. Council convened into Executive Session at 8:56 p.m. pursuant to Texas Government Code:
 - **Section 551.071** for private consultation with the City Attorney to seek legal advice with respect to pending and contemplated litigation and including all matters on this agenda to which the City Attorney has a duty under the Texas Rules of Discipline and Professional Conduct regarding confidential communication with the City Council.
 - **Section 551.074** to discuss personnel matters.
 - Annual Performance Review of City Manager
3. Council reconvened in Open Session at 10:05 p.m. to consider action, if any, on matters discussed in the Executive Session. No action taken.

*****WORKSESSION*****

4. Discuss Fiscal Year 2024 Funding Recommendation of the Community Service Committee.

Mayor Pro Tem Cline, Chair of the Community Service Committee, provided a handout that reflected awarded dollar amounts to non-profit organizations in the previous budget and what is being recommended for the upcoming budget. She expressed appreciation to the staff for their assistance during the presentation process for these organizations. Councilmember Fleming requested this handout be included in the packet in the future so there is time to review the information prior to discussion.

5. Discuss Fiscal Year 2024 Proposed Budget and Tax Rate and Fee Changes.

Diana Vaughn, Chief Financial Officer, provided an overview of the major revenue sources for the General Fund. She advised that the Capital Projects Investment is proposed to be increased in FY2024 from FY2023 by \$6,561,294 to \$127 million. She noted this amount is reflected in the proposed budget.

In discussing the 2024 tax rate, Ms. Vaughn advised that the debt service amount and the economic development contract amounts are already set. She advised that discussion with the Council will include the operating needs in the general fund and pay-as-you-go funding for Neighborhood Partnerships and Capital, which is dedicated for items like streets and alleys.

Ms. Vaughn reviewed for the Council the Recurring Funding uses such as the proposed 5 percent employee raises and a possible tax cut which is included in the proposed budget at .25 cent. Ms. Vaughn stated that there is \$22,272,972 available in Non-Recurring Funding with requests totaling \$15,066,701. Economic Development Planning uses in the amount of \$7,206,271 also are included in Non-Recurring Funding.

Mayor Babick stated that as in the past, infrastructure remains a priority. Discussion of the employee raises followed, noting that restructuring the public safety salary structure is included in the budget. He noted that one-half of the available recurring funds are already allocated. Ms. Vaughn presented a spreadsheet that reflected staff's summation of expenditures and revenues, and provided a demonstration of how any changes desired by the Council would affect the final totals. Mayor Babick began discussion on the list of items needing further discussion.

Council consensus was determined for including the following recurring uses in the budget:

- 5% employee raise
- Boards and Commissions Software
- TMRS Pension funding
- Christmas in Carrollton
- First Responder Pay Restructuring

Discussion followed regarding the .25 percent tax cut currently included. It was noted that in FY2023 a 2 percent reduction was approved in the budget however the Mayor noted that amount was partly to offset of the impacts of COVID.

Council consensus was determined for including the following non-recurring items in the budget:

- Carrollton Difference One-Time Pay
- Korean Festival
- Carrollton Women's Club (requested amount was increased)
- Targeted Economic Development

The next item discussed was for a study for T.C. Rice in the amount of \$1.3 million. It was stated this is entirely for design efforts and is not included in the approved \$2 million bond amount for trails. Scott Whitaker, Parks and Recreation Director, explained what was included in the design effort. After considerable discussion, Councilmember Carpenter spoke in opposition to spending \$1.3 million for a study at this time. He stated that there are too many challenges with the property, and this money could be saved for later or used for something more pressing. Several other Councilmembers spoke in favor of proceeding. A phased approach to the design was suggested which would require a lesser amount of funds this year.

Mayor Babick adjourned this discussion at 7:00 p.m. to take a brief recess and then begin the Regular Meeting.

Regular Meeting was convened at 7:09 p.m. and adjourned at 7:26 p.m. A brief recess followed.

Worksession was reconvened at 7:36 p.m. and began with Item No. 6.

6. Mayor And Council Reports And Information Sharing.

Mayor Babick advised he and others met last week to discuss regional transit needs. He asked for a consensus from Council for him to ask the Regional Transportation Council (RTC) to initiate and fund a regional study to help determine future service needs of the north central Texas area. After Council consensus, Mayor Babick advised he will contact Michael Morris with the RTC to discuss the matter.

Council reviewed their recent and upcoming activities.

5. Discuss Fiscal Year 2024 Proposed Budget and Tax Rate and Fee Changes.- *continued*

Discussion continued regarding the T.C. Rice proposed design study in the amount of \$1.3 million. Mayor Babick stated that in light of several residents speaking at this meeting in opposition to spending this money on the T.C. Rice project in the next budget, and the concerns expressed by Councilmember Carpenter, he suggested a different approach. Realizing that some Councilmembers are in favor of this project, a solution would be to break down the amount into multiple years and dedicate the funds to a future use for T.C. Rice. Councilmember Axberg stated he likes the idea; Councilmember Palacios agreed. Councilmember Carpenter inquired about how the funding would be identified in the budget. Mayor Babick suggested it be a “save-as-you-go”, Year 1 of 4 for T.C. Rice, Phase II. The funds would not be identified for a study specifically but could be used for that if a future council determines it appropriate. Councilmember Fleming stated he likes the flexibility this approach provided. Councilmember Palomo agreed with this approach due to the number of residents who spoke in opposition. Mayor Pro Tem Cline and Deputy Mayor Pro Tem Pendleton agreed as well. Unanimous consensus by Council to create a four-year savings plan.

Council Consensus determined on other non-recurring funding items as follows:

- Pothole Response (for permanent alley repairs; outsourced; may also be in next years budget)
- Shelter Repairs (using funds remaining from bonds; completes the shelter project)
- Fire Station 5 and South Center (bond \$ plus 2 years of savings)
- Woodlake Park Phase II & III Design
- Stormwater Drainage System Analysis (for entire system; will be done over 3 years)
- Reserve Apparatus (replacement)
- ChatBot (for Resolution Center; customer service initiative)
- Upgrade/Replace IT Cameras (\$100,000 to be put in recurring)
- Library Chairs (partial replacements; will be requested again next year; \$10,000 in recurring)
- Elm Fork Nature Preserve (repairs)
- Playgrounds / Pavilions
- Outdoor Fitness Gym
- Police Memorial Fund
- City Conference (2-day event for employees)
- Vision 2040 Plan Community Outreach & Facilitated Planning Sessions

Mayor Babick summarized the total funds allocated to the various budget requests. Further discussion regarding a tax rate reduction and employee raises followed due to potential available funds. Mayor Babick added that most work on the budget was accomplished at this meeting and suggested the August 29th meeting be cancelled. Council agreed.

At 8:56 p.m. the Worksession was adjourned and the Executive Session was convened

*****REGULAR MEETING 7:00 P.M.*****

Mayor Babick called the Regular meeting to order at 7:09 p.m.

INVOCATION – Councilmember Daisy Palomo

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – Mayor Pro Tem Nancy Cline

PUBLIC COMMENT

7. Hearing of any citizen/visitor on items listed on the regular meeting agenda. Citizens wishing to address the Council regarding items not on the posted agenda will be called to speak during the Public Forum.

Citizens/visitors should complete an appearance card located on the table at the entrance to the City Council Chambers. Speakers must address their comments to the presiding officer rather than to individual Council members or staff; Stand at the podium, speak clearly into the microphone and state your name and address prior to beginning your remarks; Speakers will be allowed between 2 and 5 minutes for testimony; Speakers making personal, impertinent, profane or slanderous remarks may be removed from the room; Unauthorized remarks from the audience, stamping of feet, whistles, yells, clapping, and similar demonstrations will not be permitted; No placards, banners or signs will be permitted in the Chambers or in any other room in which the Council is meeting. In accordance with the State Open Meetings Act, the City Council is restricted from discussing or taking action on items not listed on the agenda. Action can only be taken at a future meeting.

Mayor Babick opened and closed the public comment period with no one wishing to speak.

CONSENT AGENDA

*(*All items marked with a single asterisk are part of a Consent Agenda and require no deliberation by the Council. Each Council member has the prerogative of removing an item from this agenda so that it may be considered separately. Contracts and agreements are available in the City Secretary's Office.)*

Mayor Pro Tem Cline moved to approve Consent Agenda Items 8-17; second by Councilmember Palomo. The motion was approved with a unanimous 7-0 vote.

BIDS & PURCHASES

***8. Consider Authorizing The City Manager To Purchase 5 Years Of Gateway And Credit Card Processing Services For Municipal Court From Global Payments Direct, Inc. And Its Subsidiary OpenEdge, LLC As A Sole Source Provider In An Annual Amount Of \$50,000.00 With A Total Not To Exceed Contract Amount Of \$250,000.00.**

***9. Consider Approval of RFQ #23-017 For The 2023 Parks And Recreation Master Plan From Dunaway Associates, LLC., In An Amount Not To Exceed \$235,155.00.**

CONTRACTS & AGREEMENTS

***10. Consider Approval Of An Amendment To The Contract With Robert Half Companies By Increasing The Total Compensation By \$204,050 For A New Total Amount Not To Exceed \$300,050.**

***11. Consider Approval of an Amendment to the Contract With Protiviti Government Services, Inc By Reducing the Total Compensation By \$204,050 For A New Total Amount Not To Exceed \$871,780.**

ORDINANCES

***12. Consider An Ordinance Amending Chapter 73 Of The Carrollton Code Of Ordinances, “Traffic Schedules”, Schedule I(C) And I(D), Establishing A Speed Limit Of 40 Miles Per Hour On Dickerson Parkway Between Frankford Road And MacArthur Drive, And A Speed Limit Of 35 Miles Per Hour On Dickerson Parkway Between MacArthur Drive And The Northbound Access Road Of The President George Bush Turnpike (PGBT) West Of Interstate Highway 35E.**

***13. Consider An Ordinance Acknowledging Receipt Of The Carrollton Castle Hills Public Improvement District No. 1 Annual Service Plan Update.**

***14. Consider An Ordinance Acknowledging Receipt Of The Carrollton Castle Hills Public Improvement District No. 2 Annual Service Plan Update.**

RESOLUTIONS

***15. Consider A Resolution Authorizing The City Manager To Execute Contract Amendment No. 2 With Burgess & Niple, Inc. For Additional Engineering Services Related To The Nob Hill Section 2 Street Reconstruction Project, In An Amount Not To Exceed \$103,000.00, Increasing The Total Contract To An Amount Not To Exceed \$354,500.00.**

***16. Consider A Resolution Authorizing The Defeasance And Redemption Of A Portion Of The Outstanding City Of Carrollton, Texas, General Obligation Improvement Bonds, Series 2014, Approving And Authorizing The Execution Of An Escrow Agreement For The Deposit Of Funds In An Amount Sufficient To Defeas Such Bonds And Resolving Other Matters Incident And Related Thereto.**

***17. Consider A Resolution Of The City Council Of The City Of Carrollton, Texas, Suspending The September 1, 2023 Effective Date Of Coserv Gas, Ltd.’S Requested Rate Change To Permit The City Time To Study The Request And To Establish Reasonable Rates; Approving Cooperation With Other Cities In The Coserv Service Area, To Hire Legal And Consulting Services And To Negotiate With The Company And Direct Any Necessary Litigation And Appeals; Requiring Reimbursement Of The Steering Committee Of Cities Served By Coserv Gas’ Rate Case Expenses; Finding That The Meeting At Which This Resolution Is Passed Is Open To The Public As Required By Law; And Requiring Notice Of This Resolution To The Company And Legal Counsel.**

PUBLIC FORUM

18. Hearing of any citizen/visitor on items not listed on the regular meeting agenda. Citizens wishing to address the Council regarding items on the posted agenda will be called to speak during the Council's consideration of such items.

Citizens/visitors should complete an appearance card located on the table at the entrance to the City Council Chambers. Speakers must address their comments to the presiding officer rather than to individual Council members or staff; Stand at the podium, speak clearly into the microphone and state your name and address prior to beginning your remarks; Speakers will be allowed between 2 and 5 minutes for testimony; Speakers making personal, impertinent, profane or slanderous remarks may be removed from the room; Unauthorized remarks from the audience, stamping of feet, whistles, yells, clapping, and similar demonstrations will not be permitted; No placards, banners or signs will be permitted in the Chambers or in any other room in which the Council is meeting. In

accordance with the State Open Meetings Act, the City Council is restricted from discussing or taking action on items not listed on the agenda. Action can only be taken at a future meeting.

Mr. Vidovic, (no address stated): spoke of pending legal action against the city and requested a change to the Charter.

Wendy Eldredge, 1445 Perry, representing the Carrollton Farmers Branch School District: provided an update. Stated the number of students has increased by 300 since the previous year and is now 24,000; 100 immunizations have been done past two days; described a convocation that was held for 4,000 staff members recently and bonuses that were provided to teachers.

Katrina Spottsville, 1445 N. Perry: provided update on community programs being planned for some of the schools.

Suzanna Dooling, 1406 Overture Way: in regard to the budget, voiced concerns over excavation done at T.C. Rice; asked whether Phase I and Phase II is being considered for approval; is opposed to spending \$1.3 million on a study as was discussed in the Worksession; suggested other uses for this money in 2024.

Adam Polter, 4180 Creekhollow Dr.: spoke in opposition to spending \$1.3 million on a study at T.C. Rice at this time, better to wait until I35 is expanded; proposed other uses for this money.

Lauri Foster, 1806 Crestview Dr.: spoke in opposition to a study for T.C. Rice at this time, adding that other things should be higher priority; referenced her previous email to the Council.

Kate Hughey, 2311 Greenmeadow Dr.: submitted a card regarding arts, culture, mental health and public safety. She did not wish to speak

The Regular meeting concluded at 7:26 p.m. Mayor Babick advised that Council would continue the Worksession items. A brief recess followed and the Worksession was continued at 7:36 p.m. (see page 3.)

ADJOURNMENT - Mayor Babick adjourned the meeting at 10:05 p.m.

ATTEST:

Chloe Sawatzky, City Secretary

Steve Babick, Mayor