

**BELTON CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING  
AUGUST 7, 2012**

The Belton City Council met in special session with the following members present: Mayor Jim Covington, Mayor Pro Tem Marion Grayson, Councilmembers Clifton Peters, Wayne Carpenter, Craig Pearson, and John Agan. Councilmember David K. Leigh was absent. Staff present were Sam Listi, Connie Torres, Cristy Daniell, Gene Ellis, Francisco Corona, Byron Sinclair, Erin Newcomer, Jerri Gauntt, Kim Kroll, Sandy Slade, Charlotte Walker, and Denny Lassetter.

The Mayor called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

Consider deferral of final plat approval of the Piazza, an 11.23 acre tract located at the intersection of Auction Barn Road, Shanklin Road, and Loop 121.

The City Manager explained this item was deferred at the July 24th meeting, and the developer has requested another deferral to the August 14th meeting to allow additional time for coordination on infrastructure issues. Upon motion by Councilmember Pearson, seconded by Councilmember Carpenter, the Council unanimously approved the deferral.

Conduct General Fund Budget Workshop for FY 2013.

Assistant City Manager Cristy Daniell presented an overview of revenues and expenditures, with the following key points:

- Changes to revenue include slight decreases in franchise tax and mixed beverage tax; addition of the \$5 per player recreation fee (\$14,730); and grant revenue of \$78,120, with one year remaining on the firefighter SAFER grant.
- Personnel expenditures include increases for Civil Service employees (5% across the board); funding one additional School Resource Officer, with 10 months reimbursed by BISD; addition of one Maintenance Worker (landscaping) and one part-time Planning Clerk; addition of a Public Information Officer; and a pool of \$100,000 for the merit pay plan and civil service step pay.
- Health insurance premiums are budgeted with an anticipated 10% or less increase effective January 1.
- The total fuel budget in Supplies will decrease \$8,740, with \$25,770 budgeted in small equipment.
- Services line items include increases for engineering, street lighting, travel/training/dues, and an increase in the City's allocation for the Bell County Communications Center.
- Debt service consists of repayment to the Greathouse Trust fund for two ambulances, and repayment on the brush truck.
- Transfers include Library Book Fund (\$25,000), Civil Service Fund for sick pay and appeals (\$95,000), and Youth Advisory Commission Fund (\$1,000).
- \$100,000 is budgeted for transfers to General Fund Capital Equipment Fund.
- Strategic Plan funding includes comprehensive update of the Strategic Plan (1/2) - \$2,750, federal lobbyist (2/3) - \$40,000, Thoroughfare Plan update - \$10,000, Mayor/CM travel for congressional visits - \$7,000, and customer service training - \$3,000.
- The contingency amount remains at \$100,000.

Department Heads presented budget information and goals/priorities for their respective department as follows:

- Gene Ellis, Police Chief – Police
- Francisco Corona, Fire Chief – Fire
- Byron Sinclair, Deputy Public Works Director – Streets, Parks & Recreation Facilities, Brush Collection & Maintenance
- Sandy Slade, Recreation & Events Director – Harris Community Center & Recreation
- Kim Kroll, Library Director – Lena Armstrong Public Library
- Erin Newcomer, Planning Director – Planning
- Denny Lassetter, IT Director – Information Technology & GIS
- Cristy Daniell, Assistant City Manager – Finance, Human Resources, Refuse Collection & non-departmental costs
- Sam Listi, City Manager – City Council & Administration
- Connie Torres, City Clerk – City Clerk & Legal

General discussion was as follows:

- Discontinue use of federal lobbyist, given the climate in Washington D.C. and unavailability of earmarks.
- Council requested to see a job description for the Public Information Officer position.

- The warrant/training/evidence officer position requested jointly by the Police Department and Municipal Court could be funded with money saved by not renewing federal lobbyist contract.
- Discontinuing the early payment discount for property taxes is worth considering.

No action was taken.

Conduct workshop to continue update of the FY 2013-2018 Strategic Plan.

Given the time, the City Manager distributed his presentation regarding Policy C of the Strategic Plan, for individual review. No action was taken.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

  
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Jim Covington, Mayor

ATTEST:

  
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Connie Torres, City Clerk