



News Release

CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE

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Council Proposes Tax Rate Decrease and Continues Budget Discussions

At the July 25 meeting, Council continued FY 2018-2019 budget discussions. Assessed valuations came in at an overall 5.6% increase. The proposed base General Fund Budget expenditures total \$18,373,424, a 4.4% increase over last year. A Supplemental Budget totaling \$335,658 is also included, resulting in a total increase of 6.3%. Also proposed is a two stage tax decrease with the first stage implemented with the Fiscal Year 2018 – 2019 Budget. The proposed decrease would lower the tax rate from \$0.56802 to \$0.56302. Council held a record vote to propose the rate decrease and schedule public hearings for August 28 and September 11.

Staff also presented the Utility Fund Budget and Special Revenue Funds. The rate utility rate and structure change implemented last year is working as designed with enough funds in reserves to pay for repairs to three wells that have failed this year. The proposed Utility Fund Budget for FY 2018-2019 will maintain the current rate structure for water and sewer services. Council received presentations on the Special Revenue Fund Budgets which include the parks leased by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. These parks are revenue generating parks. Copperas Branch Park was recently returned to the City after TxDOT used the park as a staging area for the I-35E expansion. Significant work was done to re-open Copperas Branch Park for public use, with more in the works including a Master Plan Study for the future design proposed in the FY 2018-2019 budget. At Pilot Knoll Park funds are allocated for the rehab of the overnight and day-use restrooms.

Budget presentations and public hearings will continue at the August 28 and September 11 City Council meetings.

Council approved a resolution declaring an emergency and authorizing the agreement to repair the City's FM 407 and Lake Vista well pumps. Both wells were taken out of service in July due to needed repairs. The City owns five wells that are used to supplement the water received from the Upper Trinity Regional Water District during the higher usage months of the summer. The City's water supply decreases by 1.6MGD and constitutes the emergency ratification for the repairs to the two wells.

City staff is monitoring the City's water supply and demand closely to determine if the City would need to move in Phase 2 water conservation which prohibits watering on Monday's and Friday's. "The recent rains have caused our residents to use less water for irrigation, however until the two pumps are repaired and in service again we ask our residents to conserve water and be mindful when using their irrigation systems," stated Mayor Charlotte Wilcox. A good way to determine if your yard needs watering is to sign up for alerts at WaterMyYard.org.

During the Mayor and Council comments a swearing in ceremony was held for two new police officers. Officer Fabiola Ramirez and Officer Curtis Duncan-Pritchard are the newest additions to the Highland Village Police Department.

In the City Manager Report, the [HVTV Update](#) informed residents of the upcoming Highland Village Lions Club Balloon Festival to take place August 17-19 at Unity Park, the change to Community Waste Disposal for the City's solid waste services and the ability to request a larger recycling cart. The video also reminded residents to be cautious around the schools now that school is back in session.

The City Council early work session and regular session is available on HVTV (Spectrum 15; Frontier 43) and via website streaming by searching HVTV. The meetings are also available for on-demand viewing on the city [website](#).