



# News Release

## CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE

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Contact: Laurie Mullens  
972-899-5131 / 940-597-3721  
lmullens@highlandvillage.org

1000 Highland Village Road  
Highland Village, TX 75077  
www.highlandvillage.org

### ***Council Receives FY 2018-2019 Budget and Holds Public Hearing***

At the August 28 meeting, Council received the recommended FY 2018-2019 Budget and held a public hearing. 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 combination of the increase in our tax roll along with a solid year end projection, staff has projected a Fund Balance of 38% or \$6,744,126. We are able to use the funds to pay cash for the purchase of a fire engine and ambulance, a major capital expenditure that was identified in FY 20-21. 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.

Initiatives this year include the addition of two positions. The first, an additional School Resource Officer in the police department to continue our commitment of developing relationships and shaping the lives of our youth. LISD provides 50% of the funding for one SRO which has been dividing their time between one middle school and three elementary schools. LISD adopted a new policy requiring a dedicated SRO for the middle school in order to receive the 50% funding. Our Community Policing model emphasizes involvement and presence in all schools so we have proposed funding for the additional SRO to focus on the elementary schools. The second position, an applicator technician in the parks department, will ensure the high level of service expected by our parks is maintained.

A Master Plan for Copperas Branch Park, including the eastern quadrant of Highland Village over to Doubletree Ranch Park, is also included to gather input and determine the best use and development of this area in an effort to plan for the future. Copperas Branch Park has been used as a staging area by a TxDOT contractor for the IH 35 project over the last five years and was recently returned to the City. City crews worked to clean up the park and it is now open for public use.

A public hearing and the first read of the tax rate and the budget will be held on the September 11 City Council meeting with the final read of the tax rate and budget taking place on September 25.

During the Mayor's Comments a Life Saving Award presentation was made honoring the work done by our police, fire, dispatch and citizens in saving the life of a visitor to Highland Village. On July 24 Barbara Beck was in TJMaxx in Highland Village when she went into cardiac arrest. Someone in the store immediately called 911 where our dispatchers, Lisa Rutherford and Phillip Smallwood, started providing emergency medical dispatch to provide instructions to the caller. Two shoppers, Cyndee Fullerton and Joey Peterman who are both RN's, began to administer CPR. Officer John Bradley arrived and immediately applied an AED. Highland Village Firefighter/Driver Vince Jones, Firefighter/Paramedic Justin Moore, Firefighter/Paramedic Jonathan Hughes, Firefighter/Paramedic Trevis Jordan, and Firefighter/Paramedic Ryan Snider

arrived to continue care and transport Ms. Beck. It is because of the care received that Ms. Beck was able to attend the meeting and thank all those who came to her side to save her life.

“This is a testament to the public safety enhancements we put in place two years ago. Training our dispatch in emergency medical procedures and our police officers as Emergency Care Attendants has saved a life,” stated City Manager Michael Leavitt.

In the City Manager Report, the [HVTV Update](#) informed residents of the change to Community Waste Disposal for the City’s solid waste services including how to determine if your collection day is changing and how to request a larger recycling cart. The video also included the Foodie Friday segment featuring Taco Cielo in The Marketplace at Highland Village.

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](#).