



News Release

CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE

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Council Honors Retiring City Manager Michael Leavitt; Approves First Read of Annual Budget

Council, and the Highland Village Parks and Recreation Advisory Board, honored retiring city manager Michael Leavitt with a resolution naming the pavilion at Doubletree Ranch Park the Michael Leavitt Pavilion in honor of Leavitt's service to Highland Village and his work in purchasing and developing Doubletree Ranch Park. In honor of Leavitt's retirement, a celebratory video was produced featuring the Mayors who have served during Mike's 20 year tenure with Highland Village. The theme throughout the comments in the video was Mike's ability to see the big picture in the development of Highland Village as a premier city in North Texas, his ability to facilitate regional cooperation for projects benefitting the community, and his service first attitude. Leavitt has more than 33 years in municipal government with 20 of those in Highland Village.

"Legacy is an overused word these days, but when it comes to what Michael Leavitt has achieved during his time in Highland Village, this is one of those occasions when it is justified to use. You lead Highland Village during the time it grew from a small rural town to a growing City and not without growing pains and differing opinions. Through it all, your main goal was always for the departments to continue to provide the service we all know and expect. One thing I know about you is it was never about you; rather it was always about the greater good and having a positive impact on someone's life every day," stated Mayor Charlotte Wilcox. "I want to thank you, Mike, for being the patient leader, supporter, and friend to all the employees, residents, businesses, me and the Council. We wish you an enjoyable retirement and job well done!"

Council approved the first read of the FY 20-21 Budget. It is anticipated Denton County Appraisal District will provide the Certified Tax Roll in mid-September, the estimate provided by DCAD has a 1.9% increase which includes \$22,513,440 in new properties being added to the tax roll. Sales tax revenue is anticipated to increase 1.7% over last year, despite the uncertain economy. The base budget is \$18,579,283, which is a 1.4% increase over last year's base budget. A Supplemental Budget initially identified \$953,820 of projects – a large portion of this includes \$500,000 for public facility security improvements that were directed to the current year and will be funded through the CARES Act. Various items were funded with alternate funding sources, leaving \$168,585 funded in the FY 20-21 budget. Supplemental items include a new position in the City Secretary office, a leasing plan for medical equipment which provides a long-term cost savings and ensures the Highland Village Fire Department has the latest technology, an additional outdoor warning siren and updates to the Emergency Operations Center. Capital projects planned include security improvements to City Hall, replacement of the walking path around Victoria Park and the addition of the Highland Village Road sidewalk from City Hall to Sellmeyer Lane, and a trail connection for Chapel Hill to the City Trail. The final read of the budget will be approved at a special meeting on Tuesday, September 15.

Council also approved a resolution authorizing an agreement with Play By Design, LLC for construction services of the Kids Kastle Project. Over a year ago the City began the process of community involvement with the goal of rebuilding Kids Kastle as a community build project. Just

before the community build was set to begin in March, the process was delayed due to COVID-19. Phase 1 of the build was completed by consultants from Play by Design and City staff in May with community build dates set for July. Again COVID-19 caused the cancellation of the community build. Council directed staff to complete Kids Kastle as quickly as possible without compromising the ability to complete Victoria Park path, the Highland Village Road sidewalk, and the Chapel Hill Trail connection. Council approved a resolution amending the agreement with Play by Design to eliminate the community build component and replace with a contractor-build agreement for Phase 2 construction supervision and to provide skilled labor as necessary. The total additional cost to complete Kids Kastle is \$160,000. City staff has continued to work with small community groups to install the stand alone pieces which will continue through October. Staff anticipates completing Kids Kastle in early to mid-December.

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