



# News Release

## CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE

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### ***Council Approves Final Read of Annual Budget***

Council approved the final 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.

During the City Manager's Report, Michael Leavitt provided an update on the HVFD personnel and equipment deployed to California to aid in fighting the wildfires burning there. Fire Equipment Operator/Paramedic Mel Harper and the HVFD Brush Truck is currently in northern California fighting the August Complex Fires at the Eel River location. The fire has not jumped the Eel River and crews continue working to keep it east of the river and away from populated areas. Harper and his team are involved in a backfiring operation of over 1000 acres to remove fuel ahead of the main body of fire. The current report estimates place the fire at 30 percent contained and 794,801 acres burned.

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](http://www.highlandvillage.org/hvtv). The meetings are also available for on-demand viewing on the city [website](http://www.highlandvillage.org).