



MINUTES OF THE MISSION SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING

September 6, 2023

The Mission City Council met for a Special City Council meeting on Wednesday, September 6, 2023, at 6:00 p.m. The meeting was called to order by Mayor Flora. The following councilmembers attended in person: Debbie Kring, Lea Loudon, Ken Davis, Trent Boultinghouse, Ben Chociej, Hillary Thomas, Kristin Inman and Mary Ryherd.

Mayor Flora advised that because this is a special meeting, the Governing Body will only be considering the items listed on our Agenda this evening related to the adoption of the 2024 budget. She also explained that a special meeting date was required as neither the City's August or September regular legislative meeting dates aligned with the statutory requirements regarding the public hearing on the Revenue Neutral Rate.

Mayor Flora then officially opened the public hearings for the City of Mission, Rock Creek Drainage District #1 and Rock Creek Drainage District #2 for consideration of the 2023 Budgets and the intent to exceed the Revenue Neutral Rate for each as required by K.S.A. 79-2929 and K.S.A. 79-2988. Mayor Flora invited City Administrator Laura Smith to make a brief presentation following which members of the public will have an opportunity to comment on the items listed. Mayor Flora also instructed the public that following Ms. Smith's presentation, if any members of the public would like to make a comment on the items listed for Public Hearing with regards to the 2024 Budgets, or the intent to exceed the Revenue Neutral Rate that would be the time.

Ms. Smith reviewed a two-page 2024 recommended budget highlights, emphasizing that a summary of expenditures in key performance areas was included. Ms. Smith began by reviewing the long journey the budget process always is. This year's budget process has included good conversations about financial conditions for both the present and the future, impacts on the foundation of the budget in recent years including the reduction of the mill levy over time, and looking to position the City to accomplish Council and community goals including infrastructure investment, parks investments, recruiting and retaining staff, ensuring that appropriate reserves in savings



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are on hand for flexibility and quick response. Ms. Smith then asked for questions or comments from the public at this time.

There were no online or in person comments. There was one comment sent via email earlier in the week from Tim O'Halloran of Mission, KS. Mr. O'Halloran asked "What in the City of Mission budget caused the City tax levy to go up approximately 21% when compared to 2022 vs in 2022 the City tax levy went up approximately 14% when compared to 2021. Also, with that much of an increase in 2023 and 2022 what will happen to the Mission budget when home prices go down?"

Ms. Smith stated she believes the reference of the percentages in Mr. O'Halloran's question likely comes from the County notices that are sent out to residents with regard to the Revenue Neutral Rate and taxing rate of each entity. She also explained that those numbers are unique to each resident in relation to their assessed property value. She reviewed that an overall increase in assessed valuation in Mission in 2023 of 11% was seen. Additionally, Mission has not been able to take full advantage of that increase due to the Dark Store Theory refund, reduction of mill levy by 1.645 mills and other factors have put the City in a position to look beyond a one year budget horizon. She also explained that in 2024 the overall increase in assessed valuation is estimated at 7%. She also addressed Mr. O'Halloran's question regarding what happens when home prices go down. That happened once, several years ago in Johnson County. She believes that the slight increase in the mill levy now allows the City to be better prepared for that if it should happen again in the future. Ms. Smith also explained that the cost of services and the delivery of them does not necessarily correlate with the increase. Each year during budget time, project priorities must be balanced against protecting the community from larger increases.

Mayor Flora asked Mr. O'Halloran, who had joined the meeting virtually, if he had any follow-up questions or comments but he did not provide any. There were no other public comments and Mayor Flora closed the public hearing.

Mayor Flora then explained that, in accordance with state statute, the City



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Council must now consider resolutions confirming its intent to exceed the Revenue Neutral rates for the 2024 Budget for the City of Mission, Rock Creek Drainage District #1 and Rock Creek Drainage District #2. She stated that first the Council would consider the Resolution for the City of Mission's 2024 Budget and asked for a motion.

Moved by Boultinghouse, Seconded by Ryherd to approve the Resolution levying a property tax rate exceeding the revenue neutral rate for the City of Mission for 2024. A roll call vote was taken by City Clerk Robyn Fulks in accordance with statutory requirements. AYE: Boultinghouse, Loudon, Davis, Ryherd, Thomas and Chociej. NAY: Inman, Kring. **Motion carried.**

Mayor Flora then called for a motion on the second resolution to exceed the revenue neutral rate for Rock Creek Drainage District #1.

Moved by Ryherd, Seconded by Loudon to approve the Resolution levying a property tax rate exceeding the revenue neutral rate for the Rock Creek Drainage District No. 1 for 2024. A roll call vote was taken by City Clerk Robyn Fulks in accordance with statutory requirements. AYE: Boultinghouse, Loudon, Davis, Inman, Kring, Ryherd, Thomas and Chociej. **Motion carried.**

Mayor Flora then called for a motion on the third resolution to exceed the revenue neutral rate for the Rock Creek Drainage District #2.

Moved by Davis, Seconded by Kring to approve the Resolution levying a property tax rate exceeding the revenue neutral rate for the Rock Creek Drainage District No. 2 for 2024. A roll call vote was taken by City Clerk Robyn Fulks in accordance with statutory requirements. AYE: Boultinghouse, Loudon, Davis, Inman, Kring, Ryherd, Thomas and Chociej. **Motion carried.**

Following the votes approving the Resolutions to exceed the revenue neutral rates for 2024, Mayor Flora moved on to the additional Resolutions which formally adopt the 2024 budgets and the 2024-2028 Capital Improvement Program. Ms. Smith returned to present to the Council about the remaining resolutions.



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Ms. Smith explained that the remaining resolutions have historically been used as part of the annual budget to help communicate the policy decisions and priorities included in any year's budget. The Resolutions also help Staff communicate the mill levy rate with the County Clerk's office. The first Resolution will formally adopt the 2023 Revised and 2024 Proposed Budgets for the City of Mission. She explained that the revised 2023 budget is to firm up estimated revenues and expenditures while the 2024 budget lays out the upcoming year's estimated numbers.

Ms. Smith then introduced the two additional resolutions which formally adopt the 2023 Revised and 2024 Recommended budgets for the two Rock Creek Drainage Districts. She explained that the drainage districts are separate taxing entities, however the governing bodies are the same as the City's governing body which is why all are considered together. Similarly, the City also adopts a CIP budget resolution to communicate about large projects for the current year and identify projects on the radar but not yet incorporated in the five year plan.

Mayor Flora then called for a motion on the first budget resolution.

Councilmember Davis asked if in the General Fund Summary under the transfer out column he noticed that \$40,000.00 is listed for the Solid Waste Fund vs. \$75,000.00 in 2023. He asked for some additional information on that. Ms. Smith explained that a deficit was showing in that fund in previous years, mostly an on-paper accounting issue, and larger transfers were required in prior years to catch up funds. Since that has been completed, less funds are needed to be transferred out in 2024.

Moved by Loudon, Seconded by Chociej to approve the Resolution and adoption of the 2023 revised and 2024 proposed budgets. AYE: Boultinghouse, Loudon, Davis, Kring, Ryherd, Thomas and Chociej. NAY: Inman. **Motion carried.**

Mayor Flora then called for a motion on the second budget resolution.



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Moved by Kring, Seconded by Chociej to approve the Resolution adopting the 2024 Rock Creek Drainage District No. 1 budget. AYE: Boultinghouse, Loudon, Davis, Inman, Kring, Ryherd, Thomas and Chociej. **Motion carried.**

Mayor Flora then called for a motion on the third budget resolution.

Moved by Chociej, Seconded by Davis to approve the Resolution adopting the Rock Creek Drainage District No. 2 budget. AYE: Boultinghouse, Loudon, Davis, Inman, Kring, Ryherd, Thomas and Chociej. **Motion carried.**

Mayor Flora then called for a motion on the final budget resolution of the evening.

Moved by Kring, Seconded by Chociej to approve the Resolution adopting the 2024-2028 Capital Improvement Program. AYE: Boultinghouse, Loudon, Davis, Inman, Kring, Ryherd, Thomas and Chociej. **Motion carried.**

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Flora announced that the public video from this meeting will be available through a link on the City's website, missionks.org.

Moved by Chociej, seconded by Davis to adjourn the meeting at 6:17 p.m. All present voted AYE. **Motion carried.**

Respectfully submitted by Robyn L. Fulks, City Clerk.

Solana Flora, Mayor

Robyn L. Fulks, City Clerk