

**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL
CITY COUNCIL MEETING - BUDGET WORKSHOP
APRIL 22, 2019**

1. CALL TO ORDER AND CONFIRM A QUORUM

Mayor Megyesi called the meeting of the Fate City Council to order at 6:01 p.m. on the 22nd day of April, 2019, in the Fate City Hall 1900 CD Boren Parkway, Fate, Texas.

Deputy City Secretary Jessica Larson confirmed the presence of a quorum.

Council Members Present:

Lorne Megyesi, Mayor
Tamara Fisher
Lance Megyesi
Blake Buchanan
David Billings, Mayor Pro Tem
Steve Herrmann, Deputy Mayor Pro Tem

Council Members Absent:

Allen Robbins

City Staff Present:

Michael Kovacs, City Manager
Jessica Larson, Assistant to the City Manager/ Deputy City Secretary
Lyle Lombard, Director of Public Safety
John Taylor, Department of Public Safety Captain
Scott Monaghan, Director of Public Works
Steve Gilbert, Director of Community Services and Building Safety
Raju Anthony, Director of Finance
Teresa Stevens, Senior Accountant

**2. INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE AMERICAN AND TEXAS
FLAGS**

Lyle Lombard, Director of Public Safety gave the invocation, after which the Council led the Pledge of Allegiance to the American and Texas Flags.

3. WORKSHOP

**3A. Legislative Update And What The New Future Of Local Government Will
Look Like With Constrained Powers And Limited Revenues**

City Manager Michael Kovacs gave a presentation and conversation ensued amongst the council regarding the following:

- Legislative Changes
 - Annexation is voluntary which will change the ways cities will grow, Extra Territorial Jurisdiction (ETJ) is the Wild West, Certificates of Convenience and Necessity (CCN) – decertification of utilities.
 - Voter authorized/prohibited revenue growth in taxes & soon fees
 - Revenue erosion from business interests on industry specific taxes
 - No protection from corp. appraisal games
- Typical “City” Response
 - Stagnation & waiting it out
 - Cuts to services or trying to hold the line
 - Defer capital spending and maintenance
 - No new projects or initiatives at expense of operations
 - Promote bad growth for fast revenues
- Better Response
 - Explore service by service consolidation with cities and the county
 - Services already combined: Star Transit and Emergency Service
 - Double down on Smart Growth
 - Conversations with citizens on what they want
 - Through the new budget software and Citizen Survey
 - Push self-reliance and economics
 - Celebrating the little victories
 - Prioritizing different projects by the voters and financing with bonds - water rates, infrastructure.
 - Conversation ensued amongst the council about priorities, how to educate the community and philosophies of using bond debt to pay for priorities.

3B. Update Council Long, Mid, And Short-Term Goals

City Manager Michael Kovacs and the City Council reviewed the goals set last year and reprioritized items.

- Long Term Goals
 - Economically Sustainable Balanced Growth
 - Discussion ensued regarding what economic sustainability meant, more detail was requested.
 - Connect the City with a Robust Parks and Trails System
 - Discussion ensued regarding grants for the parks.
 - Council discussed adding “maintaining” the parks to this goal.
- Mid Term Goals
 - Community Identity?
 - Questions were asked about what Community Identity meant.

- Community Events
 - Volunteer programs like “Keep Fate Beautiful”
 - Downtown Development
 - Move it up to a short term goal?
- The idea of adding “on-going goals” was requested
- Revamping the website was discussed for a possible annual evaluation.
 - The biggest complaint was discussed as being difficult to find items.
 - Discussions on funding this was project was discussed
 - Moving items most often visited to the front
 - Adding utilities set-up to be done online – modernize it.
- Business Development?
- Develop I-30 Corridor
 - Discussion ensued amongst the Council regarding this goal. The Council suggested ideas including:
 - Update this to discuss the sales taxes annual revenue goal?
 - Is I30 still a midterm goal or should it be moved to a long term goal, because the focus has been moved to downtown?
 - Change this item to preparing for a midterm goal?
 - Change this to securing grocery store?
 - For the land owners, this project is a long term goal.
 - Citizens are tired of holding all of the burden of the taxes.
 - Grocery Store was discussed as a catalyst project for I 30.
 - The council decided to change the goal to - Prepare I30 for economic growth as a Mid Term Goal and moved develop I-30 to a Long Term Goal.
- Development of Parks in “District B”
 - The maintenance of the parks was discussed to be accounted for requested and to be a goal.
 - A parks department was discussed to be added.
- Short Term Goals
 - Streets – Completed Blackland Road \$1.8 M, do \$650,000 in repairs – Riding Club & Greenbriar Rd., Downtown Streets & Utilities, \$4.7 Million
 - The next roads to be worked was discussed: Hillside Dr., Willowbrook Lane, existing Old Downtown Roads, Northview area

- Greenbrair Rd. and old FM 551 was requested to be done during the summer as not to conflict with school traffic.
- Preventative maintenance was discussed as a way to keep the roads maintained.
- The Council asked if additional personnel and equipment was needed and how the new employee's duties increased abilities this past year.
- Downtown – Revitalization, trailhead, redevelopment
 - Help downtown businesses do business during the construction.
 - Questions regarding when Fate Main will open be reopened to a two way street. July was discussed as the timeline for a permanent opening timeline.
- Community Awareness & Communications with Citizens
 - Become more proactive with press
 - Themed message shaping and controlling the message on an ongoing basis. Build the good will up for when it is needed. Push the message of the council goals.
 - Legislative
 - Conversation ensued about the city lobbyist.
 - The work of TML
 - Impact of the Austin visit on house bills.
 - This may not be a short term goal for next year.

3C. Mid And Long-Range Budget And Service Recommendations From City Manager

City Manager Michael Kovacs gave a presentation and conversation ensued amongst the council regarding the following:

- Most important – Grow Strong, Smart, Do the Math
- Critical – Downtown place-making
 - A photo was shown with a senior apartments, D.C., Habitat America
- Avoid & Retire Debt – A debt free City (NTMWD - sells bonds)
- Trails – Coordinator/Grant Writer/Fundraiser to acquire easements, do trail alignments, local funds too, incremental
- Open Space – do with County if possible, conservation easements, local matches
- Clean community – entry-ways, visible areas, maintain & install beautification. – this will make us different.
- Stormwater Utility or other way to do more drainage
- Roads – Avoid debt & “cobbling” do aggressive preventative maintenance, paving, rebuilds, matches if needed for TxDOT
- Parks & Recreation/Rec. Center

- HOA centers are too small to keep up with the population.
 - YMCA hopeful
- Public Works Facility
 - Workforce retention/efficiency
 - Rethink downtown location
 - Give parks and public works field crews appropriate facilities.
- Public Safety Facilities
 - Move DPS from downtown?
- Emergency Preparedness
 - Joint operations with County
 - “Civil Defense”
 - High tech emergency warnings
 - Sirens were discussed as being worked on.
 - The council discussed the false alarms and having a whole plan, not just a partial plan as well as coordination amongst all the neighboring cities.
 - Adding rules for why the sirens would go off on our website.
 - Nixle was discussed as the current system being used.
 - Adding CivicReady
- Sanitation
 - With the current contract, we do not have the ability to not hold household hazardous waste, e-waste, etc.
- 5 Year Financial Plan from Budget
- City Services – Affordability Comparison

Canceling the April 29, 2019 budget meeting

Next scheduled budget workshop is planned for Monday, May 13, and is coupled with canvas meeting.

The next regular City Council Meeting is Monday, May 6, 2019.

4. ADJOURNMENT

There was no further business before the Council and Council Member David Billings moved to adjourn.

Council Member Tamara Fisher seconded the motion.

There was no discussion and the vote on the motion was as follows:

Ayes: Mayor Megyesi and Council Members Fisher, Megyesi, Buchanan, Billings, and Herrmann.

Nays: None

Mayor Megyesi declared the motion carried unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 8:01 p.m.

APPROVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL ON THIS THE _____ DAY OF _____, 2019.

APPROVED:

ATTEST:

Joe Burger, Mayor

Victoria Raduechel, TRMC
City Secretary