

**CITY OF PARKER  
City Hall  
1001 West Park Street  
Phone 850-871-4104**

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**SPECIAL MEETING WORKSHOP  
Of  
THE CITY OF PARKER CITY COUNCIL  
July, 17 2023  
9:00AM  
Located at  
Parker City Hall**

**MINUTES**

**CALL TO ORDER AT 9:00AM by Mayor Kelly**

**ROLL CALL - CLERK**

**Ms. Barrow – present  
Mr. Chaple - present  
Ms. Galbreath - present  
Ms. Gibson - present  
Mayor Kelly – present**

**REGULAR AGENDA:**

**1. Fiscal year 2024 Budget Discussions**

**Mayor Kelly suggested that the city's 3% water tax increase be discussed in relation to the ad valorem tax. Additionally, it was stated that the county would be increasing the water tax by 3% and the sewer tax by 8%.**

**The council, bookkeeper and accountant discussed the costs related to water and sewer costs incurred from the county, insurance cost, wages, ad valorem and hiring a grant writer.**

**The council determined that water and sewer fee increases from the county shall not be passed on to the citizens of Parker.**

**Ms. Galbreath suggested holding a special meeting regarding health insurance.**

**The council discussed that an RFQ for health insurance be completed.**

**Ms. Galbreath made a motion to approve an RFQ for health insurance with Ms. Gibson providing a second.**

**Ms. Barrow – Aye  
Mr. Chaple – Aye  
Ms. Galbreath – Aye  
Ms. Gibson – Aye  
Mayor Kelly – Aye**

**The council asked Mr. Summerlin explain the request for merit wage increases.**

**The council agreed that a merit rate increase occur for the city mechanic (92cents) and the supervisor (87cents).**

**Ms. Galbreath requested that a city-wide pay rate analysis be conducted. The council agreed.**

**The council discussed creating a detailed benefits allocation page for each employee prior to the mid-year budget review.**

**The council agreed to a 5% wage increase except for those in the 6-month probationary period.**

**The council continued an ongoing discussion about hiring a grant writer.**

**Mr. Summerlin suggested that a potential surplus in the utility fund might be used to fund a grant writer as the majority of grant writing would apply to infrastructure projects.**

**Ms. Galbreath inquired about impact fees and Mr. Summerlin explained that this was restricted to the improvement of city systems.**

**Ms. Galbreath suggested that the ad valorem rate be a flat 3 and that we pull the balance from utilities in order to balance the budget.**

**Ms. Galbreath made a motion that the ad valorem rate be a flat 3, pull the balance from utilities to balance the budget and pass the budget as presented today. Ms. Gibson seconded the motion.**

**Ms. Barrow – Nay  
Mr. Chaple – Aye  
Ms. Galbreath – Aye  
Ms. Gibson – Aye  
Mayor Kelly - Aye**

## **AUDIENCE INPUT FOR AGENDA ITEM 1**

- **Pat Fousek 1344 Stratford Avenue**

**Suggested that the city pass along the Bay County's true cost of the water and sewer increases to the citizens.**

**Ms. Fousek commended the city council for their tempered judgement and stated that the city be patient as we still have money coming in from various sources. She also asked about the progress for hiring a grant writer and ways that we may find money for a grant writer.**

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Donna Perdue, Acting City Clerk