

STATE OF TEXAS §  
COUNTY OF RUNNELS §  
CITY OF BALLINGER §

**On the 24<sup>TH</sup> day of JULY 2024, the Ballinger City Council met in Budget workshop session at 4:00 p.m., in the Council Chamber of City Hall located at 700 Railroad Avenue with the following members present:**

Dawni Seymore	Mayor
Richard “Rick” Morrish	Mayor Pro-Tem
Ryan Lange	Councilmember Place #3
Steve Gray	Councilmember Place #4

**Staff Present:**

Marty Akins	Interim City Manager
Lindsey Byler	City Secretary
Sharon Hicks	City Attorney
Cord Bowman	Public Works Director
Ray Cornutt	Chief of Police

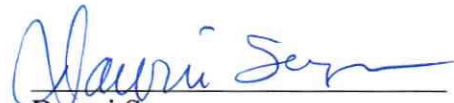
**Absent:**

Ken Manley	Councilmember Place #1
------------	------------------------

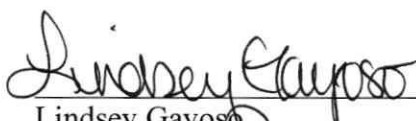
1. **Call meeting to Order:** Mayor Seymore called the meeting to order at 4:00pm.
2. **Prayer and Pledges:** Councilmember Lange gave the invocation and led the pledges.
3. **Executive Session:** Council Adjourned into Executive Session at 4:02 p.m. pursuant to Texas Government Code.
  - a. **Section 551.074 Personnel Matters.** The City Council may consider appointment, employment, compensation, reassignment, duties, discipline or dismissal of public officers or employees.
    - 1) Interview Candidates for City Manager
    - 2) Deliberate the appointment of a candidate to the City Manager position
4. **Reconvene and take Action if needed from Executive Session:** The City Council reconvened in open session at 5:27 p.m. Mayor Seymore stated that no action was taken.
5. **Budget Workshop—Review, Discuss, Consider and/or Action**  
FY year 2024-2025—Proposed Budget
  - a. Revenue Sources
  - b. Budget Summaries & Reviews
    - 1) All Funds Summaries
    - 2) General Funds –Revenue and Expenses
      - a. Emergifire Agreement, Ordinance/Resolution to collect insurance on Fire Department services- Chief Cornutt and Secretary Gayoso reported this is a 3<sup>rd</sup> party billing company. When there are accidents Emergifire will bill the insurance company then pay the City. Councilman Lange discussed the 18 percent rate is high. Cornutt also explained the different companies

that offer this. The City processing the paperwork is more work than worth. Currently the City is not receiving any funds. Cornutt discussed the City can start supplementing some of the Fire department expenditures. The Emergifire Contract will be for one year. Councilman Gray moved to go forward with the agreement and resolution. Councilman Lange seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

- 3) Enterprise Fund—Water & Sewer--Revenue and Expenses
  - 4) Other
    - a) Airport
    - b) Technology
    - c) Court Security
    - d) Interest & Sinking Fund – Mayor Seymore explained this will be discussed with the City Financial Advisor Martella at the next meeting.
  - 5) Debt Summary
  - 6) Fee Schedule
- c. Council Comments and Recommendations – Interim Akins discussed the tax rate is less than the voter approval rate. August 5<sup>th</sup> was a recommendation for formal presentation to Council. Tax rate and Budget approval proposal was for August 19, 2024. Mayor Seymore proposed to put the tax rate vote on the next agenda. Chief Cornutt spoke about the line item on inspections and testing for the Fire Department. Cornutt requested the \$6500 budget be increased to \$9000. Mayor Seymore took note, requested Akins to adjust this line. Seymore also discussed the current year only \$3000 has been spent and is questioning if the budget needs to be increased or not. Chief Cornutt stated that it did due to increased testing. Mayor Seymore asked about the filled positions in the police department. They are to be funded. Councilman Lange brought up the discussion on health insurance and contributions on the City’s behalf. Interim Akins has recommended not to react but to decide what the health benefit package should look like. Lange discussed the non raises in the past, the insurance is a benefit and helps make up for that. Councilman Gray asked about what families it would hurt not to cover the HSA. Secretary Gayoso discussed the differences between HSA and non-HSA. Gayoso included she will continue getting quotes every year for health insurance. Lange discussed having the employees get their own insurance and the benefits and lower cost out of pocket.
6. **Adjourn:** Councilmember Lange made a motion to adjourn. Councilmember Gray seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 6:35 p.m.

  
Dawni Seymore  
Mayor

ATTEST:

  
Lindsey Gayoso  
City Manager/City Secretary