

CITY OF AMES
304 MARTIN DR. – AMES, TEXAS
CITY COUNCIL WORKSHOP MEETING MINUTES
August 26, 2025
6:00 PM

The City Council for the City of Ames, Texas held a budget workshop at the Ames City Hall at 6:37 p.m. Mayor Domain called the meeting to order at this time. Mayor Domain conducted the roll call the members of the City Council who were present were: Councilman Michael Trahan, Councilman Eddie White, and Councilwoman Tiffany Burgos. Councilwoman Elizabeth "Liz" and Councilman Alfred Freeman Jr. was absent. The prayer was led by Councilman Eddie White, and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

REGULAR AGENDA ITEMS:

1. DISCUSS PROPOSED BUDGET AND TAX RATE

Key Topics

Tax Rate Explanation

- The no-new-revenue tax rate has increased, and the lowest possible rate the city can propose is 0.5721.
- The proposed tax rate is a 7-cent increase from the previous year's rate of 0.50.
- The tax levy is estimated to increase from \$312,000 last year to \$357,000 this year.
- The council decided to go with the proposed 0.5721 tax rate.

Delinquent Tax Collection

- There is a significant amount of delinquent taxes, around \$269,000, dating back to the 1990s.
- The city plans to reach out to the county attorney, Brandon Davis, to explore options for collecting the delinquent taxes.
- Collecting the delinquent taxes could potentially provide additional revenue for the city.

Revenue Sources

- The discussion explored the possibility of the city collecting taxes from the local school district and businesses operating within the city limits.
- The city is interested in finding ways to increase revenue sources beyond just property and sales taxes, such as franchise fees and other business-related taxes.

Budget Adjustments

- The council reviewed various expenses and made adjustments to the budget, including:
 - Increasing the insurance budget from \$7,000 to \$25,000 to account for the actual costs.
 - Adjusting the city council training and meeting stipend budget.

- Considering a bonus for city employees and council members.
- Reviewing and adjusting the utility, court, and other expense categories.

Proposed Budget

- The council worked to balance the budget, which is currently showing a deficit of around \$58,000.
- The council discussed the possibility of a bond for street repairs, but there are concerns about the feasibility and timing of such a bond.
- The council decided to leave the bond in the budget for now but acknowledged the need to further explore the options and potential impact on the overall budget.

Conclusion

The budget workshop covered a wide range of topics, including tax rates, delinquent tax collection, revenue sources, and various budget adjustments. The council worked to develop a balanced budget for the upcoming fiscal year, while also exploring opportunities to increase revenue and address the city's infrastructure needs.

2. ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Domain asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 PM.

Motion made by: Councilman Michael Trahan

Seconded by: Councilwoman Tiffany Burgos

All in favor: 3 Opposed: 0 Abstained: 0



Barbara Domain
Mayor



Wellona Godfrey
City Secretary