

**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
CITY OF DOTHAN, ALABAMA
WORK SESSION
AUGUST 19, 2021**

The Board of Commissioners of the City of Dothan, Alabama, held a work session in the Commission Chambers of the Roy Driggers Municipal Building at 8:30 a.m., on Thursday, August 19, 2021 with the following members present: Mayor Mark Saliba, Associate Commissioners Kevin Dorsey, Albert Kirkland, John Ferguson, and David Crutchfield. Associate Commissioners Janasky Fleming and Beth Kenward were absent. Also present were City Manager Kevin Cowper, Assistant City Manager Randy Morris, Associate Commissioners-elect Bradley Bedwell and Gantt Pierce, Finance Director Lisa Reeder, Assistant Finance Director Ramona Marcus, Personnel Director Delvick McKay, Leisure Services Director Alison Hall, Fire Chief Larry Williams, Acting Police Chief Will Glover, Planning Director Todd McDonald, Dothan Utilities Director Billy Mayes, Assistant Director of Electric Operations Chris Phillips, General Services Director Andrew Love, Performing Arts Director Marshall Perry, Information Technology Director Jack Mason, Assistant Public Works Director Bart Barefoot, Internal Analyst Thad Taylor, City Clerk Wendy Shiver, Administrative Secretary Brooke Johnson, who recorded the Minutes of the Meeting, and local news media representatives.

Mayor Saliba opened the work session, welcomed everyone in attendance, and thanked Mrs. Reeder, all department heads, and Mr. Cowper for the hard work it takes to get to this point with the budget.

Mr. Cowper expressed his appreciation to all in attendance for getting together today, and he stated an extensive presentation will be given.

Mrs. Reeder provided a PowerPoint presentation outlining the Fiscal Years 2022 and 2023 Biennium Budget to include budget goals, estimated fund balances, significant changes from Fiscal Year 2021 budget, expenditures, and revenues.

Mayor Saliba said he would be interested in seeing the percentage of transfer from the utility fund to the general fund for offset over the last five to ten years, and Mrs. Reeder acknowledged this request. She added that traditionally a transfer is budgeted to balance the budget, but as revenues come in for the general fund, it is not always necessary to transfer those funds. She said a transfer has recently been done to offset because the general fund will not build up a fund balance without support from the utility fund.

Commissioner Kirkland asked if a review was completed to determine if any expenses were recovered in the first year after the landfill re-opened. Mrs. Reeder stated they do report on this and made a recommendation on increases; however, the volume did not come in as anticipated and therefore, the revenue expected was not received. She noted that there has not been an increase in residential collection fees since the City began charging customers in 2013 and an increase on this side would help.

Mr. Cowper provided a PowerPoint presentation outlining the Capital Budget Focus for the Fiscal Years 2022 and 2023 to include meeting infrastructure, public safety, and quality of life needs, maintaining City facilities, downtown redevelopment, maintaining healthy neighborhoods and affordable housing, economic development, and maintaining the financial health of the City. He discussed the next steps in the budget process with the aim of adopting the biennial budget at the September 7th meeting.

Commissioner Kirkland inquired about the downtown farmer's market. Mr. Cowper stated that the market is an ongoing project and this year it occupied the property on Powell and Oates, which is planned to become the permanent home. He also stated he has remained in contact with the board who oversees the market, and they are discussing fundraising, grant opportunities, and participation with the City and other local governments. He said results from these efforts are expected to be seen over the next one to two years.

Mr. Cowper said the animal shelter is a very similar project to the farmer's market. He said those conversations and fundraising efforts are ongoing, and the City has purchased the property for the shelter.


Commissioner Dorsey inquired if we have enough nursing staff with the rise in covid cases. Mr. Cowper stated that we have two nurses employed to help make sure our personnel are prepared for work and staff can visit the nurse's office if they are sick. However, in cases of covid, staff are encouraged to go to urgent care or their primary care physician to get tested, treated, and vaccinated.

There being no further discussion, Mayor Saliba thanked everyone for their hard work and ended the session.



Wendy Shiver,
City Clerk

Approved:


Mark Saliba, Mayor

Keyin Dorsey, Associate Commissioner


Janasky Fleming, Associate Commissioner
Albert Kirkland, Associate Commissioner
John Ferguson, Associate Commissioner
Beth Kenward, Associate Commissioner
David Crutchfield, Associate Commissioner

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