

CITY INSIGHT

www.KilleenTexas.gov

July 2023

(254) 501-7600

A Message from Mayor Debbie Nash-King



The month of July kicks off two and half months of presentations and public hearings centered around our residents' tax dollars, so we want to make sure citizens are informed and involved with the budget process.

The first presentation with the proposed budget for the City of Killeen's upcoming fiscal year (Oct. 1, 2023 – September 30, 2024) is July 11 and the first public hearing is July 25. On Aug. 1 there is a meeting to set the proposed tax rate. The final adoption of the tax rate and budget is Sept. 12.

As a reminder, all council meetings are at 5p.m. on Tuesdays at City Hall (101 North College Street), and we need residents to come out and participate in the process. The proposed budget preview is on our website and the full proposed budget will also be on the site at www.KilleenTexas.gov/Budget. The council welcomes questions and challenges, as well as recommendations and praise on aspects that citizens appreciate. We try to be as transparent as possible with the process and bottom

line of your tax dollars and funding.

The proposed budget preview revealed in May to Council showed an increased budget for expenses to include employee salaries (to help retain current employees and stay competitive to secure new ones), Information Technology upgrades, and a mowing transition from Solid Waste.

There is a proposed residential sewer increase of \$1.50 a month, due to the Water Control and Improvement District's (WCID) increases of \$1.2 million.

On July 1, the second annual Independence Day Extravaganza was also scheduled. We thank everyone for supporting events like this and hope to continue to bring these family-friendly events to Historic Downtown and across the city.

Lastly, I want to send heartfelt congratulations to our new police chief, Pedro Lopez. As our city's first Hispanic police chief, we're privileged to have someone with such competency, professionalism and dedication lead this force and strengthen our community bond. Let's welcome him and continue to hold our leaders accountable.

New Police Chief sworn in

Pedro Lopez, Jr. was sworn in as the new chief of police for the city of Killeen on June 5, in a ceremony which was joined by law enforcement officers from across the state.

Lopez last served as the chief of police for the Houston Independent School District Police Department. He has a 35-year law enforcement career and an extensive history working with the Houston Police Department, including as Assistant Chief of Police. Lopez also had a 27-year military career in the U.S. Army and retired as a Chief Warrant Officer 3.

He said his vision for this police department is rooted in reducing crime, community partnership, transparency and accountability. Lopez looks forward to building bridges of trust between the police and the community, as well as building safer neighborhoods. He plans to prioritize training to ensure they can respond to communities effectively. "Accountability is crucial to the success of any police force," Lopez said.

The City worked with Public Sector Search and Consulting, Inc. to conduct the nationwide search in January 2023 and received 20 applicants.



City Council

City Council has seen a few changes recently. In May, voters elected members to represent the four districts. Incumbents Jessica Gonzalez (District 1), Nina Cobb (District 3), and Michael Boyd (District 4) were re-elected, and newcomer Joseph Solomon won the seat for District 2. The four were sworn in on May 16, and Cobb was elected mayor pro tem.

The Council has a busy agenda ahead of it the next few months as they replace former at-large councilmember Ken Wilkerson, who recently resigned, and then focus on adopting a budget for the 2023-24 fiscal year, which begins in October. All Council meetings and workshops are Tuesday nights and are open to the public.



City Council Budget Discussion Schedule

Key Dates	Date
Budget Delivery & Presentation	July 11
Special City Council Workshop (if requested by City Council)	July 18
Budget Public Hearing 1 of 1 (2, if necessary)	July 25
Set proposed tax rate by taking record vote	August 1
Election Call Deadline (GO Bond)	August 21
Budget Public Hearing 2 of 2 (2, if necessary)	September 5
Tax Rate Public Hearing Adoption of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Budget Ratify Tax Revenue Increase Set Tax Rate (including I&S and M&O rates) 	September 12

KILLEEN MUNICIPAL COURT UPDATE

The Killeen Municipal Court will be **CLOSED** to the public for staff training on the **3rd Friday** of each month.

For more information, call (254) 501-7850 or email municipalcourt@killeentexas.gov.



The City of Killeen invites you to

the Back to School Splash Bash

August 12

Family Aquatic Center
(1800 East Stan Schlueter Loop)
10 A.M. - 1 P.M.

Children from K - 8th grade are invited to join us at the Family Aquatic Center to enjoy the last days of summer with free admission

Free school supplies provided to the first 100 kids

Cooler fee and life jacket rental still apply

For more information, please visit:
www.killeentexas.gov/swim
or call (254) 501-6390


