

G'town City Council OKs first read of FY2023 budget

Second reading set for September 13 meeting

By BRIGID COOLEY

Georgetown's city budget for fiscal year 2023 was unanimously adopted on first reading Tuesday.

As approved, beginning on October 1, the upcoming fiscal year has a total expenditures budget of \$722 million, with revenues sitting at \$698.9 million. While revenues are less than total expenses, the deficit will be covered by existing city funds, Finance Director Leigh Wallace said during the meeting.

"We do have significant beginning fund balances that will be used to cover capital improvement projects or other one-time expenses," Ms. Wallace said. "Those [fund balances] may be previously issued bonds or water impact fees we have available to use."

"I also wanted to note that the total reserves estimated for fiscal year 2023 is \$163 million. That primarily consists of our 90-day operating contingency reserves across all of the large funds, reserves for capital and debt services and our electric rate stabilization reserve."

Total expenses are divided among the following uses:

Use	Expenses		Source	Revenues	
	Total Dollar Amount	Percent of Total Expenses		Total Dollar Amount	Percent of Total Revenues
Personnel	\$97,474,691	13.5	Taxes	\$113,758,879	16.3
Operations	\$236,220,225	32.7	Fines and Penalties	\$1,561,598	0.22
Operating Capital	\$16,353,165	2.3	Investment Income	\$966,343	0.14
CIP Expense	\$274,114,990	37.9	Charges for Services	\$269,442,792	38.5
Transfers	\$26,789,866	3.7	Other Miscellaneous Revenues	\$49,825,839	7.12
Dept Services	\$71,342,632	9.9	Donations and Grants	\$31,669,490	4.5
			Transfers In	\$16,094,862	2.3
			Transfers In - ROI	\$10,615,004	1.5
			Bond Proceeds	\$205,047,005	29.3

Expenses include a 5 percent increase in average pay for city employees, which will be implemented in January. Funds for 40.5 new city positions have also been budgeted.

Meanwhile, the city's civil service and public safety departments estimate police staff will have an average 9.3 percent increase in pay, while those in the fire department will likely see a raise of 13 percent.

Total city revenues for fiscal year 2023 will be brought in by the following sources of income:

Revenue sources include property and

sales taxes. During the August 23 meeting, city council also approved on first reading a property tax rate of \$0.37400 per \$100

valuation, which will be split into 13.2952 cents for Maintenance and Operations and 24.1810 cents for Interest and Sinking. The city also voted to increase the city's homestead exemption to \$5,000 or 5 percent of a home's value in June.

According to city documents, the average existing taxable homestead value increased in 2022 by 12 percent compared to the previous year, meaning a homeowner with a mean average homestead value of \$340,164 will pay roughly \$56 more in property taxes.

Before the budget was voted on, communication staff put a public comment box up on the city's website. Roughly 36 comments were received through this tool, with feedback themes including wanting to limit development within the city, increasing property taxes and water resources available within the city, Ms. Wallace said. Replies with information resources on each topic were sent to each commenter, she said.

A public hearing for the budget was held during the August 23 meeting. No members of the public spoke on the issue. The second and last public hearing and vote on the budget will take place during the September 13 meeting. The Fiscal Year 2023 budget will go into effect on October 1 of this year.

The Tikiz truck is coming

Eddie Murphy's memorable "Ice Cream Man" bit features a manic child yelling "Ma! Ma! Throw down the money! The Ice cream man is coming!" This is followed with sing/song taunting, "You don't have no iiiiceee creeammm. You didn't ggeeeett none." Karma plays out when the gloating Eddie Murphy character drops his ice cream onto the dirt.



TASTES OF THE TOWN
Linda Dwyer

Crowders are originally from Arkansas. David went to college in Austin, then worked in Houston, but had every intention of coming back to Central Texas.

"I thought I'd be back in two years but it took 34 years," he said.

The couple moved into Sun City last year. The business has been a fun side hustle as the couple eases into retirement.

They officially joined the shaved ice business in April. A three-day orientation in Florida, where the franchise is headquartered, taught the ins and outs of the Tikiz business. The colorful truck is kept at an RV storage between uses. Freezers keep ice cold and a special machine shaves cured ice individually for each serving.

When they were ready to hit the road the Crowders relied on the help of their son. In past summers, Jacob had worked on his cousin's Tikiz Truck in Houston. Now the 21-year-old UT student joins his parents on their truck when he isn't in school.

"We are a tight-knit family so this is a great experience," Julie

said.

"This opportunity to participate in a family owned, family run business is the American dream," David added.

The Crowders have enjoyed serving their product at large corporate events, fundraisers, neighborhood parties and most recently at "back to school" events.

"We customize packages," Julie said.

They also are licensed to drive the streets like the ice cream man in the Eddie Murphy skit.

"It's a great way to meet and become involved with the community," David said. "The people are incredible. They greet us like we're old friends! It feels like a small town."

Tikiz Shaved Ice & Ice Cream mobile serves 10 Hawaiian-style shaved ice flavors. A "Surv-board" allows customers to dispense their own custom shaved ice syrup creations. Additionally, eight varieties of Rich's Brand ice cream and a variety of coffees and other hot drinks are available.

My grandkids, Charlie and Greta, gave the truck's water misters, tropical music, chrome wheels and flashing lights four thumbs up.

"Kids love it," Julie said. "It's loads of fun and never gets old."

"Tiger Blood" is Julie's favorite flavor. The combination of water-



Julie and David Crowder serve out of the Tikiz truck.

melon, strawberry and coconut is very popular with customers too. There have been requests for dill pickle juice which is not available. A sour apple spray is offered for those who crave a tart taste. There

is something for everyone. Tikiz is bringing sweets to the streets! Call 844-512-5122 or go to www.tikiz.com.

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Have a laugh at Barrels & Amps Taproom to run dinner theater show

By KATE THUMOND

Barrels & Amps will showcase an interactive musical comedy show opening next month on September 10.

The show was written and directed by Round Rock resident Cassie Knoedl, who was tapped by a mutual friend of the Barrels & Amps owner Dina Meixsell to create a one-of-a-kind show for the venue.

"She was looking for something different," Ms. Knoedl said. "She wanted to have something like a variety show, so I started writing it at the end of 2021."

The show, *Champs' Choice*, features the characters of four students who are all running for class president of a strange school with an unhinged principal. The audience gets to experience a "choose your own adventure" performance in which they vote on everything from the costumes to what the characters gossip about and, eventually, who wins the election.

"I was looking for a topic that's relatable to anyone who came in," Ms. Knoedl said.

She said it was important that the show be family-friendly,

since it runs during the day on a Saturday.

The script was finalized in May and the show was cast and started rehearsals over the summer. The actors are all local talents who have moved to the area from all over the country. While the show is performed mainly on the stage, the actors do get out into the crowd for an immersive experience.

Ms. Knoedl said the intention is for the show to run in semesters, mimicking the school year. The last show this year or "semester" will be December 10. They plan to reopen in January with a changed storyline.

"It will be the same characters you're familiar with, just a different situation," she said. "It will be [almost like a sitcom], where you know these characters' quirks but you get to see them in a different story."

The show opens September 10 and will run every Saturday at 2 p.m. unless stated otherwise. Seating is cabaret style, so the audience can order food and drinks while watching the show. Barrels & Amps is located at 718 South Austin Avenue.

Free sculpting demonstrations coming to library lobby

BIBLIOFILES

Dana Hendrix

Sculptors with the Texas Society of Sculptors will offer a free demonstration

of varied sculpting techniques in a come-and-go demonstration in the Library Lobby on Saturday, September 10. The event takes place just a week before the end of the group's 14th annual summer sculpture show in the Library.

Dar Richardson will demonstrate modeling figurative sculpture in clay. Clay sculpture must be shaped and then fired in a kiln to harden it. Richardson's whimsical pieces are very popular, and he is one of the founders of the annual tradition of the summer sculpture show in the library.

He has three pieces in the TSOS show this year: "...With a Little Help from my Friends" is No. 13, "Rex, A Checkered Giant" is No. 15 and "Why Was I Not Made of Stone - Like Thee?" is No. 65. You can read more about him and see examples of his work at tsos.org/artist/richardsondar.

Marla Ripperda will demonstrate an embossing technique, working in epoxy clay. Epoxy clay is a self-hardening clay that is made of two parts mixed together, causing a chemical reaction that leads to the substance hardening.

Ripperda also has three pieces in the TSOS show. "One Pound at a Time" is No. 27, "Vermeer's Model" is No. 28, and "Pandora's Box" is No. 32. You can read more about her and see examples of her work at tsos.org/artist/ripperdamarla.

Israel Armendariz will demonstrate using wax in the creation of bronze sculpture. There are many techniques for casting bronze. Using wax is an approach that goes back to the third millennium B.C. and is still in use. Armendariz has been sculpting since 2019. You can read more about him and see examples of his work at tsos.org/artist/armendarizisrael.

Joanne Kendall will demonstrate her technique in mobile construction. A mobile is a work of art that is suspended in the air and has some degree of motion to it. Balance and weight of the elements both play a part in mobile construction.

Kendall's mobile "Take Flight" is No. 14 in the TSOS exhibit. You can read more about her and see examples of her work at tsos.org/artist/kendalljoanne.

These four artists will all work simultaneously in the lobby throughout the two-hour event

Art in the library

- August 16-September 25: Cindy Loos: Textiles = Art exhibit (Second Floor Bridge and Hall Galleries)
- Through September 25: Anca Thomas: Abstracts exhibit (First Floor Café Gallery)
- Through September 16: Texas Society of Sculptors 14th Annual Summer Show (First and Second Floors)
- September 10, 1-3 p.m.: Texas Society of Sculptors Sculpture Demonstrations (First Floor Lobby)
- September 30-October 29: Art Hop XV (First and Second Floors of the Library in addition to the Georgetown Art Center)

and attendees can move from table to table to watch them and ask questions.

See you at the library!

Dana Hendrix coordinates art exhibits and serves as the Technical Services Librarian at the Georgetown Public Library