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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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POTENTIAL PARTNER FOR CITY'S AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM WITHDRAWS OFFER

As city leaders continue to work to prepare a balanced FY 2019 budget, the potential partner for their after school program has withdrawn its offer, despite unanimous approval by the City Council at their regular meeting last night.

In discussions with city leaders, owners of In the Zone withdrew their proposal citing concerns about public acceptance of the change. "We completely respect their decision and wish them nothing but continued success," said Assistant City Manager Frank Corder. "They came to the table in our time of need and we're sorry it didn't work out for our families. Qualified, respected after school program providers who are willing to come here and replicate a successful program aren't easy to find."

"We heard the feedback from the community, following two consecutive nights of Council discussion on this topic. We understand this is a service line that has the community's support. So, we are back to the drawing board, reworking budget numbers so we can remain in the after-school business, at least for this school year. We don't want to leave parents in a lurch, but the reality is that to make it (at least) a budget-neutral service line there is going to be some increase in the enrollment fee." said City Manager Ryan Frederic.

Any fee adjustments and program changes will be communicated to the parents of enrolled students by mid-September, with any adjustments taking place as of October 1st.

(MORE)

Last night city leaders also received approval from the Council to move forward with the public advertising of the proposed millage increase, effective Oct. 1, 2018. The current rate of 42.05 mils may change to 56.50 mills. Council agreed to revisit these rates with each budget cycle, moving forward, as debt is cleared and the city's financial condition improves.

A public hearing is scheduled for Sept. 6 at 6 pm in Council chambers, and final approval of the FY 2019 budget must occur by Sept. 15, 2018.



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