Subject **Tuesdays meeting**

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I thought I would save some time on tuesday and share my feelings on a few things ahead of our meeting. The naming of the parks in my opinion should not be for any one person unless they donate the land or a large portion of the cost to build said park, like the Shuler family did for Shuler Park. I believe the name should reflect who we as a community are. If you follow what has been done in many other cities they typically have a memorial park of some kind that if residents want to memorialize a loved one who has passed on they can do so by paying for a bench, pavilion or a tree. I am not in favor of naming a park after an employee or elected official, Employees are compensated for their time and receive bonus's and other benefits. We also have volunteers who have literally donated thousands of hours to our community who will never get a park named after them, and they don't volunteer to have a park or memorial named after them. My 2 cents on this is that one should be "Elk Ridge Memorial Park" and one should be Volunteer Park, that way we aren't singling out anyone nor are we taking from those who have worked so hard to make our community great. At the very least we should get real input from our residents. These parks haven't had a name for nearly 10 years waiting for input from our residents won't hurt. We could have a park naming contest or something like that.

There are a couple of points on the budget discussion that I need answered before I can vote for any increase in taxes and water rates because I believe they are intertwined.
1. Last year property taxes were increased, how and where was that money spent/allocated?

2. Due to employee turnover, payroll has changed, I want to know the following. How much the former positions paid, and how much is being paid to the new employees. If there has been no increase from the old to the new employees, what is proposed?(I.E. % COLA, Merit?) We have gone over every part of the budget with a fine tooth comb, but have avoided discussing this to the same depth. I believe this needs to be reviewed as part of this process as nothing is off the table. I am not indicating that I think our employees are overpaid, I am just trying to have a more thorough accounting for where the money is going and why.

3. Lastly how many years remain on the property bond? When this bond is paid off we will have a substantial increase in income, if you raise taxes now so you can put money in savings for a rainy day, will you lower taxes when the bond is paid off?

4. Lastly-Annexation
I am not in favor of annexing ground into our city unless the property owner is the petitioner as I don't think forcing our code on someone without them being a willing participant goes against my personal belief system.

Thank you
Nelson