

City Council met for a Special Called City Council meeting/2nd Public Hearing on Tax Rate & Budget Workshop on Sept 3, 2019, in the Council Chambers at City Hall, 907 E. Houston, with Mayor Pro-Tem McWaters presiding.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Councilmember Marilyn Clay, Councilmember Danny Lee, Mayor Pro-Tem Carolyn McWaters, Councilmember Fred Terrell, Councilmember Jennifer Bergman, City Manager Kelly McDonald and City Secretary Angela Smith

ABSENT: Mayor Otis Cohn, City Attorney David Olson

VISITORS PRESENT: Victoria Goode, Greg East, Bruce with DeMontrond Ford

EMPLOYEES: Mary Cohn, Rod Hainey, Sean Anderson, Ashleigh Broussard, Bobby Pennington and Jeremy Chesnutt

Mayor Pro-Tem McWaters called the meeting to order at 6:01 pm and stated there was a quorum and that Mayor Cohn was not present. The invocation was given by Chief Broussard and the pledge to the Texas flag was presented by Ashleigh Broussard and the US flag was presented by Sean Anderson.

Tax Rate Public Hearing

1. **Second Public Hearing on Proposed Tax Rate for FY 2019-20**

Public hearing opened at 6:04 pm. Assistant City Manager/Finance Director Pennington addressed council. There is no change to the proposed rate of .77 cents. I&S rate is still .21190 and M&O rate is .55810. No comments or questions. Public hearing closed at 6:06 pm.

Consent Agenda Items

2. **Consider approval of TxDOT Grant for Routine Airport Maintenance Program (RAMP) and designation of the City Manager as the Sponsor's authorized representative**
3. **Consider request to reschedule the October 2019 monthly council meeting due to timing of the Texas Municipal League Conference being held on October 9-11, 2019**

Councilmember Bergman made a motion to approve consent agenda items as listed with a second from Councilmember Lee. All members present voted AYE. Motion carried.

Discussion and Action

4. **Consider tax trust bid from Prentice Goods for TX12101530 for address listed as 1112 N Blair, Robinson Springer-Clev, Block 20, Lot 10, Acres .1435 in the amount of \$15,000 (bid received 8/30/2019)**

Greg East with Perdue Brandon addressed council. The property needs a lot of work and the bidder has to pay post judgement taxes as well (about \$1,700).

Councilmember Clay made a motion to approve the bid as presented with a second from Councilmember Lee.

Prior to voting, Councilmember Terrell asked why is the Liberty County appraisal so high. A response was that there is a house on the property but it is covered up and can barely be seen. Development Services Director Chesnutt said that the house is under a code enforcement violation due to overgrown issues.

Voting occurred with all members present voting "AYE". Motion carried.

Budget Workshop

5. Budget Workshop No. 4 for FY20

Assistant City Manager/Finance Director Pennington handled the workshop. He brought forth a new plan on employee increases. Instead of doing the proposed merit and COLA increases in the proposed budget, changing to a flat \$2.25 an hour increase to all employees (full & part-time). This gets nine employees out of the range of under \$15/hr. It will be a 25% increase to lowest pay position and 4% increase to highest paid position. To do this plan, the proposed budget will need an additional \$135,587 more than proposed budget. He tried to get close to \$50k for the officers. He also made the new positions such as Deputy City Secretary, P/T Clerk, etc increased as well for the hourly rate. He removed the Building Inspector position and added a permit clerk based upon comments from the last meeting. He also added \$10k extra for Christmas tree and lowered the Fire station engineering cost by removing \$100,000.

Water/Sewer Fund - \$43,988 more on COLA increases, Customer Service redesign lowered cost by \$25k, reduced OT by \$5k. A question was asked on cost for new water meters. The budget is for 56 meters = \$7,000. The new developers pay for new meters and tap fees.

Hotel/Motel – parking lot expansion was removed and added to Stancil Park improvements for \$100k, City Hall E-Sign for \$45k as replacement. An assessment was done last year on the buildings and the pig barn is critical need, poles are not secure, etc. City Manager McDonald is working on wayfaring signs to help guide people as TxDOT is not approving any additional signs on their roads now.

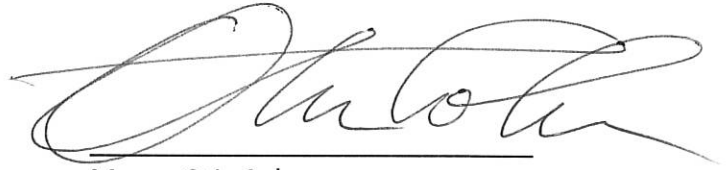
EDC Fund – Board approved Jet A fuel farm for \$150k. There is \$690,368 cash for EDC to use.

City Manager McDonald asked if council was okay with the proposed items tonight so Bobby can finalize the budget for adoption after the budget public hearing on September 17, 2019. Several responded they are fine. Question was asked why no building inspector needed now. The response was that we need a permit clerk more and after the last meeting it was determined that need was more critical. We also have money in the budget for contractor labor for inspections.

Adjourn

Councilmember Bergman made a motion to adjourn with a second from Councilmember Lee.
Meeting adjourned at 7:06 pm.

PASSED AND APPROVED this 22nd day of October 2019.



Mayor Otis Cohn

ATTEST:



Angela Smith, City Secretary TRMC