

STATE OF TEXAS  
COUNTY OF BRAZORIA  
CITY OF WEST COLUMBIA

CITY COUNCIL MINUTES  
OF A SPECIAL MEETING  
MONDAY, JULY 25, 2016

The City Council of the City of West Columbia, Texas, convenes this the 25th day of July, 2016, at 7:00 p.m. in a special meeting in the Council Chambers, 512 E. Brazos, West Columbia, Texas.

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Mayor Kincannon. Present were Kincannon, Maynor, Walker and Biedenfeld, City Manager Sutherland and City Secretary Kuban. Absent were Thomas and Tindol.
2. **DISCUSS AND CONSIDER PURCHASE OF STREET REPAIR EQUIPMENT:** Public Works Supervisor, Matthew Fisher made a proposal to purchase a used pot hole patching machine from the county. Walker suggested waiting until a more well attended regular meeting to make a final decision. Biedenfeld discussed it being negotiable due to the city manager's authorized spending limit. No action taken.
3. **PUBLIC HEARING - 2016/17 PROPOSED BUDGET:** Mayor Kincannon closed the open session and entered into a public hearing at 7:25 pm. With no public comments made she closed the public hearing and entered back into an open meeting at 7:26 pm.
4. **BUDGET WORKSHOP:** City Manager Sutherland reported that the proposed budget was still out of balance by \$90,800 in the General Fund and \$1,420 in the Utility Fund. She stated that the USRD loan for Water Well No. 4 would require a pre-payment of \$48,570 with Walker suggesting it be made from the Capital Improvement Fund. Increasing base utility rates to a combined \$35 for water and sewer was discussed to offset cost of the new well. Public Works Supervisor Fisher suggested a flat fee of \$5 with designated assignments for usage, but council felt the increased base rate would be more accountable and recommended an ordinance be drafted for adoption for the utility rates and for the expenditure of the capital improvement funds. Also discussed was the need to increase Varner Creek Utility District billing fees which had not been increased over the past six years. It was suggested to calculate a charge equal to \$50 per additional household per annum and send a notice to VCUD. Chief Odin reported that the code enforcement vehicle will be designated to animal control and be repaired. It was agreed that the American Legion building, grounds, and pavilion be given back along with RV annex rental revenues. Biedenfeld volunteered to work with Sutherland to provide notice and discuss a six month deadline for lease termination. Fire Department Treasurer, Mike Azbell reported that they had eleven vehicles that all served a specific purpose. He would assist on providing requested information regarding proposal on new fire truck including costs for rehabilitation and recertification. Walker addressed the fact that citizens paid more taxes because they pay both ESD and city taxes in response to the ESD being more apt to fund areas outside of city limits. It was discussed that ESD boards are appointed by commissioners and several fire chiefs currently serve on the board. Kincannon inquired as to whether there were any other funding options such as grants and Azbell stated there were for brush trucks. Fisher volunteered to take truck to Houston to get estimate of recertification. Azbell reported that they have also requested an increase in retirement contributions from \$36 to \$38 per member per month. Walker recommended increasing the retirement contributions to \$40 per member per month if ad valorem taxes are good. Other topics discussed were the need to schedule a Capital Improvement Committee meeting; Chief Odin would help with finding a grant for a drainage study; and

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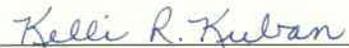
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Biedenfeld requested to schedule a meeting to discuss lessons learned from the flood event.

- 5. ADJOURN: Mayor Kincannon adjourned the meeting at 8:19 PM.

  
LAURIE B. KINCANNON, Mayor

ATTEST:

  
KELLI R. KUBAN, City Secretary