

STATE OF TEXAS
COUNTY OF BRAZORIA
CITY OF WEST COLUMBIA

CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
OF A SPECIAL MEETING
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 28th, 2017

The City Council of the City of West Columbia, Texas, convenes this the 28th day of September, 2017, 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 7:09 p.m. Present were Kincannon, Thomas, Tindol, Walker and Biedenfeld. Maynor was absent.
2. CONSIDER ADOPTING 2017/18 ANNUAL BUDGET: Sutherland reported that the budget presented was prepared on a proposed .82 tax rate and will include 3% Cost of Living raises. Appraisals due to the flood event would be uncertain. * Tindol questioned the WWTP shutting down during the recent Hurricane related flood event and asked if the measures taken would guarantee it from ever happening again. Public Works Supervisor Fisher and WWTP Supervisor Elliott responded that 400-500 plants shut down state-wide due to the event, of which some were still down. They also reported that Jenns, Sinclair, Tielke, Weems, Dance and Jefferson lift stations had all been under water. The measures taken and upgrades to be made recommended by TCEQ would alleviate some of the issues for future events, but any guarantees could not be made. * Walker stated that by proposing the .82 tax rate, the ESD history could now state that the city lowered theirs by a penny to allow the ESD to raise theirs by the same. The city will lose less than \$16,000 in tax revenue where the ESD could increase theirs by approximately \$60,000 with the same penny distributed across the full district tax base. This would more than make up the \$30,000 cut to CEMS in the city's budget. Tindol stated that he would not support this budget. * No new police vehicles are included in the budget, nor repairs or re-certification to the Fire Department's pumper truck. * The General Fund would see street resurfacing funding being rolled back in from fund balance as projects were not completed; deletion of the revenues and expenses from the American Legion; WOTB Aquatics agreement costs for pool management are included; and Code Enforcement/Building Inspections would see a full-time officer. * The Utility Fund should see an increase in water sales due to the number of accounts, not increase in rates; FEMA reimbursements will go into fund balance and not become a part of the operating budget; Ground storage tanks would need to become a topic for the Capital Improvement committee as no funding was included; A lesser amount of smart meters than originally budgeted is included; No vehicles included, but a high-water vehicle to be used dually by Public Works and Police Department will be pursued through federal or state avenues; WWTP will include replacement of sludge pump, 2 aerators and a scum rake. * The Sewer Treatment Plant Replacement Fund of .03/\$1000 will be negotiated in the VCUD Contract. * HOT revenues and EDC half-cent tax revenues will share funding for full-time Tourism Director/EDC Administrator. Walker suggested studying EDC funding and expense uses for next fund cycle. Sutherland reported the proposed budget is \$4.6 million. Motion was made by Biedenfeld, seconded by Thomas to adopt the 2017/18 Annual Budget. Thomas, Walker, and Biedenfeld voted Aye. Tindol voted Nay. Kincannon was present and not voting. Motion carried by the adoption of Ordinance No. 653 captioned as

AN ORDINANCE MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE
SUPPORT OF THE CITY OF WEST COLUMBIA FOR THE
FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING OCTOBER 1, 2017 AND ENDING
SEPTEMBER 30, 2018; AND ADOPTING THE ANNUAL

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BUDGET OF THE CITY OF WEST COLUMBIA FOR THE
2017/18 FISCAL YEAR.

3. CONSIDER ORDINANCE LEVYING TAXES FOR 2017 AND APPORTIONING EACH LEVY FOR THE SPECIFIC PURPOSE. Walker made a motion that the property tax rate be increased by the adoption of a tax rate of 0.820000, which is effectively a 1.706% increase in the tax rate. Thomas seconded the motion. Thomas, Tindol, Walker, and Biedenfeld voted Aye. Kincannon was present and not voting. Motion carried by the adoption of Ordinance No. 654 captioned as

AN ORDINANCE LEVYING TAXES FOR THE USES AND
SUPPORT OF THE MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT OF THE CITY
OF WEST COLUMBIA; AND APPORTIONING LEVY FOR A
SPECIFIC PURPOSE.

Tax Assessor-Collector Ro'Vin Garrett corrected the percentage of the increase from 1.706% to 1.74%.

4. ADJOURN: Meeting was adjourned at 7:48 p.m.


LAURIE B. KINCANNON, Mayor

ATTEST:


KELLI R. KUBAN, City Secretary