

STATE OF TEXAS
 COUNTY OF BRAZORIA
 CITY OF WEST COLUMBIA

CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
 OF A SPECIAL MEETING
 TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 3RD, 2019

The City Council of the City of West Columbia, Texas, convenes this the 3rd day of September, 2019, 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 7:02 p.m. Present were Kincannon, Thomas, Tindol, Maynor, Walker and Biedenfeld. None were absent.
2. **CONSIDER CHS SWIM TEAM REQUEST TO USE FIRST CAPITOL POOL:** It was discussed that the CHS Swim Team have requested to rent the pool for the months of September and October for practice sessions until weather no longer permits. Motion was made by Tindol and seconded by Biedenfeld to approve the request. All voted Aye.
3. **CONSIDER VCUD REQUEST TO EXTEND METER READING SERVICE:** Sutherland reported that the City has provided meter reading services for Varner Creek Utility District for the months of June through August and they were now requesting to extend that service until smart meter installation is completed possibly through October. Walker made a motion to extend the service for one month. Tindol seconded the motion. It was recommended that VCUD should have something in place by then to complete their meter transition and to not entertain another extension, or if so, at an increased rate. All voted Aye.
4. **PUBLIC HEARING – PROPOSED TAX RATE OF \$0.8200/\$100, A 3.93% TAX INCREASE ABOVE THE EFFECTIVE TAX RATE:** Kincannon closed the open meeting and entered into a public hearing at 7:11 p.m. There were no public comments. Kincannon closed the public hearing and reconvened in open meeting at 7:12 p.m.
5. **BUDGET WORKSHOP:** The overall tax rate increase percentage of the past ten years that was reported at first public hearing was disputed and it was determined to have been inaccurately calculated. After discussion, Sutherland stated it was closer to 27% than 41% and that there were too many variables to be exact. * Ad Valorem and Enterprise funds transferred to the Capital Improvement fund for Utility projects was discussed. The suggestion to take out a loan to pay off Well No. 4 expenses to unfreeze funds were stated to not be worth considering. * Sutherland reported that neither engineering costs for water line to WWTP nor the utility lines to the annexed end of Hwy 35 were included in the proposed budget. * Police Department will make cuts to equipment improvements, online training, forensic phone program, and elsewhere. All current vehicles are paid off and some will be ending warranties resulting in more maintenance/repair expenses being anticipated. Chief Odin stated he was losing officers to other agencies because of the pay scale and he has officers that do not count toward filling a position until they complete their field training. The pay increases he has proposed in his budget will advance his department from dead last to about third from last in Brazoria County pay scale ranking. * Public Works has one vacant position to fill. Equipment is currently in good shape, but rental would be necessary for ditch digging projects already approved by Capital Improvement Committee. The walking trail needs to be completely rehabbed, but is not included in the proposed budget. It was discussed that the 2009 backhoe should be moved into a secondary position and purchase of a new one start to be considered. The jet truck needs to be replaced and the anticipated amount for one year of loan payments is included in the proposed budget. Public Works pay scale for entry level is among the lowest at \$11-\$12 per hour. A new truck in 522 was cut. * Clarifier #2 and scum rake at WWTP estimated at \$150,000 and new lab building estimated at \$250,000 have also been cut. These projects will have to be addressed soon. * Sales tax reimbursement will be completed in October but may not have much impact on sales tax revenues. * It was discussed that the Capital Improvement fund balance has been depleted by Well No. 4 expenses and its reimbursement to Utility Fund that has funded most of the cost in lieu of seeking a loan. Sutherland will provide final

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Well No. 4 numbers and list of Capital Improvement projects along with an updated financial report and the committee is to meet on Friday. * Tax rate will be adopted at the September council meeting.

6. ADJOURN: Meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.


LAURIE B. KINCANNON, Mayor

ATTEST:


KELLI R. KUBAN, City Secretary