

8. OLD BUSINESS.

A. CONSIDER ISSUING ORDER OF ABATEMENT FOR SUBSTANDARD BUILDING AT 609 E. BRAZOS: Donna Westbrook was present to address council regarding her property at 609 E. Brazos. Code Enforcement Officer Azbell reported that the yard was now being maintained but the structures were not and recommended they either be brought up to code or demolished. Westbrook stated that she had a buyer that would perform the demolition except for an IRS lien on the property being an issue to move forward with the sale. She stated that she would rent a dumpster and do the work with the help of family if given to the end of the year. City Attorney Olson advised that she legally had a maximum of 90 days. Tindol made a motion to allow her 90 days. After being advised by Olson to include immediately securing entries and all other stipulations of the order, Tindol amended his motion that was then seconded by Thomas. All voted Aye.

9. NEW BUSINESS:

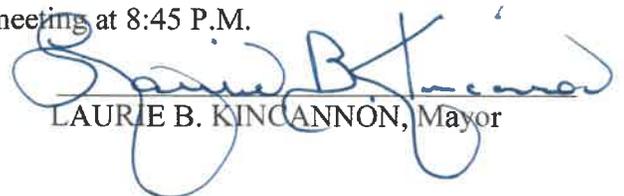
- A. CONSIDER TEXAS MUNICIPAL LEAGUE INTERGOVERNMENTAL RISK POOL BOARD OF TRUSTEES NOMINATIONS: Biedenfeld made a motion to nominate Alderman Maynor for TMLIRP Board of Trustees Place 3 and the incumbents for Places 1,2 and 4. Motion was seconded by Tindol and all voted Aye.
- B. CONSIDER AUTHORIZING COUNTY TAX ASSESSOR-COLLECTOR TO CALCULATE AND PUBLISH PROPOSED TAX RATES: Motion was made by Walker, seconded by Biedenfeld to authorize the County Tax Assessor-Collector to calculate and publish proposed tax rates. All voted Aye.
- C. CONSIDER SUBMISSION OF 2020/21 PROPOSED BUDGET FOR REVIEW: Sutherland reported that the proposed budget was not yet balanced and would be reviewed further by department heads prior to the public hearing and workshop scheduled for July 27. No action taken.
- D. DISCUSS, CONSIDER, AND SELECT AN ADMINISTRATION / PROJECT DELIVERY SERVICE PROVIDER TO COMPLETE APPLICATION AND PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION FOR THE CDBG-MITIGATION (MIT) FUNDING THROUGH THE GENERAL LAND OFFICE: Sutherland reported that proposals were received by GrantWorks and Jet Development. Motion was made by Biedenfeld to approve GrantWorks as the administration / project delivery service provider to assist staff with application and project implementation of CDBG mitigation funding through GLO. Motion was seconded by Tindol and all voted Aye.
- E. CONSIDER AUTHORIZING CONTRACT FOR DISASTER DEBRIS REMOVAL SERVICES THROUGH H-GAC: Motion was made by Biedenfeld to authorizing contract for disaster debris removal with CrowderGulf. Motion was seconded by Tindol and all voted Aye.
- F. CONSIDER AUTHORIZING CONTRACT FOR DISASTER DEBRIS MONITORING SERVICES THROUGH H-GAC: Motion was made by Biedenfeld to extend the current contract with Witt O'Brien for disaster debris monitoring for an additional year. Motion was seconded by Tindol and all voted Aye.
- G. PUBLIC DISCUSSION CONCERNING COMPLAINT FILED AGAINST A CITY ALDERMAN: Mr. Dan Lee addressed council regarding the alleged actions of Alderman Walker and stated that it was an act of racism. He questioned why no one reached out to him and is asking for a peaceful community. Lee stated he loved his community and the only race was the human race. He reported that he is disabled and was made a fool of by what Walker considered a joke. He stated that this was his fight

and there were decent people in town that would stand with him. Lee then stated he would die trying to get even with Walker and that there would not be peace and quiet until this was done. Biedenfeld reported that he would encourage attendance at all public meetings and appreciated all those that had spoken on this subject exercising their first amendment rights but wants an environment of mutual respect. He commented on the different level of respect in being addressed as "Bro" by Robert Williams. He stated that prejudiced due process is the same as lynching. Lee called Biedenfeld a "house boy" before leaving the gallery. Ariel Davenport spoke next in support of Walker's character and that he was instrumental in starting Columbia United and completed numerous mission trips with him. Alderman Thomas stated that he did not condone the alleged action but also would not condemn something that he did not witness. He reported that he had spoken to both Walker and Lee and if anyone were witness to the alleged incident that discussion would take place in the court system. Tindol stated that he agreed with Thomas. Kincannon stated that she did not condone the mistreatment of anyone. She also reported that she attended the press conference and was then criticized for not speaking. Biedenfeld stated that he did not need respect from someone spewing hate, that the comment made by Lee was racist, that demanding council do something was bullying and to respect due process. Mary and Daniel Sharpe reported how Walker taught them to help their community and that he prays over everyone with disregard to their color or creed. Daniel also stated that Walker has helped young minorities in Haiti and other locations learn trades. Lee's son, Chris stated that he did not dispute all the accolades of Walker, but that his father is passionate and that he believes him. He concluded by stating the incident has been brought to the attention of council and he wants to see something happen. Joshua Edwards credited council for showing the same respect to Walker as to Lee and agrees that due process should take its course and appropriate action be taken. Rev. Annie Ray stated that Walker had placed a blanket on this council and requested he "get this mark off our city" and remove himself from council by stepping down.

H. EXECUTIVE SESSION – THE WEST COLUMBIA CITY COUNCIL MAY CONVENE IN A CLOSED MEETING PURSUANT TO CHAPTER 551.072 OF THE TEXAS GOVERNMENT CODE TO CONSULT WITH ITS LEGAL COUNSEL: Moot item.

I. ACTION AS A RESULT OF AN EXECUTIVE SESSION: Moot item.

10. ADJOURN: Mayor Kincannon adjourned the meeting at 8:45 P.M.



LAURIE B. KINCANNON, Mayor

ATTEST:


KELLI R. KUBAN, City Secretary

STATE OF TEXAS
 COUNTY OF BRAZORIA
 CITY OF WEST COLUMBIA

CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
 OF A SPECIAL MEETING
 MONDAY, JULY 27, 2020

The City Council of the City of West Columbia, Texas, convenes this the 27th day of July, 2020, at 7:00 p.m. in a special meeting by telephone and video conference in accordance with order of the Governor issued March 16, 2020, in order to advance the public health goal of limiting face-face meetings to slow the spread of the Coronavirus/COVID-19.

1. CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Mayor Kincannon. Present were Kincannon, Thomas, Tindol, Maynor, Walker and Biedefeld, City Manager Sutherland and City Secretary Kuban. None were absent. Department heads Fisher, Espinoza and Chief Odin were also present in addition to Fire Chief Eulendorf.
2. PUBLIC HEARING - PROPOSED BUDGET FY 2020/21: Mayor Kincannon closed the open session and entered into a public hearing at 7:02 pm. Sutherland reported that the budget was still unbalanced but getting there. With no public comments made she closed the public hearing and entered back into an open meeting at 7:04 pm.
3. CONSIDER ENGINEERING SERVICES FOR BRAZORIA COUNTY CDBG PROJECT: Sutherland reported that this project was the extension of the outer sewer lines only in the S. Ringgold area that are not covered by the GLO mitigation grant. The proposal from Strand Engineering had not been received to date. Walker made a motion to authorize city secretary to move forward with project. After correction to address city manager in place of city secretary, Walker amended his motion to direct city staff to move forward with project and Biedefeld seconded the amended motion. All voted Aye.
4. CONSIDER ENGINEERING SERVICES FOR SH36 UTILITY LINE EXTENSION: Sutherland reported that the cost of extending utility lines to the new vet clinic was outside the budget. She also reported that a small lift station would be needed due to the gravity flow issue of the sewer line and that it could be a Capitol Improvement project. Walker made the same motion to authorize city staff to move forward with the project including the lift station. Biedefeld seconded the motion and all voted Aye.
5. BUDGET WORKSHOP: City Manager Sutherland reported that the proposed budget was based on a rate creating "no new revenue". Budget workshop discussions included the following:

GENERAL FUND – It was discussed that even in light of COVID19, sales tax was staying consistent. Court fines were down, however. * It was proposed to charge ESD I for dispatch services provided for CEMS. ESD II pays \$8,000 annually for fire call dispatching and CEMS produces more than three times as many calls. Chief Odin is to meet with the ESD I Board to propose a fee of \$24,000 for the ambulance dispatch services provided which is in line with that being charged ESD II. Police Department also was awarded a COPS grant to fund two officers in addition to a grant for dispatch consoles. * Adjustments are necessary to absorb 100% of credit card fees. * A Utility Fund transfer for administrative overhead will be made in lieu of continuing to split payroll expenses of city manager, city secretary and finance clerk. Cost of Living raises and performance raises are included. Police Department salaries were discussed as being among the lowest according to the H-GAC survey even after raises. Hiring pool difficulties were discussed. * Fire Department roof repairs were requested to be split with fund balance. Chief Eulendorf requested an increase to the training budget due to the membership being 30+. Building and Grounds was requested to remain the same as there were repairs needed to be made to the meeting room. * Parks department position has been moved to Streets. LED street lights were discussed but were determined to not be a savings due to cost of fixture replacement.

UTILITY FUND – Water rates will include 1% CPI increase. It was reported that attorneys were finalizing the Varner Creek contract. It was reported that the current calculation of the sewer treatment plant replacement fund at .03¢ per 1000 gals. over the past 30-40 years was not paying for the reserve capacity. Public Works supervisor Fisher stated that any

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maintenance or repairs to the VCUD trunk line would be at their cost. * Transfers to and from the Capital Improvement Fund were discussed. The committee will meet to discuss equipment replacement funding option if CAT backhoe is moved to secondary position. * UF departments 02-521, 02-522, and 02-524 will be combined into one all-inclusive Public Works department 02-520. * Council was invited to view the new Vac Truck and its recent usage was reported. * Wastewater Treatment Plant budget includes a new vehicle and two valves. * Utility Fund revenues have been a challenge due to COVID-19. The overall budget is still a work in progress, but department heads will continue to work on presenting a balanced budget to Council.

6. ADJOURN: Mayor Kincannon adjourned the meeting at 8:28 PM.



LAURIE B. KINCANNON, Mayor

ATTEST:


KELLI R. KUBAN, City Secretary