

STATE OF TEXAS  
 COUNTY OF BRAZORIA  
 CITY OF WEST COLUMBIA

CITY COUNCIL MINUTES  
 OF A SPECIAL MEETING  
 TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 3<sup>RD</sup>, 2013

The City Council of the City of West Columbia, Texas, convenes this the 3<sup>rd</sup> day of Septmeber, 2013, 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 p.m. by Mayor Kincannon. Present were Kincannon, Thomas, Tindol, Maynor, Walker, and Biedenfeld, City Manager Sutherland and City Secretary Kuban. Griggs were absent. Explanation for cancelation of 2<sup>nd</sup> Public hearing on Westview annexation was given as an issue over metes and bounds descriptions and that the city attorney will start the process again at a later date.
2. PUBLIC HEARING(S):
  - A. PROPOSAL TO INCREASE TOTAL TAX REVENUES FROM PROPERTIES ON THE TAX ROLL BY 1.30 PERCENT: Mayor opened the public hearing at 7:08 p.m. There being no public comment, the public hearing was closed and the open meeting reconvened at 7:09 p.m.
3. BUDGET WORKSHOP: Sutherland reported that the budget included increasing water and sewer base rates from \$12.75 to \$13.00 each for 1500 gallon minimum and asked for clarification on proposed graduating rate increase of 20% for 1501 to 14,999 gallons and addition 10% for 15,000 and over. Council discussed the removal of the cap on residential sewer accommodating for the additional increase proposed for "notorious users" and agreed that it cost the same amount to produce and supply water to those customers, so therefore majority opposed the tiered rate proposal. The American Legion contract was agreed to be discussed, but without further direction being given. CEMS contract was discussed at length with Tindol being opposed to council's recommendation to decrease funding by 10% annually over the next three years beginning with the 2014/15 fiscal year. Kincannon met with them upon council's direction and reported their request to postpone action for an additional year to allow time to either request raising ESD tax rate by .01 or raising city tax rate. It was discussed that the ESD tax base is much broader than the city's and increase would have much less impact on taxpayers. Thomas stated CEMS should submit their budget needs the same as all other departments are required to do. Biedenfeld stated that departments should be rewarded for fiscal responsibility. Walker stated their budget should be discretionary instead of non-discretionary and that city should cut contractual obligation. Possible breach of contract for requirement of ambulance within city limits was discussed as was contract defining expectations. Council's decision was to proceed with agreement for gradual budget decrease over three years with an option to approach council with special requests when needed. Also discussed was the creation of a part-time Tourism Director/EDC employee and it was agreed to continue to work on job description and transfer funds from fund balance when better prepared to start hiring process.
4. ADJOURN: Mayor Kincannon adjourned the meeting at 7:53 p.m.

  
 LAURIE B. KINCANNON, Mayor

ATTEST:

  
 KELLI R. KUBAN, City Secretary