



**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF WHITE SETTLEMENT, TEXAS**

6:00 PM – August 24, 2021

City Hall – Council Chambers

214 Meadow Park Drive, White Settlement, TX 76108

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor White called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. with a quorum of members present as follows: Mayor Pro Tem Evelyn Spurlock, Council Member Amber Munoz, and Council Member Christina Grudzinski (*arrived at 6:15 p.m.*), and Council Member Gregg Geesa. Council Member Paul Moore was absent for medical reasons.

Executive Staff present included City Manager Jeffrey J. James, City Secretary Amy Arnold, and City Attorney Drew Larkin. Other staff present included Executive Administrative Assistant Ann Elias, Community Services Director Rich Tharp, Finance Director Krystal Crump (Foght), Building Official Robert Nunley, Police Chief J. Bevering, Assistant Police Chief Tim Denison, Fire Chief Brandon Logan, City Marshal Randy Rogers, Public Works Director Larry Hoover, and Communications Manager Aaron Hall along with various members of the Police and Fire departments.

INVOCATION / PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor White offered the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION

Prior to acknowledging speakers, Mayor White read the citizen participation statement.

Eddie Delgado of 519 Comal Avenue addressed the City Council mentioning his support of the city and questioned budget items including tax rate (what has changed to cause a proposed decrease in the tax rate), pay rates (how much could extra revenue be put towards pay), proposed pay rate strategy, increase for PD as essential staff, appreciation of leadership who voluntarily take decrease in pay; as well as comments regarding the water park responsibilities and budget.

DELIBERATION AGENDA

1. Discuss and consider appointment to Board of Adjustment and Appeals Place 1, currently vacant, with a term to expire February 2023.

Council Member Munoz made a motion to appoint Garry Wilson to BAA Place 1 with a term to expire February 2023. Mayor Pro Tem Spurlock seconded the motion which carried unanimously,

2. Discuss and consider a request to waive a special event permit fee of \$500 per event for the below applications:
 - a) Outdoor movie event on August 28, 2021 8:00pm - 9:30pm
 - b) Outdoor concert on September 11, 2021 7:30pm - 9:30pm

City Secretary Amy Arnold provided information explaining the City Manager is unable to waive the fee without City Council approval.

Council Member Geesa brought up his concern of the legality of the item according to federal laws he reviewed concerning fee waivers to churches. City Secretary Amy Arnold mentioned staff is not comfortable assuming the legality status of a waiver without the City Attorney input.

Mayor Pro Tem Spurlock made a motion that approval of the waiver be provisional upon legal review and approval by the city attorney. Council member Geesa seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

**Council Member Grudzinski arrived during this item discussion.*

PUBLIC HEARING

3. Hold a Public Hearing for Fiscal Year 2021-2022 Tax Rate.

Finance Director Krystal Crump (Foght) made a third presentation of the FY 2021-2022 Tax Rate information mentioning the current rate of .746200 and proposed of rate of .741795 as the maximum allowed without a vote of the public. ** A copy of the presentation will be attached to the adopted minutes.*

Mayor White asked Finance Director Krystal Crump (Foght) why the proposed tax rate is decreased from the current rate. She explained the city adopts the maximum allowed under the cap without having to go to the voters for an election; she explained the process should an election be held and not pass the proposed rate.

Mayor White opened the Public Hearing at 6:28 p.m. Mr. Eddie Delgado of 519 Comal Avenue asked for clarification of the 3.5 percent cap. Finance Director Krystal Crump (Foght) explained the calculation worksheet process which results in the percent cap. Mr. Delgado confirmed the percent calculated and that the city has no control over the cap or property value increases. **Hearing no other speakers, Mayor White closed the Public Hearing at 6:33 p.m.**

4. Hold a Public Hearing for Fiscal Year 2021-2022 Operating Budgets.

Finance Director Krystal Crump (Foght) mentioned an opportunity was given to citizens over a two week time period to pose questions that staff would answer during the public hearing. She stated two citizens submitted questions which she read and answered after making the presentation. During the presentation she noted minimal changes to the proposed budget which included:

- a decrease to the general fund of \$157,000 due to removing an attraction from the water park budget;
- changed proposed police pay based on discussions resulting in removal of an IT consultant position that was going to be used to cover IT at the police department;
- delaying part time employee positions;
- an additional code officer as requested, and a decrease of admin transfer in water sewer fund based on admin transfer calculation;
- Staffing and how allocated in department budgets;
- Salary changes for all non-police employees includes a \$1600 across-the-board raise which equals approximately 2.9%, 1%, etc., for employees making more than \$24 an hour and approximately a 3% - 3.5% increase for those making less than \$24 hour;
- police pay increase to the two step (8%) raise with four who are currently at step four receiving the \$1600 as all other employees;
- Reinstating director and assistant director pay cuts;
- Employee benefit updates; and
- A review of operating funds.

Finance Director Krystal Crump (Foght) presented a waterpark overview since opening mentioning the following:

- Current revenues of 103.1% as best since park opening;
- Timeline of events;
- Bond rating, fund balance, bond payment information;
- Convention Center revenue not included in the water park revenue/admission numbers;
- Revenue by season;
- Increase in revenue and decrease in expenditures;

- Light the night and other events;
- Transfers for expenditures;
- Revenue projections; and
- Operational and aesthetic updates.

After police pay was mentioned, Mayor Pro Tem Spurlock commented on the item expressing her concern of lack of communication and her full support of the city's officers asking if the union is satisfied with what is being proposed. Mayor White asked all officers in attendance to voice whether they were in favor of the new proposed pay for police. City Secretary Amy Arnold informed Mayor and City Council that they could not poll the police staff in that manner during a meeting. Mayor White spoke to police staff present expressing his support to provide them with what they request. Council Member Geesa expressed his thoughts asking for patience while work is done to accommodate the requested salaries.

During the waterpark presentation, Council Member Gregg Geesa asked for clarification of convention center expenditures which Finance Director Krystal Crump (Foght) explained as a result of updates to the facility separate from the waterpark. Council Member Christina Grudzinski questioned numbers not provided in handout received during the meeting to which it was explained that numbers are not available for all items listed. Council Member Grudzinski questioned total losses since 2015-2016 and for the upcoming year mentioning her concern of information not being tracked and her opinion to reprioritize relating to city services.

City Manager Jeff James comments on park discussions explaining staff needs direction from City Council on the item whether it be a business plan to run or to decommission; regardless staff needs direction as to how to proceed. He further mentioned the item can be addressed during mid-year or earlier, if so desired, stating staff needs direction.

Mayor Pro Tem Spurlock stated her opinion that in order to provide direction to staff she feels a breakdown of options to close or remain open would need to be provided. Council Member Geesa mentioned a decommissioning plan and a future revenue plan would be needed before council could act on the item.

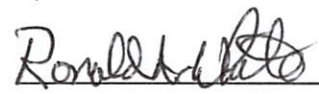
Mayor White opened the Public Hearing at 8:21 p.m. Lana Cook of 8900 Clifford Street addressed the City Council on behalf of the White Settlement Police officers Association thanking city staff for addressing concerns and requested to continue an open dialogue regarding recruiting incentives, lack of competitive salary, importance of retaining officers, benefits, positions and equipment concerns, and training costs versus retaining current staff. A resident at 315 Mirike spoke in support of the police department. (Name not listed as it was inaudible). Jeremy Blackwell of 404 N. Cherry Lane spoke in favor of police officer pay increase and opposition to defunding police. Patricia England of 852 McCully Street addressed the city council mentioning her disappointment asking members to get their act together noting they can be replaced. **Hearing no other speakers, Mayor White closed the Public Hearing at 8:33 p.m.**

ADJOURNMENT

With there being no further discussion, Mayor White adjourned the meeting at 8:34 p.m.

Approved this 7th day of September, 2021.




Ronald A. White, Mayor

ATTEST:


Amy Arnold, City Secretary

1. The first thing I noticed when I stepped out of the plane was the humidity. It was a warm blanket, wrapping around me in a way that felt both comforting and overwhelming. The air was thick with the scent of tropical flowers and the distant call of birds.

As I walked through the airport, I saw people from all over the world. Some were smiling and waving, while others looked tired and stressed. I felt a sense of curiosity and wonder, knowing that I was about to embark on a journey that would change my life.

The first night in the hotel was a mix of excitement and nervousness. I had heard that the food was amazing, and I was eager to try it. But I was also worried about the language barrier. I had only a few words of the local language, and I knew that I would need to rely on my instincts and the kindness of the people I met.

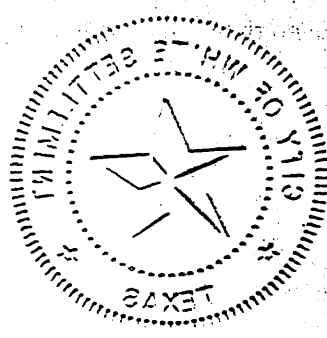
Over the next few days, I explored the city and its surroundings. I visited the ancient ruins, the bustling markets, and the beautiful beaches. I met people from all walks of life, and I learned so much about their culture and traditions. I was amazed by the resilience and spirit of the people, and I felt a deep connection to the land and its people.

One of the most memorable experiences was a visit to a small village in the mountains. The people there lived a simple life, but they were incredibly hospitable. They showed me their traditional crafts and dances, and I learned about their beliefs and customs. It was a humbling experience, and it made me realize how much I had to be grateful for.

As my trip came to an end, I felt a sense of longing and nostalgia. I had grown so much in the past few weeks, and I had made friends that I would cherish forever. I knew that I would never forget the experiences I had had, and I was grateful for the journey that had brought me to this place.

When I returned home, I felt a sense of peace and contentment. I had found what I was looking for, and I was ready to face whatever the future held. I was grateful for the journey, and I was excited to share the stories and experiences I had had with the people I loved.

Robert
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Robert
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