



**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF WHITE SETTLEMENT, TEXAS
6:30 P.M. – Tuesday, September 7, 2021
City Hall – Council Chambers
214 Meadow Park Drive, White Settlement, TX 76108**

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor White called the meeting to order at 6:50 p.m. with a quorum of members present as follows: Mayor Pro Tem Evelyn Spurlock, Council Member Amber Munoz, and Council Member Gregg Geesa. Council Member Paul Moore was absent for medical reasons and Council Member Christina Grudzinski was absent due to being out of town. Council Member Gregg Geesa apologized for being late.

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, Public Works Director Larry Hoover, Police Chief J. Bevering, Assistant Police Chief Tim Denison, Fire Chief Brandon Logan, City Marshal Randy Rogers and Communications Manager Aaron Hall.

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.

James Reed of 9112 Farmers Road addressed the City Council requesting assistance in regards to issues he is having with a neighbor shining spotlights towards his home in the evenings. Mr. Reed stated he was informed by the police department that they could not do anything because the city does not have an ordinance that prohibits this activity, mentioned a case he had against the neighbor was dropped for this reason, and asked that an ordinance be considered. Mr. Reed provided photos to members and staff showing his home lit at night by the neighbors spotlights.

PRESENTATIONS

STAFF PRESENTATIONS:

The following presentations were heard.

1. Presentation of Police Department's Third Re-Recognition with the TPCA Best Practices Program.

David Babcock, City of Benbrook Police Chief and member of the Texas Police Chief's Association, presented the award to Police Chief Bevering and Assistant Police Chief Denison. No other members of the police department were present. Chief Bevering made brief comments thanking Assistant Chief Denison for his work as the program manager to maintain the recognition.

2. City Manager presentation of items of community interest.

City Manager Jeff James informed members and those present of the passing of Mr. Gary Lewis. Mr. James commented on Mr. Lewis' time with the city sharing fond memories and expressing how much we all will miss Mr. Lewis. Mr. James gave service information as Sept. 17, 2021 at 10 a.m. in Annetta, TX.

CONSENT AGENDA

Council Member Geesa made a motion to approve the consent agenda. Mayor Pro Tem Spurlock seconded the motion which carried unanimously. Approval of the consent agenda included the following items:

3. Approval of City Council meeting minutes:
 - a. August 3, 2021
 - b. August 10, 2021
 - c. August 24, 2021
4. Acknowledge receipt of Monthly Financial Statements for FY 20-21 as of July 31, 2021.
5. Approval of agreement between the White Settlement Fire Department and Tarrant County Emergency Services District No. One for continued fire protection services.

DELIBERATION AGENDA

FINANCIAL:

6. Discuss and consider a resolution directing the publication of notice of intention to issue Combination Tax and Revenue Certificates of Obligation; and resolving other matters relating to the subject.

Finance Director Krystal Crump (Foght) presented the item informing members the application for discounted interest rate bonds the city previously applied for through Texas Water Development Board projects was approved. Mrs. Crump (Foght) mentioned bond counsel was present to answer questions and the requirement of the item (resolution and notice) to move forward with next steps noting projects include water loss identification in the city's system.

Mayor Pro Tem Spurlock made a motion to approve a resolution directing the publication of notice of intention to issue Combination Tax and Revenue Certificates of Obligation; and resolving other matters relating to the subject. Council Member Munoz seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

7. Discuss and consider a resolution acknowledging the Annual Review and approval of the Official Investment Strategy and Investment Policy.

Finance Director Krystal Crump (Foght) presented the item explaining requirement of state statutes to review and update annually. She explained updates were made by the city's consultants with minimal changes and mentioned staff recommendation to approve.

Council Member Munoz made a motion to approve a resolution acknowledging the Annual Review and approval of the Official Investment Strategy and Investment Policy. Mayor Pro Tem Spurlock seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

8. Discuss and consider an ordinance adopting the City of White Settlement Annual Operating Budget for Fiscal Year 2021-2022.

Finance Director Krystal Crump (Foght) presented the final budget summary with no changes since meeting in August, a 40.5M revenue budget and a 55M expense budget for all funds, will raise an additional \$270,000 in property taxes being a 3.43% increase from previous year with \$118,000.00 from new property.

Council Member Geesa questioned whether budget amendments could be considered at a later date. Staff confirmed this to be correct.

Mayor Pro Tem Spurlock made a motion to approve an ordinance adopting the City of White Settlement Annual Operating Budget for Fiscal Year 2021-2022. Council Member Munoz seconded the motion which carried with a record vote as follows:

Council Member Moore	Absent
Mayor Pro Tem Spurlock	Aye
Council Member Munoz	Aye
Council Member Grudzinski	Absent
Council Member Geesa	Aye

9. Discuss and consider an ordinance affixing and levying a Municipal Ad Valorem Taxes for the City of White Settlement, Texas for Fiscal Year beginning October 1, 2021 and ending September 30, 2022; providing for collection of Ad Valorem Taxes.

Finance Director Krystal Crump (Foght) stated the proposed rate has been presented three times over the past month with all notices properly posted and staff recommendation to approve proposed rate of .714795 with .616469 being Maintenance & Operation portion and .125326 being Debt Service portion; exceeds no-new-revenue tax rate; equivalent to voter approval rate which will not require an election.

Mayor Pro Tem Spurlock made a motion that the property tax rate be increased by the adoption of a tax rate of 0.741795, which is effectively a 2.26 percent increase in the tax rate. Council Member Munoz seconded the motion which carried unanimously as follows:

Council Member Moore	Absent
Mayor Pro Tem Spurlock	Aye
Council Member Munoz	Aye
Council Member Grudzinski	Absent
Council Member Geesa	Aye

10. Discuss and consider motion to ratify the Property Tax Revenue increase reflected in the Fiscal Year 2021-2022 Budget.

Finance Director Krystal Crump (Foght) explained state law requires tax rate increase be ratified.

Council Member Munoz made a motion to ratify the Property Tax Revenue increase reflected in the Fiscal Year 2021-2022 Budget. Mayor Pro Tem Spurlock seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

PUBLIC WORKS:

11. Discuss and consider a Professional Services Agreement with James DeOtte Engineering, Inc. in the amount of \$59,300 for the design, bid and construction of 1700 feet of sanitary sewer line, and authorizing the city manager to execute the agreement.

City Manager Jeff James presented the item referencing previous discussions noting the necessity of the project and replacement/repair of structural/fence damage done during the project.

Council Member Geesa asked for clarification as to whether damage to citizens fences/property would be repaired. Staff confirmed this to be a condition of the project agreement.

Mayor Pro Tem Spurlock made a motion approve the Professional Services Agreement with James DeOtte Engineering, Inc. in the amount of \$59,300 for the design, bid and construction of 1700 feet of sanitary sewer line, and authorizing the city manager to execute the agreement . Council Member Munoz seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

ADMINISTRATIVE:

12. Discuss and consider results of survey conducted for renaming the convention center located at the Splash Dayz Water Park site to be more easily identified as a choice event center separate from a park facility.

City Secretary Amy Arnold mentioned no submissions were received from City Council to be provided for consideration. Members confirmed they did not submit their recommendations as previously discussed and would like the item on a future agenda.

Mayor Pro Tem Spurlock made a motion to hear the item on the October 2021 agenda. Council Member Munoz seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

13. Discuss and consider directing staff to schedule a joint workshop between the Economic Development Corporation and the City Council to receive financial and operational information relating to Splash Dayz Water Park; and to discuss the continuation or dissolution of the water park.

City Manager Jeff James mentioned previous staff request for direction and the direction from members to gather and present information. Mr. James explained staff would like time in order to gather the information. Finance Director Krystal Crump (Foght) explained finance staff current projects being the audit, budget and budget book preparations requesting members consider a meeting after these are completed to be able to gather information.

Mayor Pro Tem Spurlock mentioned election season as well as holidays and expressed her desire to receive an abundance of information. She asked staff to use the time to gather as much information as possible for discussions.

Staff and member discussed the month of January as the best date to hold a joint meeting with EDC on the topic; settling on a date of January 22, 2022.

Mayor Pro Tem Spurlock made a motion to schedule a joint workshop between the Economic Development Corporation and City Council on January 22, 2022, to receive financial and operational information relating to Splash Dayz Water Park; and to discuss the continuation or dissolution of the water park. Council Member Munoz seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

14. Discuss and consider an ordinance amending chapter 107 "Sign Regulations" of the Code of Ordinances by amending Section 107-1 "Purpose" and Section 107-7 "Temporary Signs Chart".

City Secretary Amy Arnold presented the item explaining amendments add a required message substitution clause to the ordinance as well as updating sign height from 6' to 8' as required by the Election Code. Mrs. Arnold noted the recommendations come from legal staff's review of the ordinance.

Council Member Geesa questioned the 2' by 2' sign requirement stating his belief that signs were larger. Staff confirmed standard political sign size as 18" by 24". Staff also noted that portion of the ordinance is not being amended.

Mayor Pro Tem Spurlock made a motion to approve an ordinance amending chapter 107 "Sign Regulations" of the Code of Ordinances by amending Section 107-1 "Purpose" and Section 107-7 "Temporary Signs Chart". Council Member Munoz seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mayor White announced City Council convened to Executive Session at 7:46 p.m. after first reading the following statement:

Pursuant to the Texas Open Meetings Act, Chapter 551 of the Texas Government Code, the City Council may convene into Executive Session to deliberate regarding the following matters:

15. Sec. 551.071 Consultation with Attorney: The City Council reserves the right to adjourn into Executive Session at any time during the course of this meeting to seek legal advice from the city attorney about any matters listed on the agenda and the following:
 - a. Private Poker Rooms
 - b. Gary Ritchie v. City of White Settlement

RECONVENE IN OPEN SESSION

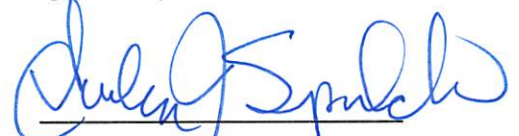
Take action, if any, on items discussed in Executive Session.

Mayor White announced City Council reconvened from Executive Session at 8:32 p.m. to take any action as a result of the Executive Session. No action was taken.

ADJOURNMENT

With there being no further discussion Mayor White adjourned the meeting at 8:32 p.m.

Approved this 4th day of October, 2021.


Evelyn Spurlock, Mayor Pro Tem

ATTEST:


Amy Arnold, TRMC, CMC
City Secretary

