

CITY OF SMITHVILLE
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
AUGUST 14, 2023

Present: Mayor Sharon Foerster, Councilmembers Janice Bruno, Tom Etheredge, Jimmy Jenkins, Tyrone Washington, Mitchell Jameson, and City Manager Robert Tamble.

Open Meeting: Call to order: Mayor Foerster called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Councilman Washington asked Anthony Shields to give the Invocation and Councilman Washington led the Pledge.

Recognition/Awards/Proclamations/Announcements/Presentations:

- a. Downtown Business Alliance Initiatives, Updates / Strategies: Tony Dudley spoke on behalf of the DBA. Ashley Harris and Simon Medera both signed up to speak on this topic.
- b. Proclamation for Co-Pastors Ronnie Holt & Lenora W. Holt Day: Mayor Foerster read the proclamationHear

Approval of the minutes from July 10, 2023 Council Meeting and Public Hearing. Councilwoman Bruno made a motion to approve the minutes. Councilman Jenkins seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Hear Citizen Comments: Pace Davis & Gayle Bohot spoke.

Discussion on Utility Bills and Wholesale Electric. Robert Tamble gave a presentation on utility bills and wholesale electricity and how the city calculates the bills. No action was taken.

Hear recommendations from Planning and Zoning on the following:

- a. On a re-plat of for A27 Decrow, Thomas 20.757 acres, parcels number 8729082 & 8716063, property owners UGE Smithville Land Holdings LLC, Elizbieta Ledwosinska and Mark Jonathan Orchard-Webb. Monica Poss from the P&Z board said P&Z recommended approving the re-plat.

Public Hearing:

Hear Citizen's Comments:

- a. On a re-plat of for A27 Decrow, Thomas 20.757 acres, parcels number 8729082 & 8716063, property owners UGE Smithville Land Holdings LLC, Elizbieta Ledwosinska and Mark Jonathan Orchard-Webb. No one signed up to speak.

Adjourn

Open Meeting:

Citizen Comments: None

Discussion and Action on a re-plat of for A27 Decrow, Thomas 20.757 acres, parcels number 8729082 & 8716063, property owners UGE Smithville Land Holdings LLC, Elizbieta Ledwosinska and Mark Jonathan Orchard-Webb. Councilman Jenkins made a motion to approve the re-plat. Councilman Washington seconded and the motion to deny passed unanimously.

Citizen Comments: None

Discussion and Action on authorizing Samco Capital Markets, the City's Financial Advisor, to proceed with the issuance of tax notes including drafting a preliminary official statement and conducting a bond rating: If approved, the proposed \$3M Tax Note can be used for facility improvements (e.g., roof repairs, security systems, video surveillance, HVAC, etc.) infrastructure upgrades (e.g., streets, roads, sidewalks, gutters, drainage, lighting, etc.), and capital equipment (e.g., patrol cars, chipper truck, bucket truck, fire truck, playground equipment, etc.). The \$3M tax note will be repaid by the I&S portion of the tax rate over the next 7-years. Andrew Freidman (SAMCO Capital) gave a presentation regarding the process steps and timeline for the city to obtain the proposed \$3M Series 2023 Tax Note. Councilman Etheredge made a motion to authorize SAMCO to proceed with the issuance of the \$3M Tax Note including drafting a preliminary official statement and conducting a bond rating. Councilwoman Bruno seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Citizen Comments: None

Discussion and Action on Renewing an Interlocal Agreement to Support 9-1-1 Geographic Information Management between Bastrop County and the City of Smithville: The purpose of the ILA is to ensure the exchange of data and information between the Parties in a timely manner for the maintenance of the District's 9-1-1 GIS database to help ensure efficient and accurate response to emergency calls and text messages within the City of Smithville and Bastrop County's provisional boundary. If approved, the ILA becomes effective on the date signed and ends on September 30, 2024. The ILA will automatically extend for two (2) 12-month extension periods unless either party terminates the agreement. Delynn Peschke (Bastrop County GIS Analyst) was attending the meeting and answered questions. Councilwoman Bruno made a motion to renew the agreement with the additions to add Edward Balusek's information. Councilman Etheredge seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Citizen Comments: None

Discussion and Action on Renewing an Interlocal Agreement with Bastrop County for Animal Control Services: The purpose of the ILA is to document the terms and conditions of between the City of Smithville and Bastrop County for animal control services. If approved, fees for services will now be on a "per animal" basis as opposed to a \$8,400 flat rate. Typically, our Animal Control Officer (ACO) William Dildine only sends 8-10 animals to the shelter per year as he has been very successful in reuniting lost pets with their owners. The ILA shall be effective for a term of two (2) years, beginning October 1, 2023 and ending September 30, 2025. Councilman Jenkins made a motion to approve the renewal of the ILA. Councilman Washington seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Citizen Comments: None

Presentation from the Finance Director on information used to calculate the Proposed Ad Valorem Property Tax Rate: Cynthia White reviewed the "Truth-In-Taxation" documentation used to calculate and certify the 2023/24 Proposed Ad Valorem Property Tax Rate.

Citizen Comments: None

Discussion and Action on a Proposal to set the Ad Valorem Tax Rate at September 11, 2023, Council Meeting: Property values increased approximately 12.6% in Smithville this year with the average home value calculated at \$235,015. We will be recommending a PROPOSED AD VALOREM TAX RATE of \$0.548952 cents per \$100 valuation --- a slight increase from our current tax rate of \$0.548934. This rate includes a proposed \$3M Tax Note that can be used for facility improvements, infrastructure upgrades and the purchase of capital equipment. During 2023, the average homeowner will pay \$1,290 in property taxes (\$128 more than the average paid in 2022). The strategy we have followed in the past is to identify the maximum tax rate allowable without triggering the possibility of a rollback election then decide the amount of increase (if any) that is required to support the proposed budget. The FY23-24 effective tax rate (now called the "No-New-Revenue Tax Rate") is \$0.51174. The rollback rate (now called the "Voter-Approval Tax Rate") is \$0.548952. The maximum increase the City can raise taxes in a given year without triggering a rollback election is 3.5% of the effective M&O tax rate. The effective tax rate is basically the tax rate that would generate the same amount of revenue in the current tax year as was generated by a taxing unit's adopted tax rate in the preceding tax year from property that is taxable in both the current tax year and the preceding tax year. The City Council will have the opportunity to discuss and vote on the proposed tax rate in the coming weeks. Note: This agenda item simply sets the date that the tax rate will be adopted - not the rate itself. Councilman Jameson made a motion to set the proposed tax rate at the September 11, 2023 Council meeting. Councilman Etheredge seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Citizen Comments: None

Discussion and Possible Action on the Budget Process: Discussion, no action was taken.

Citizen Comments: None

Discussion and Action on the approval of the Financial Report: Councilman Washington made a motion to approve the financial report. Councilman Etheredge seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Adjourn 8:14 p.m.

Sharon Foerster, Mayor

Attest:

Jennifer Lynch, City Secretary