

CITY OF SMITHVILLE
SEPTEMBER 13, 2021
COUNCIL MEETING

Present: Mayor Joanna Morgan, Councilmembers, Janice Bruno, Bill Gordon, Tom Etheredge, Sharon Foerster, Stan Gerdes, and City Manager Robert Tamble.

Open Meeting: Call to order: Mayor Morgan called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.
Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance: Councilman Gordon gave the invocation and pledge.

Recognition/Awards/Proclamations/Announcements/Presentations:

- a) Norm gave a presentation on Lost Pines BBQ Showdown happening 2022.
- b) Proclamation for "Constitution Week". Mayor Morgan read the proclamation
- c) Proclamation for "National Preparedness Month". Mayor Morgan read the proclamation.

Citizen Comments: None

Approval of the minutes from August 9, 2021, City Council Meeting, August 25, 2021 City Council Workshop, and the September 8, 2021 Special Called City Council Meeting, Public Hearing, and Workshop. Councilman Gerdes made a motion to approve all of the minutes. Councilman Gordon seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Citizen Comments: Mitch Jameson spoke on the budget and praised all and applauded Robert and was in favor of approving the budget. He also liked that the Council ask "what do you need?" to the department heads.

Discussion and Action on an Ordinance adopting the 2021/2022 Fiscal Year Budget.: Our FY21/22 revenues and expenditures are currently BALANCED at \$13,742,531. This is \$1,342,092 greater than our FY20/21 budget of \$12,400,439 and represents a 10.8% INCREASE in projected Y-O-Y spending. The budget will require an \$1.3M transfer from the Utility Fund to the General Fund. Solid waste management fees, equity adjustment(s) for all hourly employees, and the purchase of capital equipment are what is driving the increase. Councilwoman Bruno made a motion to approve the budget. Councilman Gordon seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Citizen Comments on: None

Consideration and approval of an Ordinance authorizing the issuance of "City of Smithville, Texas Tax Notes, Series 2021": This item was moved up on the agenda because Andrew with SAMCO said "Truth-In-Taxation" law requires it to be adopted before the tax rate. Approving this ordinance will allow the issuance of a \$750k tax note to be used to purchase capital equipment (e.g., patrol cars, wood chipper, asphalt zipper) funded by the I&S portion of the total property tax rate. Andrew Friedman (Managing Director - SAMCO) made a presentation regarding the issuance of the City of Smithville, Texas Tax Notes, Series 2021. Councilman Gordon made a motion to approve an Ordinance authorizing the issuance of "City of Smithville, Texas Tax Note, Series 2021". Councilman Etheredge seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Citizen Comments on: None

Discussion and Action on an Ordinance adopting the 2021/2022 Fiscal Year Tax Rate: Recommend setting 2021/2022 AD VALOREM TAX RATE of \$0.54901 cents per \$100 valuation --- no change from the current tax rate. This rate includes a \$750k tax note that will be used to purchase capital equipment (e.g., patrol cars, wood chipper, asphalt zipper) funded by the I&S portion of the total rate. The assessed property values in Smithville increased by 12.25% this year which will bring in an additional \$62k of revenue to the General Fund to help pay for drainage improvements and street repairs. The average impact to homeowners in Smithville is an additional \$83 per year based on an average home value of \$185k. Councilman Etheredge made a motion to approve the Ordinance adopting the 2021/2022 tax rate. Councilwoman Bruno seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Citizen Comments on: None

Discussion and Action on an appointment to the General Assembly CAPCOG (Capital Area Council of Governments) Board: Councilmember Janice Bruno is currently serving on the CAPCOG Board and would like to continue as Smithville's representative. Councilman Gerdes made a motion to appoint Janice Bruno to the CAPCOG board. Councilwoman Foerster seconded and the motion passed with a vote of:

For: Gerdes, Foerster, Gordon, Etheredge

Abstain: Bruno

Citizen Comments on: None

Discussion and Action on a Resolution to set new rates and adopt a fee schedule for FY21/22.: The proposed rate and fee increases were benchmarked against (and are consistent with) what other municipalities are charging. The new rates and fee schedules will go into effect on Friday, October 1, 2021. Councilwoman Bruno made a motion to approve the Resolution. Councilwoman Foerster seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Citizen Comments on: None

Discussion and Action on a Resolution for the Nomination of a position on the Board of Directors of the Bastrop Central Appraisal District (BCAD): Councilman Gordon made a motion to approve a resolution nominating Bill Hector. Councilman Etheredge seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Citizen Comments on: None

Discussion and Action on authorizing the City Manager to grant COVID sick time hours to City employees: Robert is requesting authorization to grant 80-hours of COVID-19 sick time to regular full-time employees and 40-hours of COVID-19 sick time to part-time employees. The additional sick time will be used for COVID-related purposes only and is reimbursable via the American Recovery Plan Act (ARPA). Note: Employees who retire will not be paid for any unused COVID-19 sick hours. Councilman Etheredge made a motion to approve the sick time described by City Manager as COVID related only in conjunction with ARPA funds. Councilwoman Bruno seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Citizen Comments: None

Discussion and Action on Entering into an Interlocal Agreement with Bastrop County for an Emergency Animal Shelter at Riverbend Park: This Interlocal Agreement with Bastrop County will allow the temporary relocation and harboring of domestic animals and livestock to the Pavilion and Rodeo Arena at Riverbend Park in the event of a natural disaster or emergency condition (other than flooding). The agreement will remain in effect in perpetuity but can be terminated by either party with 30-days written notice. Councilwoman Bruno made a motion to approve the ILA with Bastrop County. Councilman Gordon seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Citizen Comments: None

Discussion and Action on the approval of the Financial Report. Cynthia White. Councilman Gordon made the motion to approve the Financial Report. Councilwoman Foerster seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Adjourn 6:45 p.m.

Joanna Morgan, Mayor

Attest:

Jennifer Lynch, City Secretary