

# CITY OF SMITHVILLE

April 13, 2020

## COUNCIL MEETING

Present: Mayor Scott Saunders Jr, Councilmembers, Bill Gordon, Joanna Morgan, Sharon Foerster, Cassie Barrientos, Jason Hewitt, and City Manager Robert Tamble. This meeting was on a zoom conference and YouTube streamed due to the COVID 19 Virus.

**Open Meeting:** Call to order: Mayor Saunders called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Invocation: Robert Tamble gave the invocation.

Recognition/Awards/Proclamations/Announcements/Presentations: Mayor Saunders read a proclamation for the "National Public Safety Telecommunications Week". Mayor Saunders gave condolences to Joyce Klutz's Family and icon of Smithville has passed and we had a moment of silence for her.

Approval of the minutes from March 9, 2020, Council Meeting and Public Hearing and March 23, 2020, Special Called Emergency Meeting: Councilman Gordon moved to approve the minutes. Councilwoman Morgan seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Discussion and Action on a Resolution Responding to the Application of CenterPoint Energy Resources Corp., South Texas Division, to Increase Rates Under the Gas Reliability Infrastructure Program (GRIP) Suspending the Effective Date of this Rate Application for Forty-Five Days - CenterPoint Energy is asking the Texas Railroad Commission for a Gas Reliability Infrastructure Program (GRIP) Interim Rate Adjustment (IRA) to their base rate(s). Under Texas law (re: Gas Utilities Regulatory Act), we do not have the ability to oppose the rate increase. However, we can postpone the effective date of the proposed increase for 45-days. The rate will be increased by \$1.55/month for residential service and \$3.11/month for small commercial service. The adjusted monthly charge (base rate) will be \$22.59 and \$32.27 respectively. This represents an average increase between 7-11%. The rate increase will help recover \$31.2M of incremental spending for capital infrastructure improvements in its South Texas Division during the 2019 calendar year. The proposed IRA will become effective on May 4, 2020, unless the City chooses to suspend the IRA effective date until June 18, 2020. Councilwoman Morgan made a motion to suspend the effective date to June 18<sup>th</sup>. Councilwoman Barrientos seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Discussion and Action on a Resolution authorizing the City Manager as the signatory responsible for all Safe Routes to Schools contracts between the City of Smithville and the State of Texas acting through the Texas Department of Transportation for SRTS sidewalks - Approving this resolution will allow the City Manager to act on behalf of the City of Smithville for all matters associated with the TXDOT SRTS contract. Councilman Gordon made a motion to approve the resolution. Councilman Hewitt seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Discussion and Action on a Resolution authorizing the City Manager as the signatory responsible for all Transportation Alternative (TA) Set-Aside contracts between the City of Smithville and the State of Texas acting through the Texas Department of Transportation for

Texas HWY Loop 230 sidewalks - Approving this resolution will allow the City Manager to act on behalf of the City of Smithville for all matters associated with the TXDOT TA Set-Aside contract. Councilwoman Morgan made a motion to approve the resolution. Councilman Gordon seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Discussion and Action on Adopting an Ordinance to Amend Chapter 12 Traffic and Vehicles by adding Article 12.1200 Prohibit the Operation of Off-Highway Vehicles - HB-1548 was passed during 86th legislative session allowing the licensing and use of All-Terrain Vehicles (ATV's) to operate on public roadways including highways with a speed limit of 35 and under. However, the bill grants authority to municipalities to prohibit ATV operation within their City limits in the interest of public safety. Adopting an ordinance to amend Article 12.1200 will prohibit ATV operation on public roadways in Smithville. Councilman Hewitt made a motion to approve the ordinance. Councilwoman Morgan seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Discussion and Action on an agreement between the City of Smithville and PHI Air Medical to provide air ambulance service to the citizens of Smithville - The City of Smithville is considering entering into a contract agreement with PHI Air Medical to provide "no-cost" emergency medical air transport of citizens with life-threatening injuries/illnesses that reside within the Smithville City Limits. The proposed annual fee of \$13,329 is based on providing coverage to approximately 1,481 households (as identified by the most current census). The plan will cover all Smithville citizens while they are in PHI Service Area (i.e., Bastrop County). For those citizens with insurance (including Medicare patients), the agreement will cover all co-pays, deductibles, and remaining balances on PHI transports. For those without insurance, the agreement will cover the payment in full. On average, the cost of medical air transport in large metropolitan areas is \$15k per flight. The City of Bastrop currently has an agreement with PHI Air Medical and they are pleased with the service thus far. Should the City Council authorize the agreement, the \$13k annual fee will be offset by revenue from film permits. Councilwoman Barrientos made a motion to approve the agreement between the City of Smithville and PHI Air Medical. Councilwoman Morgan seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Discussion and Action on the Financial Report: Councilwoman Barrientos made a motion to approve the Financial Report. Councilman Gordon seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

***Adjourn: 6:43***

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Scott Saunders Jr., Mayor

Attest:

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Jennifer Lynch, City Secretary