

**VERNON CITY COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
JUNE 27, 2023**

Mayor Pam Gosline called the Regular Meeting of the Vernon City Commission to order at 6:30 p.m. on June 27, 2023 at City Hall, and a quorum was declared present.

Mayor: Pam Gosline

Commissioners: Early Williams, Jim Parmer, Don Aydelott (Dustin Fraticelli – absent)

Staff Present: City Attorney Sage Seal, City Manager Darell Kennon, Police Chief Wayne Hodges, Public Works Director Chase Craighead, Fire Chief Chris Cook, Finance Director Deanna Boatenhamer, Tourism Director Amanda Lehman, Community Development Director Monica Wilkinson and City Secretary Marsha Jo Stone

Others: Vernon Fire Department – Robin Ragan, Jarrod Ritchey, Michael Chavez, Cason Cook, Hagen Pierce, Jacob Stringer, Wyatt Whitaker, Brandon Henderson, Vernon Boys and Girls Club Director Sarah Hernandez, Bill Humphrey - Vernon Record

1. Call To Order

- A. Declaration of Quorum – Mayor Gosline declared a quorum
- B. Invocation – Commissioner Williams led the group in the Invocation
- C. Pledge of Allegiance – Mayor Gosline led the group in the pledge to the United States Flag and the Texas Flag

2. Consent Agenda:

- A. Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting held on Tuesday, May 23, 2023
- B. Approval of the Finance Investment Report, Vouchers, Payroll and Benefit Expense for May 1, 2023 to May 31, 2023
- C. Approval of other Department Reports

Commissioner Williams made the motion to approve the consent agenda

Commissioner Parmer seconded the motion, which passed with a unanimous vote.

- 3. Public Comment** – John Baker – 2612 Texas expressed concern over 2530 Texas. He stated there were vagrants occupying the residence which does not have utility services. He stated there were people in and out of the residence at all hours of the night, vagrants stealing water from neighbors and excessive amount of noise at late hours. He stated the yard was overgrown and the house was not secured. He stated the owner lived in Houston and was unable to make contact with him. Greg Vanek – 2603 Texas expressed the same concerns.

Charles McArthur and Katrona Scott thanked the Mayor, City Commission and Vernon Police and Fire Departments for their assistance with the Juneteenth Celebration

- 4. Proclamation** - Mayor Gosline proclaimed June 26 – 30, 2023 as National Boys and Girls Club Week

- 5. Recognition: Vernon Fire Department**

Mayor Gosline recognized the Fire Department for receiving zero violations from the recent inspection by Texas Commission of Fire Protection.

6. Public Hearing – Tax Abatement Ordinance

Commissioner Williams made the motion to enter into Public Hearing at 6:49 pm

Commissioner Parmer seconded the motion, which passed with a unanimous vote

No Public comment

Commission Parmer made the motion to exit the Public Hearing at 6:49 pm

Commissioner Aydelott seconded the motion, which passed with a unanimous vote

7. Discuss, Consider and Take Possible Action on Tax Abatement Guidelines – Ordinance Number 1798

City Manager Kennon advised the existing Ordinance 1765 required the Ordinance be updated every two years. Updates in the new ordinance include changing the dollar amounts in Schedule A to reflect an increase in the first bracket from \$5,000,000 to \$10,000,000 and in the second bracket from \$5,000,001 to \$10,000,001.

Commissioner Parmer made the motion to approve Ordinance Number 1798 Tax Abatement Guidelines.

Commissioner Williams seconded the motion, which passed with a unanimous vote.

8. Public Hearing – Alley Closure

Commissioner Parmer made the motion to enter into Public Hearing at 6:56 pm

Commissioner Williams seconded the motion, which passed with a unanimous vote

Community Development Director Wilkinson advised the Planning and Zoning Commission met on June 26, 2023 and approve the 10-foot alley closure between Melody and Memory Lanes at 5001 Wilbarger.

Vincent Latour addressed the Commission concerning the closure

Commissioner Parmer made the motion to exit Public Hearing at 7:03 pm

Commission Williams seconded the motion, which passed with a unanimous vote

9. Discuss, Consider and Take Possible Action on Ordinance Number 1797 regarding alley closure at 5001 Wilbarger

Commissioner Aydelott made the motion to approve closure of the first 455 feet of the 10-foot alley running north-south between Melody and Memory Lanes at 5001 Wilbarger and accept a 20-foot easement granted to the City from the property owners at that location

Commissioner Williams seconded the motion, which passed with a unanimous vote

10. Discuss, Consider and Take Possible Action on Melody Lane 20-foot Right of Way dedication

Commissioner Williams made the motion to accept the 20-foot Right of Way dedication from L&B Properties to the City of Vernon at no cost to the City of Vernon

Commissioner Aydelott seconded the motion, which passed with a unanimous vote

11. Discuss, Consider and Take Possible Action on sale of tax properties by Texas Community Group: Parcel 100186, 2925 Bowie to Ismael Guerra for \$600.00

Commissioner Aydelott made the motion to approve the sale of tax properties by Texas Community Group Parcel 100186, 2925 Bowie to Ismael Guerra for \$600.00

Commissioner Williams seconded the motion with passed with a unanimous vote

12. Presentation on iWorQ Enforcement and Permitting Software

Public Works Director Craighead gave a presentation to the Commission on iWorQ software for Code Enforcement and Permitting.

13. Discuss, Consider and Take Possible Action on a request to close Stadium Drive during the July 3, 2023 Fireworks Display

Commissioner Aydelott made the motion to temporarily close Stadium Drive from Yamparika Street to Paradise Street on July 3, 2023 from 10:00 am to midnight for the City of Vernon fireworks display

Commissioner Williams seconded the motion, which passed with a unanimous vote

14. Discuss, Consider and Take Possible Action to approve a nomination to serve as the City of Vernon's representative on the Wilbarger Appraisal District's Board of Directors

Commissioner Parmer made the motion to appoint Adam Beam to the Wilbarger Appraisal District Board of Directors for the unexpired term ending December 31, 2023

Commissioner Aydelott seconded the motion, which passed with a unanimous vote

15. Discuss, Consider and Take Possible Action on the appointment of Mayor Pro-Tem

Commissioner Parmer made the motion to nominate Don Aydelott to serve as Mayor Pro-Tem for 2023-2024

Commissioner Williams seconded the motion, which passed with a majority vote
(Williams – Yes, Parmer – Yes, Gosline – Yes, Aydelott- Abstain)

16. Discuss, Consider and Take Possible Action on the purchase of a new police vehicle and the upfit equipment

Chief Hodges advised on May 13, 2023 a Vernon Police Department patrol vehicle was wrecked while in route to a motor vehicle accident. The vehicle was a 2017 Explorer with approximately 95,000 miles.

The vehicle was totaled in the crash and an insurance payment of \$11,500 was received. He advised the current year budget contains \$29,050.00 for vehicles.

Chief Hodges presented two bids to the Commission for a new patrol vehicle for the Police Department:
2023 Chevrolet Tahoe - \$51,369.26 (available late 2024)
2023 Dodge Durango - \$44,125.00 (available 2023)

Commissioner Aydelott made the motion to approve the purchase of the 2023 Dodge Durango PPV from John Jones Police Pursuit Vehicles in the amount of \$44,125.00 and upfit the vehicle as needed, not to exceed \$10,000.00

Commissioner Williams seconded the motion, which passed with a unanimous vote

17. Discuss, Consider and Take Possible Action on the Police Department applying to the USDA Rural Development Division for a grant to replace the mobile car radios

Chief Hodges advised the current in car radios for the Vernon Police Department was purchased with a grant in 2010. The radios are starting to be problematic and difficult to be repaired. The radios need to be replaced to continue effective emergency radio communication from Police Department vehicles. Chief Hodges requested to purchase twenty Kenwood mobile radios through USDA Rural Development Division Community Facilities Grant. The total cost would be approximately \$75,344.80 of which the USDA grant would pay 55% - \$41,439.64 and the City of Vernon would pay 45% - \$33,905.16.

Commissioner Aydelott made the motion to authorize Vernon Police Chief Wayne Hodges and Vernon City Manager Darell Kennon to apply for the USDA Rural Development Division Community Facilities Grant

Commissioner Parmer seconded the motion, which passed with a unanimous vote

18. Discuss, Consider and Take Possible Action on approval of Ordinance Number 1799 amending the City of Vernon Fiscal Year Budget of October 1, 2022 through September 30, 2023

City Manager Kennon presented the budget amendments totaling \$2,597,937 due to capital expenses. The original budget total was \$27,482,959 and a new total of \$30,080,896.

Commissioner Williams made the motion to approve Ordinance Number 1799 amending the City of Vernon Fiscal Year Budget for 2022-2023

Commissioner Parmer seconded the motion, which was passed with a unanimous vote

19. Executive Session

Pursuant to Texas Government Code Chapter § 551.071 – Consult with Council's Attorney to seek or received legal advice concerning pending or contemplated litigation

Enter:

Commissioner Parmer made the motion to enter into Executive Session at 8:14 pm

Commissioner Williams seconded the motion, which passed with a unanimous vote

Digital Recording on file

Exit:

Commissioner Aydelott made the motion to exit Executive Session at 9:08 pm

Commissioner Williams seconded the motion, which passed with a unanimous vote

20. Budget Work Session

21. Adjourn

Commissioner Aydelott made the motion to adjourn the Regular Meeting at 10:31 pm

Commissioner Parmer seconded the motion, which passed with a unanimous vote

Pamela Gosline, Mayor

ATTEST:

Marsha Jo Stone, TRMC
City Secretary