

**VERNON CITY COMMISSION
SPECIAL MEETING
AUGUST 19, 2014**

Mayor Joe Rogers called the Special Meeting of the Vernon City Commission to order at 5:30 p.m. in the Commission Chambers, and a quorum was declared present.

Present: Mayor Joe Rogers

Commissioners: Danny McMahan, Ruben Hinojosa, Travis Taylor and Pat Bryant.

Staff Present: City Manager Mitch Grant, Police Chief Tom Wilson, Fire Chief Kent Smead, Finance Director Anne Garmon, Main Street Director Dan Kelleher, and City Secretary Linda Byers.

Commissioner Hinojosa led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance to the U.S. and Texas flags, followed by the invocation.

**PUBLIC HEARING
PROPOSAL TO INCREASE TAX RATE**

Mayor Rogers opened the public hearing.

Clinton Nava, Pat Schnepf, Bambi Nava all voiced concern over tax and water rate hikes. Rebecca Oleson, Peter Hall, J.J. Oznick were concerned about employee cuts, and Irl Holt was satisfied that he received fair return for his tax dollars.

With no further comments, Mayor Rogers closed the public hearing.

BUDGET WORK SESSION

City Manager Grant outlined five scenarios for considered budget cuts which were the same as in the August 14 Budget work session with changes to the transfers from Utility to General Fund.

Mayor Rogers allowed input from those present.

Wayne Stewart, Danita Logsdon spoke in support of retaining positions and opposed attempting to fix a multi-year problem in one year. Peter Hall voiced concern with problems recruiting qualified officers.

Gene Tyra stated that taking tourism from Chamber would not solve anything and would possibly reduce tourism and sales tax revenue.

Jim Gryseels noted that if city takes on tourism, it would be solely responsible for tourism.

Mamie McArthur asked if the City could do a portion of the cuts in this year and increase the increments over several years.

Josh Billings is concerned about minimum staffing.

Digital Recording on file

Donna Moore voiced opposition to taking tourism money from the Chamber.

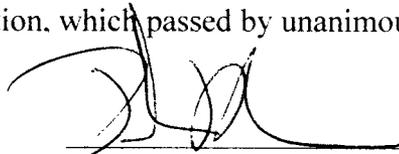
There was discussion of a combination of different scenarios. Mayor Rogers conducted a survey of the Commission members and they voted 4-1 in favor of Scenario Five without layoffs if possible and with other budget cuts where possible – Commissioner Hinojosa was not in favor.

Scenario Five includes staff reductions of seven total employees, taking the Tourism operation in house and a Utility Fund transfer to General Fund of \$543,000. The final budget will be considered in a public hearing at the Regular City Commission Meeting August 26, 2014.

ADJOURN

Commissioner McMahan made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:32 p.m.

Commissioner Taylor seconded the motion, which passed by unanimous vote.



Joe Rogers
Mayor

ATTEST:



Linda Byers
City Secretary