

**VERNON CITY COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
AUGUST 25, 2015**

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

Present: Mayor Joe Rogers

Commissioners: Danny McMahan, Ruben Hinojosa, Travis Taylor, and Britt Ferguson.

Staff Present: City Manager Joseph Jarosek, Police Chief Tom Wilson, Finance Director Anne Garmon, Public Works Director Darell Kennon, Community Development Director Monica Wilkinson, and City Secretary Linda Byers.

Commissioner Hinojosa led the group in the Invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance to the U.S. and Texas flags.

PUBLIC HEARING ON TAX INCREASE PROPOSAL

Mayor Rogers opened the Public Hearing:

Molly Baldwin outlined the progress that has been made in the past year and spoke in favor of the tax increase and encouraged everyone to listen to what is proposed.

Pat Bryant spoke against a tax increase, noting that only thirty percent of City residents owned property.

Danita Logsdon stated that the increased water rates have hurt a lot of people and was against trying to fix all of the City problems in six months.

George Daigle stated that the tax increase should be spread out over several years, and questioned how the debt was paid this year. He felt we should tighten our belt some more.

Pam Gosline does not want to raise taxes, but does not want to live in a distressed city.

Maurice Rosales noted that Vernon was not growing, and stated that a tax increase has to be done and now is the time to do it. He supports the decision of the Commission.

Linda Shivers agrees that a tax increase is needed but City expenses should be cut to the bare bones. The City should not target home owners to pay for the sins of the whole city.

With no other comments, Mayor Rogers closed the Public Hearing.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mike Maldonado had a complaint about the line of cars in front of Central School. He does not want to be punished for living across from a school. The fifteen minutes that the street is blocked is a lot of time if there is an emergency.

Pam Gosline updated the Commission on the Pride Committee. They have added six volunteers. The first neighbor helping neighbor project is scheduled in the North Vernon community on September 26. The committee has started an "Adopt a Window" for the downtown area and is

Digital Recording on file

getting permission from building owners for the youth to paint murals on paper to place in the windows. Business owners of the month will be recognized. The Committee is asking for funds for mowing and demolition. "One house and one yard at a time."

ROBERT L. DUNCAN DAY PROCLAMATION

Mayor Rogers proclaimed September 15, 2015 as Robert L. Duncan Day and read a proclamation encouraging fellow citizens in welcoming Mr. Duncan to our City.

CONSENT AGENDA

Commissioner Taylor abstained from voting on the Consent Agenda.
Commissioner Hinojosa made the motion to approve the consent agenda.

- A. Minutes of the Regular City Commission Meeting held on Tuesday, July 28, 2015; Minutes of the Special City Commission Meeting held on Tuesday August 4, 2015; Minutes of the Special City Commission Meeting held on August 11, 2015; and Minutes of the Finance Meeting held on Monday, July 27, 2015.
- B. Financial Investment Report, Vouchers, and Payroll & Benefit Expense. July 1, 2015 – July 31, 2015.

Commissioner McMahan seconded the motion which passed by unanimous vote.

WICHITA-WILBARGER 9-1-1 DISTRICT BUDGET

City Manager Jarosek informed the Commission that there are no basic changes to the rate assessed on residents' phone bills. Comments on the 9-1-1 District Budget must be submitted by September 30.

Following a short discussion on the use of 9-1-1 funds in the City, Commissioner Taylor made the motion to approve the Wichita-Wilbarger 9-1-1 District Draft Budget.

Commissioner McMahan seconded the motion which passed by unanimous vote.

WORK SESSION ON PROPOSED BUDGET FOR FY2015-2016.

City Manager Jarosek informed the Commission that the Interest and Sinking tax rate will bring in \$675,000 at 94% collections. The funds will be allocated based on the origin of the original debt. He also noted that Maintenance and Operations tax rate does not support all General Fund operations.

Mr. Jarosek presented the Version E of the Proposed Budget that includes the increased insurance costs. He and City Secretary Byers also explained the possible penalties under the Affordable Care Act. The increased costs of health care were discussed.

Mr. Jarosek presented a list of proposed expenditures that have increased more than \$500 from the current budget, noting that we must either decrease expenditures or increase transfers from Enterprise Fund. There was discussion of all of the capital expenditures that are budgeted. Mr. Jarosek noted that the \$225,000 expense for street improvements could be deleted and an additional transfer of \$275,000 could be added from the Enterprise Fund to balance the proposed budget. Public Works Director Kennon noted that water needs are more pressing than street improvements.

There followed discussion of line item increases and the cost of the Affordable Care Act. Finance Director Garmon noted that the cost of a Purchase Order System could be deferred another year.

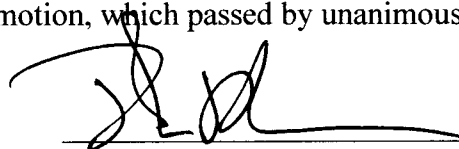
City Secretary Byers reminded the Commission that the Interest and Sinking Tax Rate must be adopted at the rate that was published. The Maintenance and Operations rate could be adjusted.

There was discussion about getting additional cuts from Department Heads before the September 8 Special Meeting. Commissioner Hinojosa would like to keep in the budget the Wastewater Treatment improvements, the Water and Nitrate Plant improvements, and the mowing and demolition funding, and also leave the outside agency payments intact. Staff was instructed to check with Vernon ISD about paying the electrical bill for the tennis court lights.

ADJOURN

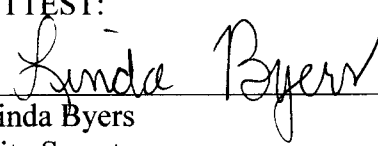
Commissioner Hinojosa made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:05 p.m.

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



Joe Rogers
Mayor

ATTEST:



Linda Byers
City Secretary