

**VERNON CITY COMMISSION
SPECIAL MEETING
AUGUST 2, 2016**

Mayor Joe Rogers called the Special Meeting of the Vernon City Commission to order at 6:30 p.m. in City Hall, and a quorum was declared present.

Present: Mayor Joe Rogers

Commissioners: Guy Spears, Ruben Hinojosa, Travis Taylor, and Britt Ferguson

Staff Present: City Manager Joseph Jarosek, Municipal Prosecutor Jonathan Whitsitt, Police Chief Tom Wilson, Fire Chief J.J. Oznick, Finance Director Anne Garmon, Community Development Director Monica Wilkinson, Public Works Director Darell Kennon, Municipal Judge Lori Adams and City Secretary Linda Byers.

Reverend Norris Thomas led the group in the Invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance to the U.S. and Texas flags.

ALL LIVES MATTER ALLIANCE

Pastor Norris Thomas addressed the City Commission about community concerns based on national incidents plaguing our nation. He outlined a process, with the first step of the community coming together in prayer on July 8, 2016, followed by a community forum for information gathering on July 15, 2016 to look at steps to prevent and deter nationwide problems from surfacing in Vernon. A committee was formed to discuss possible solutions to problems. The third step was for this committee to present the information obtained to city leaders.

Reverend Robert Thomas talked about respect and courtesy by the police department and the police being professional, noting that police and citizens must work together. He requested that a committee be formed with police, commission members, community and concerned citizens; that the police offer educational programs about drugs, alcohol and domestic violence; that the police act as mentors and participate in activities in the community.

Pastor Dave Treat noted that it is crucial to develop relationships.

James Watterson encouraged that we come together as a city.

Joyce Sparkman was seeking help for a family member

City Manager Jarosek noted that the response seems to be that we need to engage in the community more.

Digital Recording on file

Charles McArthur stated that we can all come together and work together, noting that drugs were a serious problem in Vernon.

Dan Richardson stated that everything starts with great leadership.

Victor West noted that the citizens were here because of the pastors, and challenged the citizens to interact with leaders to find solutions.

Harron Jackson, Darion Williams and Nikki Murray all had complaints that they asked the commission to address.

Norris Thomas thanked the more than forty citizens who were in attendance.

RECESS

The Commission took a short recess at 7:40 pm.

RESUME

The Commission resumed the Special Meeting at 7:55 pm.

FY 2016-2017 BUDGET WORKSHOP

During discussion of the tax rate, Mayor Rogers expressed concern about how much we would need to raise the property tax rate to qualify for CDBG Grant funding. Also discussed was a Maintenance & Operations tax rate of \$0.38721 to raise the same amount of revenue as last year, as well as the Interest and Sinking debt rate of \$0.17750. Following extended discussion, it was the consensus of the members that the debt rate will remain at \$0.17750.

Expenditures were discussed by department and the expenditures in Scenario "B" that were approved to be added to Budget Scenario "C" at this time were:

10.5113.5565	\$1,200	computer
10.5118.5303	\$22,968	extra mowing along Hwy 287 / rotary broom rental
10.5118.5445	\$248,474	street seal coat
10.5118.5567	\$34,000	¾ ton pickup with service bed
10.5119.5563	\$1,000	wire welder
10.5120.5567	\$33,509	1 police car
10.5121.5241	\$30,000	safety gear for dire department
10.5122.5105	\$24,000	Additional extra help at cemetery
10.5122.5399.SEC	\$30,000	Security measures at Municipal Court
10.5124.5431	\$1,200	Replace security cameras at pool
10.5125.5567	\$110,000	new ambulance
10.5130.5313	\$65,000	additional solid waste disposal
10.5130.5563	\$6,000	Code Enforcement mower
20.5251.5305	\$40,000	Bulk water purchases
20.5251.5563	\$15,000	Utility Trailer and Tamper for Backhoe

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20.5251.5567 \$36,000 ¾ ton pickup 4x4 w/service bed

Commissioner Ferguson suggested that the Division Directors not be included in the 2% raise for other employees. Mayor Rogers noted that he would like to see additional information before the next meeting on the cost of salaries with no raise for department heads / a 2% raise with the furlough in place and no raise for department heads / a 2% raise without the furlough in place and without the department heads receiving a raise and a 2% raise for everyone.

ADJOURN

Commissioner Spears made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:00 p.m.



Joe Rogers
Mayor

ATTEST:



Linda Byers
City Secretary