

**VERNON CITY COMMISSION
SPECIAL MEETING
SEPTEMBER 6, 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 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, Tourism & Main Street Director Brandy McIntyre, Municipal Judge Lori Adams and City Secretary Linda Byers.

Mayor Rogers led the group in the Invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance to the U.S. and Texas flags.

PUBLIC HEARING ON A PROPOSAL TO ADOPT A TAX RATE OF \$0.56471

Mayor Rogers opened the public hearing.

Esmall De Los Santos asked if the rate was per \$100 valuation – yes it was, and he asked how much of an increase the tax rate was, and was informed that it was .00451 higher than the current rate.

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

APPOINTMENT OF A COMMITTEE FOR ALL LIVES MATTER

Mayor Rogers noted that this agenda allows each Commissioner to appoint two citizens to the committee.

Commissioner Spears appointed Alan Hildebrand and Ben Belew.

Commissioner Hinojosa appointed Robert Thomas and Norris Thomas.

Commissioner Ferguson appointed Gib Baskerville and Maurice Rosalez.

Commissioner Taylor appointed Charles McArthur and Mamie McArthur.

Mayor Roger noted that he had contacted Tom Scott and he has agreed to represent the Vernon Independent School District

Following a recommendation by Robert Thomas, no motion was made until it is determined where each of these appointees live so that there is equal representation from all over the city.

FORGIVENESS OF STREET ASSESSMENT

Prosecutor Whitsitt explained that Esmall De Los Santos alleges that he paid this street assessment in 2001, but nothing can be found in the file to prove either that he has paid or that he has not paid. There is no promissory note in the file and no demand letter from the city.

Mr. De Los Santos claims to have paid this assessment, but has agreed to pay the principle in an effort to expedite release of the lien so that he can proceed with financing of a loan, but asked forgiveness of any penalty and interest. He does not think he should have to pay the assessment twice.

Prosecutor Whitsitt informed the Commission that they can forgive the penalty and interest, or they could choose to forgive the entire assessment against Mr. De Los Santos considering the lack of information and the time that has transpired between the assessment and now.

Staff indicated that the title company contacted them, and the file was found and given to legal. The subsidiary ledgers were not found and the entries were not differentiated in the accounts receivable file.

Commissioner Hinojosa made the motion to approve forgiveness of street assessment Principal and Interest Payments Against 1716 Una Street.

Commissioner Spears seconded the motion, and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

WORK SESSION - BUDGET FOR FY2015-2016

There were no additional changes or comments on the existing proposed FY2016-2017 budget.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – DELIBERATION CONCERNING REAL PROPERTY – SALE OF LAND

Commissioner Spears made the motion to enter Executive Session – Government Code, Title 5, Chapter 551- Section 551.072 – Deliberation Concerning Real Property – Sale of Land at 6:53 pm.

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

RESUME REGULAR SESSION

Commissioner Hinojosa made the motion to resume regular session at 7:31 pm.

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

ACTION FOLLOWING EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was no action following executive session.

ADJOURN

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

Commissioner Spears seconded the motion which passed by unanimous vote.



Joe Rogers
Mayor

ATTEST:



Linda Byers
City Secretary