

City Council Special Meeting of

8/22/2022 - Minutes

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Mayor Bell called the meeting to order at 1:06 pm

2. ROLL CALL

All members were present except for Councilmember Casey McAuliffe, District D.

3. INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Councilmember Yancy gave the invocation and Councilmember Carlson led the pledge.

4. CITIZENS PARTICIPATION

Joseph Lowry (2605 Cedar Dr)- There has not been a forensic audit in the City and there needs to be one. Pay attention to what the citizens are saying, they voted to lower the taxes. Spoke to a civil lawsuit that was brought against him by an individual.

Robert Michetich (24 N Curlew)- Brought concerns regarding Resolution No. R-2022-0061, stating that he will be filing a declaratory action against the city if the council chooses to proceed.

James Osteen (2012 Jeridona)- Spoke to issues regarding ordinances in the newspaper, as well as not having today's ordinance and resolution published with the agenda.

5. EXECUTIVE SESSION

***Mayor Bell recessed the Special Meeting and entered into Executive Session at 1:19 pm.*

5.I. Section 551.071 (Consultation With Attorney)

6. ACTIONS TAKEN FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION

***Mayor Bell closed the Executive Session and reconvened the Special Meeting at 2:36 pm*

6.I. Section 551.071 (Consultation With Attorney)

No action was taken.

7. ORDINANCES

7.I. Ordinance No. O-2022-0011

City Attorney Knebel clarified some of the concerns expressed by citizens earlier in the meeting.

No action was taken on this item, due to lack of a motion. THIS ITEM FAILED.

8. RESOLUTIONS

8.I. Resolution No. R-2022-0061

City Attorney Knebel clarified the reasoning for this item being on the agenda, citing the legal requirement to adopt a resolution if the proposed tax rate had proceeded.

Councilmember Yancy spoke to the election situation and thanked the City Attorney, City Manager, and the rest of the Council for all of the hard work and dedication in this matter.

Mayor Pro Tem Compian shared that he too has been researching the obligations of all involved, clarified his reasoning for supporting the 53 53-cent rate proposal, and reconfirmed that there is an ability for the council to reduce the tax rate, the council never had any intention of formally adopting a 53-cent tax rate, but more time was needed to resolve the issues that were found during the process. He states that the City still has work to do on finances, he would like to see the corrected tax worksheets, as well as a 3 to 5-year financial plan for the City. The 2022-2023 fiscal year will be a very lean year.

Councilmember Carlson spoke to the comments made by the public that the council needs to listen to its constituents, "We hear you. We have always heard you".

Mayor Bell spoke about the results of this decision, millions of dollars have been removed from the budget. We need to make the right decisions for the community. he also reminded the community that he voted against the initial proposed rate.

City Manager Garcia asked for the council's blessing in hosting a budget town hall meeting.

No action was taken on this item.

9. APPOINTMENTS

Mayor Bell nominated Patricia Shipley, Doug Boudoin, and Sherryl Gray to the TIRZ Board. Councilmember Carlson seconded the motion. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

10. NEW BUSINESS

10.I. Items For The Good Of The Order

Councilmember Carlson requested information regarding a cap on reserve funds at 35 or 40 percent and if it will still provide 90 day allowance.

Council shared their sympathies to staff members who are grieving the loss of family during this time.

Mayor Bell "no matter where you fit, we will all get through this, we will heal, and we will all be family and neighbors again" and council will continue to work to do what is best for the city.

Mayor Bell and the rest of Council honored Mayor Geraldine Sam who passed during this last week, sharing anecdotes and remembrances of her.

Mayor Pro Tem also acknowledged the passing of Lucille Monyas, a long time resident of La Marque who passed at the age of 99.

11. ADJOURNMENT

Councilmember Carlson made a motion to adjourn. Mayor Pro Tem Compian seconded. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

***Meeting was adjourned at 3:20 pm*

Keith Bell, Mayor

Kierra K. Nance, TRMC, City Clerk