

**MINUTES
ELGIN CITY COUNCIL
SPECIAL MEETING
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2017
CITY ANNEX COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 310 NORTH MAIN STREET**

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Chris Cannon called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Present: Chris Cannon, Mayor

Juan Gonzalez, Mayor Pro Tem

Susie Arreaga, Council Member

Jessica Bega, Council Member

Mary Penson, Council Member

Daniel Lopez, Council Member

Phillip Thomas, Council Member

Sue Brashar, Council Member

Neil Beyer, Council Member

Staff: Thomas L. Mattis, City Manager

Chris Bratton, Police Chief

Buck LaQuey, Finance Director

Mayor Cannon stated all members were present and certified that there was a quorum.

INVOCATION

Council Member Penson gave the invocation

Mayor Cannon recessed the regular meeting at 7:01 p.m. and called to order the Public Hearing.

PUBLIC HEARING

1. A Public Hearing on the City of Elgin Ad Valorem (Property) Tax Rate proposed for FY 2017-18 of \$.656916 per \$100 valuation.

There was no one wishing to speak on this item.

CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

September 12, 2017 – Page 2

City Annex Council Chambers

2. A Public Hearing on the Proposed 2017-2018 City of Elgin Annual Budget for all city funds and programs.

Council Member Penson asked if the \$20 increase in the utility bill was across the board and if it affected everyone. City Manager Thomas Mattis answered that yes it did, for commercial and residential. He stated that the \$20 was just an average but could be a little less.

Mayor Pro Tem Gonzalez asked about the increase in expenditures for the Library from \$30,000 to \$70,000. Council Member Brashar answered that it was due to the restructuring of expenditures in the budget per department. City Manager Thomas Mattis stated that was correct and was due to the reallocation of expenditures per department and would be a truer reflection of expenditures per department.

Council Member Bega asked when the utility rate increase would take place. City Manager Thomas Mattis stated the plan was to put a message on the October water bill that would go out mid-month with the new bill going out in November. Council Member Bega stated she knew it was hard to know but hopefully next year there would be no need for another increase and asked if the utility rate included water, wastewater and garbage. She stated that it might be in the best interest of the city to bid out the garbage service to offset what they were doing with water. Mr. Mattis stated that was correct, that the water and sewer rates were included in the budget but the garbage was on top of that and the discussion now with Republic was if we kept the same services exactly as it is they are looking for an increase of \$1.50. Mr. Mattis stated that the situation is not unusual if you don't keep up with the rates every year eventually you have to do something, so this was a big bite but thinks this will level things off, and would do everything to avoid another increase next year.

Council Member Arreaga asked if the increase in garbage would be on top of the \$20 rated increase. Mr. Mattis replied that the budget as presented now assumes it will continue at the same rate it is now. Council Member Arreaga asked about a comment made at the last meeting about some citizens paying a lower rate and asked if that had been adjusted to the rate everyone pays. Mr. Mattis replied that it had been adjusted upward to what they should have been paying all along. Council Member Brashar stated that they had discussed a rate increase in the past but had not done it. Mayor Cannon agreed and said had they done a smaller increase every year they would not have to have increased as much this year.

City Manager Thomas Mattis stated that typically by this time in the budget process in other cities he had worked he would have been asked by the media about the increase but had not heard anything here yet. He asked the Council if the city should be doing more in informing the public about the increase to let them know this is coming. The Council agreed they should issue a statement regarding the rates in the newspaper.

Mr. Mattis stated that next week would be the final adoption of the budget and Tax Rate.

CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

September 12, 2017 – Page 3

City Annex Council Chambers

Mayor Cannon closed the Public Hearing at 7:44 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mayor Cannon opened the Public Comment at 7:44 p.m.

James McCutcheon spoke and stated that after listening to the discussion he felt it was a bad time for him to be bring up his concerns. He stated that the Police department had done a good job with radar on Lexington Road and understood they could not be there 24-7. He stated there was a real danger with no sidewalks and traffic at 40-50 mph and he would like to request speed bumps on Lexington at some point in the future.

With no one else wishing to speak Mayor Cannon closed the Public Comment at 7:47 p.m.

NEW BUSINESS

1. A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF ELGIN, TEXAS AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE AN EXTENSION OF THE SERVICE AGREEMENT WITH BFI SERVICES OF TEXAS FOR SOLID WASTE DISPOSAL AND COLLECTION; AND PROVIDING FOR RELATED MATTERS.

Council Member Thomas moved to approve the Resolution for the contract extension as presented. Council Member Penson seconds the motion. Motion carried 8-1 with Council Member Bega voting no.

2. Discussion and possible action regarding a request from the Elgin Parks and Recreation Department to waive the Open Container Ordinance at the Veterans' Memorial Park. The Parks Department will be sponsoring a free concert as part of their fall activities and programming. The concert is free and open to the public and will be held on Friday, September 29, 2017 from 5:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m.

Council Member Brashar moved to approve to waive the Open Container Ordinance on September 29th in Veterans' Park from 5:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. Council Member Beyer seconds the motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote 9-0.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Mattis mentioned TML and asked if spouses should be registered for the conference. Mayor Cannon stated that in order to attend the trade shows they needed to be registered.

CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

September 12, 2017 – Page 4

City Annex Council Chambers

Council Member Person mentioned that TML would be the same night as National Night Out on October 3rd. Mayor Cannon stated that typically they moved the council meeting for National Night Out. Chief Bratton stated he would have a list of addresses for the National Night Out parties for Council soon.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Cannon adjourned the City Council meeting at 8:02 p.m.

APPROVED



CHRIS CANNON, MAYOR

ATTEST:



AMELIA SANCHEZ

City Secretary