MINUTES
ELGIN CITY COUNCIL REGULAR VIRTUAL MEETING
City Council Chambers Annex, 310 NORTH MAIN STREET
August 18, 2020

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Cannon called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Present: Chris Cannon, Mayor
Jessica Bega, Mayor Pro Tem
Mary Penson, Council Member
Susie Arreaga, Council Member
Brad Jones, Council Member
Sue Brashar, Council Member
Forest Dennis, Council Member

Mayor Canon certified there was a quorum and that Council Member Lopez and Council Member Gonzalez had notified him that they would not be in attendance.

Council Member Penson moved to excuse Council Member Lopez and Council Member Gonzalez. Council Member Arreaga seconds the motion. Motion carried 7-0.

Staff: Thomas L. Mattis, City Manager
Charles Cunningham, Finance Director
Michael Gonzalez, Parks Director
Amy Miller, Community
David Harrell, Planning Director
Pam Sanders, HR Director

INVOCATION

Council Member Penson gave the invocation.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments.

PRESENTATION

1. PROCLAMATION FREDA PIERCE DAY

Mayor Cannon stated that Ms. Pierce were tuned in he would not read it but rather thanked her for all of her years of service and mentioned all of the departments she had worked in with the city.

CITY MANAGERS REPORT

1. Update on City of Elgin Coronavirus (COVID-19 Pandemic Response and/or Impacts.

City Manager Thomas Mattis stated that there was nothing new to report on the Coronavirus response and remained at a modified Threat Level IV. He stated he left this item on the agenda for questions or comments from Council and that on August 31st staff would reassess the situation. He stated he had received information that the County would be opening a testing site at Seton Elgin.

Mayor Cannon discussed having in person meetings now that the new Council Chambers was ready to use. He stated that if this situation came up again the city had the capabilities to have the meetings both virtually and in person. He asked the Council Members if they would be comfortable having in person meetings in September. Council Member Arreaga asked if the meeting could be held both virtually and in person. Mayor Cannon replied that yes that could be done and could be non-mandatory so they could still attend virtually, but it would be an option only to Council Members and not open to the public. Mayor Pro Tem Bega asked if it would complicate logistics and presentations for staff if some were virtual and some in person. City Manager Thomas Mattis stated that capabilities across the board were being increased, with a bigger dais for Council, a PA system with microphones for all Council Members, a better AV system and tie into a master system so he felt that it would all work. Council Member Dennis asked if some were virtual would everyone be able to see each other so that whoever logs in can see the Council. Mr. Mattis stated that yes, every Council Member would be seen in a wide screen and not individually. It was decided that if they could meet safely then the next meeting would be virtual and in person.

2. Review and Discussion of Schedule for Adoption of the FY2020-21 Annual Budget and Property Tax Rate.

City Manager Thomas Mattis spoke and stated that this item was for discussion. He stated that there was a work session scheduled for last week but was swapped out for the budget briefings done with Council Members and that there was one more of these to be done. He said as part of the schedule on the calendar was to be next Tuesday on the 25th and then another one on September 8th after the public hearing. He stated that after the briefings staff had shared all the information they had with the Council. He stated that for these next two sessions if held staff would need guidance from the Council on how to proceed. He stated tonight they would be voting to set the public hearing on the tax rate for September 1st. He stated in the past two separate hearing were required on the tax rate but because the recommendation is to lower the tax rate, we are only required to have one, and as per the City Charter a public hearing on the budget was required. He stated that in spite of the situation with the pandemic and that the Governor has suspended many aspects having to do with the Open Meetings Act, he and the Attorney General have specifically said they are not suspending the rules for in person public hearings on the tax rate.

Mayor Cannon asked the Council for input on more meetings. Mayor Pro Tem Bega stated that it might be better to have a meeting after the public hearing for any input someone might have. Mayor Cannon agreed and stated that September 8th might be better for another discussion. He stated to cancel the 25th and keep the September 8th and all agreed.

3. General Activity Report and/or Project Update.

City Manager Thomas Mattis stated that he had no reports.

CONSENT AGENDA

1. City Council Virtual Regular Meeting Minutes – July 21, 2020 and August 4, 2020.

Council Member Brashar moved to approve the July 21, 2020 and August 4, 2020 meeting minutes. Council Member Jones seconds the motion. Motion carried 7-0.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Consider Setting A Date of September 1, 2020 For A Public Hearing on Tax Increase and Vote on a Proposed Tax Rate Of .635663 Per $100 Valuation.

Council Member Penson moved to approve setting a date of September 1, 2020 for a Public Hearing on Tax Increase and Vote on a Proposed Tax Rate of .635663 Per $100 Valuation. Mayor Pro Tem Bega seconds the motion. Motion carried 7-0.

2. A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF ELGIN, TEXAS, ESTABLISHING A SOCIAL MEDIA COMMENTING POLICY FOR ALL CITY PLATFORMS INCLUDING FACEBOOK AND TWITTER: AND PROVIDING FOR RELATED MATTERS.

Council Member Dennis moved to approve the Resolution as presented. Council Member Jones seconds the motion. Motion carried 7-0.

3. A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ELGIN, TEXAS AWARDING A BID FOR THE FM 1704 WASTEWATER EXTENSION PROJECT TO M&C FONSECA CONSTRUCTION COMPANY AND AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE A CONTRACT FOR SAME IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED $1,976,345.00 FOR CONSTRUCTION OF WASTWATER FACILITIES STIPULATED IN THE BID AND MAKING CERTAIN FINDINGS RELATED THERETO.

Council Member Penson moved to approve the Resolution as presented. Council Member Brashar seconds the motion. Motion carried 7-0

4. A RESOLUTION OF CITY OF ELGIN TEXAS, AUTHORIZING THE AWARD OF AN ENGINEERING SERVICE PROVIDER CONTRACT FOR THE TEXAS GENERAL LAND OFFICE CDBG-MITIGATION 2015-2016-HURRICANE HARVEY COMPETITION GRANT

Council Member Penson moved to approve the Resolution as presented. Council Member Brashar seconds the motion. Motion carried 7-0.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

City Manager Thomas Mattis reminded everyone about the Circle Brewery groundbreaking on August 21st and hoped all could attend.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Cannon adjourned the City Council Meeting at 6:59 pm.

Chris Cannon, Mayor

ATTEST:

Amelia Sanchez, City Secretary