

**CITY OF VIDOR
VIDOR CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
JUNE 10, 2021**

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Councilmember Kelly Carder
Councilmember Nicole McGowan
Councilmember Misty Songe
Councilmember Jessica Barker
Councilmember Gary Herrera
Councilmember Larry Williams

MEMBERS ABSENT:

(Mayor's Position - Vacant)

Administrative Personnel: Robbie Hood, City Manager; Vicki Watson, City Secretary; Chris Leavins, City Attorney; Cheryl Ray, Supervisor of Finance & Accounting; and Rodney Johnson, Police Captain

A. OPENING, PRESENTATIONS, AND CITIZENS COMMENTS

A -1. Call to order and the establishment of a Quorum

A quorum was present, and the Regular Meeting of the Vidor City Council began at 7:00 p.m., Mayor Pro-tem Songe presiding.

A -2. Invocation and Pledge to the United States Flag and the State of Texas Flag

Chris Leavins, City Attorney, gave the Invocation and led the Pledge to the United States Flag and the State of Texas Flag.

A -3. Citizen Comments

There were no citizen comments.

B. COUNCIL CONSENT AGENDA

B -1. Approval of Accounts Paid:

Paid Invoices:	General Fund - \$108,562.04
	Emergency Management - \$95.78
	LEOSE - \$1,150.00
	Hotel Occupancy - \$300.00
	Disaster Fund - \$1,674.05
	Sanitation Fund - \$14,566.91
	Employee Benefits Trust - \$57,733.27

B -2. Approval of Minutes: Regular Meeting – May 27, 2021

B -3. Ratification of the transfer of funds from Interest & Sinking 2013 General Obligation Refunding Bonds-Capital One Bank account to Interest & Sinking 2008/2016 General Obligation Refunding Bonds-TexPool account in the following amounts:

May 27, 2021:	\$ 2,543.64
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A motion was made by Councilmember Herrera, seconded by Councilmember Carder, to **APPROVE THE COUNCIL CONSENT AGENDA AS PRESENTED**. The Council voted six (6) for and none (0) opposed. The motion carried.

C. COUNCIL REGULAR AGENDA

C -1. Discussion and possible action to set a date & time for a Special Called meeting to canvass the June 12, 2021 Runoff Election

Vicki Watson, City Secretary, explained the period to canvass the results from the runoff election ends the day before our regularly scheduled meeting per the Election Code and discussed options for a Special Called Meeting to canvass the results from Saturday's election. Ms. Watson suggested cancelling the regular meeting on June 24, 2021, and holding a special meeting on that Monday or Tuesday. Discussion ensued.

A motion was made by Councilmember Carder, seconded by Councilmember Barker, to **schedule the Special Called meeting to canvass the runoff election results for Monday, June 21, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.** The Council voted six (6) for and none (0) opposed. The motion carried.

C -2. Budget presentation

Cheryl Ray, Supervisor of Finance & Accounting, gave a presentation regarding the budget process for Council and the audience. Ms. Ray reviewed the ways the City of Vidor receives revenue (*property taxes, sales tax, franchise fees, fines and forfeitures, donations, grants, etc.*) and the percentages. Ms. Ray explained out of the 8.25% sales tax, the City's portion is only 1.5%; the rest goes to the State (6.25%) and the County (0.5%).

Ms. Ray gave an overview of the property tax rate for the current and past several years; the preliminary appraised values; property tax caps; legislation changes affecting franchise fees and fines collected by the Municipal Court; and the budget process. Ms. Ray discussed the other taxing entities for City of Vidor residents and their rates and gave an approximate annual and monthly cost breakdown for residents based on the taxable value of the average home.

Ms. Ray explained the first draft of the budget and the proposed tax rate based on the preliminary values provided by the Orange County Tax Assessor Collector will be presented near the end of July. Ms. Ray stated there are generally 3-4 drafts of the budget before a tax rate is set and the budget is finalized in late September, but once Council receives the tentative budget, nothing is added or deleted without Council's approval. In closing, Ms. Ray presented things for Council to consider for future budgets. Discussion ensued.

C -3. Consideration and possible action to approve a Resolution approving the recommendation of the Selection Review Committee for administration services in conjunction with the submittal of an application for funding through the 2021 Hazard Mitigation Grant Program for DR-4586 Winter Storm 2021 to prove application preparation, project administration, and project-related management services, if awarded

Cheryl Ray, Supervisor of Finance & Accounting, explained when we went out for bids for several weeks for the HMGP, we said it was for Laura, but it was also HMGP for the Winter Storm. Ms. Ray stated we had picked Traylor & Associates, and this is to show that it is for both.

A motion was made by Councilmember Herrera, seconded by Councilmember Williams, to **approve Resolution 1005**. The Council voted six (6) for and none (0) opposed. The motion carried.

C -4. Discussion and possible action to appoint a member to the Planning and Zoning Commission

Mayor Pro-tem Songe explained there is one seat available. Robbie Hood, City Manager, stated this position is for two years. No names were brought forth, and the item was tabled until the next meeting.

C -5. Discussion and possible action to create a Neighborhood Enforcement and Traffic (NEAT) program

Robbie Hood, City Manager, stated Councilmember Herrera brought up this community policing idea in a conversation recently regarding traffic. Councilmember Herrera explained this has been done in the past, mostly in the summer months when kids are out of school. Mr. Herrera stated \$5,000 was put aside for extra police overtime hours (*approximately 98 hours broken into 4-hour increments*). Mr. Herrera explained this overtime is for officers to go out deep into our residential neighborhoods and run traffic. Mr. Herrera stated this is not a revenue maker but will be left up to the officers' discretion.

Mr. Herrera explained in the past, an ad campaign ran for a couple of weeks prior to the start of the program to let everyone know that we would be out in the neighborhoods. Mr. Herrera suggested putting this in the budget every year so that the program would automatically run every summer when school gets out. Mr. Herrera stated the overtime will be dependent on Chief Carroll and the availability of the officers.

Mayor Pro-tem Songe suggested each Council member identify a street, or streets, in their wards that could benefit from this. Councilmember Barker stated if we are going to put something into our budget, she does not want it to be just a slap on the wrist. Ms. Barker stated it is not to make money but to slow these people down. Ms. Songe stated it is currently up to the officer's discretion, and Police Captain Rodney Johnson concurred and explained when an officer makes a stop, we cannot legally tell them that they have to write a ticket. Mr. Hood stated we cannot dictate that they write a citation, but we want them to enforce the law. A brief discussion ensued regarding four-wheelers on East Railroad and in neighborhoods.

Councilmember Herrera made a motion to **move forward on the NEAT program for \$5,000 overtime to begin as soon as possible**, and Councilmember Carder seconded. The Council voted six (6) for and none (0) opposed. The motion carried.

C -6. Consideration of Adjournment

A motion was made by Councilmember Herrera, seconded by Councilmember Carder, for **Consideration of Adjournment**. The Council voted six (6) for and none (0) opposed. The motion carried, and the Regular Meeting of the Vidor City Council adjourned at 7:42 p.m.

These minutes approved July 1, 2021.



Misty Songe, Mayor

ATTEST:



Vicki Watson, City Secretary