

Interim City Manager
Shirley Holm

City Secretary
D'Ann Lane

City Attorney
Epi Ysassi

City of George West



Mayor
Andrew J. Garza

Mayor Pro-Tem
Jearl Rannefeld

Council
Tim Humphrey
Patricia Clifton
John Walker

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REGULAR SESSION CITY COUNCIL MEETING AND BUDGET WORKSHOP MINUTES- JULY 16, 2020

I. The City Council met in Regular Session with Mayor Andrew Garza, calling the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

II. Roll Call by City Secretary D'Ann Lane.

Council Present: Mayor Andrew Garza, Council Members, Patricia Clifton, Jearl Rannefeld, and John Walker

Council Absent: Tim Humphrey

Staff Present: Shirley Holm, D'Ann Lane, Yolanda Guerrero, Pete Pena, Jimmy Loya, and Haley Maywald.

Attorney Present: Epi Ysassi was via webex.

Guests Present: See Sign-In Sheet

III. Mayor Andrew Garza, gave the Invocation.

IV. City Secretary D'Ann Lane, led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States.

V. City Secretary D'Ann Lane, led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of Texas.

VI. Public comments were made by Sandra Amoles, she did an open records request for the mileage on police units. Mrs. Amoles is concerned that this is costing tax payers money. Mrs. Amoles believes all interim positions need to be filled. Mrs. Amoles states that City Council Meetings need to be posted on Facebook. Mrs. Amoles also stated that money recovered from a traffic stop needs to be publicized.

VII. Announcements and Correspondence

- a) Judge Huff extended the mask requirements for Live Oak County until July 31, 2020.

CONSENT AGENDA:

1. **Consideration and Action** to change the time of the August City Council Regular Session Meeting to 6:30 p.m.
2. **Consideration and Action** to approve the following minutes:
 - a) **Regular Session City Council Meeting Minutes 6-25-2020.**

Mayor Garza, asked if anything needed to be pulled, and nothing was pulled. Mayor Garza, called for vote. All in favor. Motion carried.

WORKSHOP:

3. **Discussion** on 2020-2021 Proposed Budget.

In conjunction with the Open Meetings Act, there will be No Citizen Participation during the Workshop.

The City of George West held a Workshop to discuss the proposed annual budget for fiscal year October 1, 2020 through September 30, 2020.

Mayor Garza, entertained a motion to recess. Move as read by Patricia Clifton, seconded by Jearl Rannefeld. The council entered a recess at 7:25 p.m.

Mayor Garza, entertained a motion to reconvene. Move as read by John Walker, seconded by Patricia Clifton. All in favor. The council reconvened at 7:48 p.m.

Mayor Garza, entertained a motion to table this agenda item. Move as read by Jearl Rannefeld, seconded by Patricia Clifton. All in favor. Budget workshop was tabled, until they finish the rest of meeting.

At 9:15 p.m. this agenda item was brought back to the table and the council continued to discuss the proposed annual budget for fiscal year October 1, 2020 through September 30, 2020.

BUSINESS:

4. **Consideration and Action** to select a contractor for the demolition of the said property at 200 San Antonio, St. based on bids received by City Manager.

Move as read by Jearl Rannefeld, seconded by John Walker. Patricia Clifton, recused herself from this agenda item. Mrs. Clifton's husband's brother bid on all of the properties. This property was on the council meeting last month for demolition. Mayor Garza entertained a motion to amend agenda item #4 by striking "a contractor" and inserting "S&J Lease Service LLC." Strike "on bids received by city manager" insert "in the amount of \$5,500.00." Move as read by John

Walker, seconded by Jearl Rannefeld. All in favor. Amendment carried with majority vote. 3 ayes 1 abstain (Patricia Clifton).

Amended Agenda Item #4 **Consideration and Action** to select S&J Lease Service, LLC. for the demolition of the said property at 200 San Antonio St. in the amount of \$5,500.00. Mayor Garza, called for a vote. All in favor. Motion Carried with majority vote. Patricia Clifton abstained.

5. Consideration and Action to select a contractor for the demolition of the said property at 107 Houston St. based on bids received by City Manager.

Move as read by Jearl Rannefeld, seconded by John Walker. Patricia Clifton recused herself from this agenda item. The owner of this building has been present at Building Standards Board Committee Meetings. He is working on a plan to possibly get the property cleaned up. This place is considered littering so could be fined up to \$2000.00 per day for the next 30 days. John Walker stated, "Nothing will get done down there if it looks like that." Patricia Clifton cannot discuss bidding but she can talk about the property. Patricia Clifton thinks this building is a hazard. Jearl Rannefeld stated that this property was on the first meeting of the Building Standards Board. Mayor Garza stated, "He has 30 days to clean it up if not he will get fined \$2000.00." The council called City Attorney Epi Ysassi, for his opinion on this property. Mayor Garza entertained a motion to amend agenda item #5 by striking "a contractor" and inserting "Manuel Contracting Services" and also striking "based on bids received by city manager" and insert "in the amount \$18368.00." Move as read by Jearl Rannefeld, seconded by John Walker. All in favor. 3 aye 1 abstain. Amendment passes through majority vote. Amended agenda item. Call for a vote. All in favor. Motion carried. Patricia Clifton abstained from vote.

Amended Agenda Item #5 **Consideration and Action** to select Manuel Contracting Services for the demolition of the said property at 107 Houston St. in the amount of \$18,368.00. Mayor Garza, called for a vote. All in favor. Motion Carried with majority vote. Patricia Clifton abstained.

6. Consideration and Action to select a contractor for the demolition of the said property at 108 Houston St. based on bids received by City Manager.

Move as read by Jearl Rannefeld, seconded by John Walker. Mayor Garza entertained a motion to change agenda item to a discussion. Move as read by Jearl Rannefeld, seconded by John Walker. All in favor. Motion carried with majority vote. Patricia Clifton abstained. Shirley Holm needed to do a discussion on this item. It is not to this step yet in the Building Standards Board guidelines. Shirley has been visiting with the owner and he is working on what he can do himself to get this building in compliance. The owner must have one more hearing, and then it will be brought back to the council.

7. Consideration and Action to select a contractor to level up and seal coat a section of Houston St. based on bids received by City Manager.

Move as read by Jearl Rannefeld, seconded by John Walker. Open for discussion. During the FY 2019/2020 budget we budgeted \$100,000 on streets. The city has expended about half of these

funds so far; therefore, the City Manager has gone out for bids to spend the money on repairing a very high traffic area of the city which is Houston St. and received only one bid from Williams Road LLC. This company has done work in Three Rivers. The contractor will need to resend this bid ABCDE and the other ABCD&F strike out complete specification and needs to say A B C D E, and B mark out A-F A B D &F. Mayor Garza entertained a motion to amend Agenda Item #7 by striking “a contractor” and replacing with “Williams Road LLC” striking “on bids received by City Manager” insert “using pricing option A in the amount of \$47000.00.” Move as read by Jearl Rannefeld, seconded by John Walker. All in favor. Amendment carried.

Amended Agenda Item #7 **Consideration and Action** to select Williams Road, LLC to level up and seal coat a section of Houston St. using pricing option A in the amount of \$47,000.00. Mayor Garza called for a vote. All in favor. Motion Carried.

8. Consideration and Action to approve Accounts Payable for June 2020. Move as read by Patricia Clifton, seconded by Jearl Rannefeld. All in favor. Motion carried.

BRIEFINGS:

9. Interim City Manager’s Report:

- a) Revenue and Expense Report for June 2020.
- b) City and Project Updates

Shirley Holm gave the Revenue and Expense Report for the month of June 2020 and year to date for FY 2019-2020. She reported that the revenue and expenditures should be around 75% collected and expended year to date; however, revenue is short in the General Fund by 6.5% and as planned in the Utility Fund. Both General and Utility Funds are reporting expenditures under plan by 5% and 12% respectfully for year to date. With the General Fund and Utility Fund combined, there is a surplus of \$210,865.00. We are anticipating to break even at the end of the fiscal year, due to keeping expenditures below budget. The total bank balances equal \$ 1,730,418.65 through July 15, 2020. Of the total bank balances, the majority of the Funds are in the Disbursement Account #90-100 in the amount of \$1,198,034.98 and it should be noted that in the Special Police Fund (State Forfeitures) #24-101 an amount of \$ 232,717.33 from the 156th Judicial District Attorney was received and deposited.

Shirley Holm also reported on her research regarding the possibility of having Republic provide containers to the City on a quarterly basis for citizens to use for bulky pickup, which we monitor ourselves. She has provided the City Council with the pricing that Republic gave to her; however, it was somewhat confusing as to the actual charge each time that it would be when containers are picked up; therefore, more research will be done and brought back to the City Council in a future month. She also reported that the refund of the Bonds at an interest rate of 2.01% will save the City of George West \$ 138,000. She continues to see many management decisions assisting in saving the City consultant fees.

Shirley Holm, also wanted to respond to the public comment made by Sandra Amoles tonight. The police department vehicles, which Sandra Amoles is referring to are units 1901 and 1903, which she claims has excessive mileage on them. Sandra Amoles mentions too that these units

do not need to be taken home. As for the miles, I will need to do research with other government agencies to see what is the average annual miles on law enforcement vehicles to determine if it is excessive. Back in 2018 a determination was made for the George West Police Department to take their vehicles home based on more police presence in the community, quicker response time when being called out, morale within the department and branding. Each officer has been issued guidelines on usage and are monitored closely by the Chief of Police. As far as costing tax papers more money, the revenue and expense report through June 30, 2020 does not reflect that it is costing the city more money. Regarding Sandra Amoles' statement regarding City Council needing to address Interim Positions sooner than later, I would like to respond to this statement. I have noted that this is the third meeting that she has asked this question. After the May 21, 2020 meeting, I asked her to come in my office so that we could visit, as I personally took offense to her thinking the Interim's needed to be advertised & filled. At that meeting, I shared with her many duties & responsibilities that go in to each of the positions, especially the Interim City Manager position and the progress that I felt we had made. I felt that she understood. Since this topic has come up at several more meetings, I want to say the following for the record as the Interim City Manager. As a retired Manager for the Department of Justice, I have supervised many department heads & I can say without a doubt that the Interim Public Works Director and the Interim Police Chief work really hard and do what is best for the City of George West day in and day out. I honestly feel that I too come with great credentials, expertise and knowledge, which has assisted the City greatly during the absence of a permanent City Manager. I take great pride in my work, covet my integrity and character at all times in this position. I do not mind if the City Council would like to advertise for these positions, but I also want it known that it would not be because these individuals are not capable of performing in an outstanding manner in these Interim Positions. She continued that it is an honor to work for the City. She also stated that she works almost full time every week, in spite of her initial hiring as part time. She works as many hours as needed to complete the administrative and fiscal needs of the City, which do not always include the typical 8am – 5pm schedule and especially since COVID-19.

John Walker responded that he feels it is his job as well as other Council Members to bring it to the public attention if we need a permanent City Manager. He for one is satisfied with the Interim City Manager, Interim Public Works Director and Interim Chief of Police.

Pat Clifton also agreed that the Interim City Manager has her full support.

10. Questions or Briefings at the City Council's Request:

- a) Code Enforcement
- b) Municipal Court Report
- c) Public Works
- d) Police Chief Report
- e) Animal Control

BUSINESS:

11. EXECUTIVE SESSION. In accordance with Section 551.071 of the Texas Government Code (Consultation with Attorney), the City Council may go into

executive session to discuss the following:

- a) Contemplated Litigation and updates on the George Vines case.

Mayor Garza, entertained a motion to go into Executive Session at 8:54 p.m. Move as read by Patricia Clifton, seconded by Jearl Rannefeld.

12. Reconvene

Mayor Garza, entertained a motion to reconvene at 9:15 p.m. Move as read by Patricia Clifton, seconded by Jearl Rannefeld. All in favor.

Bring back agenda item #3 to the table.

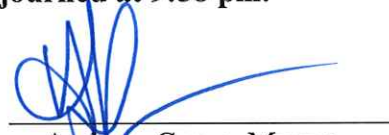
13. Adjournment

Mayor Garza, entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting. Move as read by John Walker, seconded by Patricia Clifton. All in favor. Meeting was adjourned at 9:58 pm.

ATTEST:


D'Ann Lane, City Secretary

SIGNED:


Andrew Garza, Mayor