

City of George West, Texas

Interim City Manager
Shirley Holm

City Secretary
D'Ann Lane

City Attorney
Epi Ysassi



406 Nueces Street • George West, Texas 78022
Phone 361-449-1556 • Fax 361-449-3030

Mayor
Andrew J. Garza

Mayor Pro-Tem
Jearl Rannefeld

Council
Tim Humphrey
Patricia Clifton
John Walker

REGULAR SESSION CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES 8/16/2021

- I. Call Meeting to Order-Mayor Garza called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.
- II. Roll Call- All council was present.
- III. Invocation- Tim Humphrey gave the invocation.
- IV. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States- D'Ann Lane led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States.
- V. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of Texas- D'Ann Lane led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of Texas.
- VI. Public Comments

None

VII. Announcements and Correspondence

- a. Brush pickup is August 30, 2021.
- b. September 23-24, 2021 will be bulky trash pickup.
- c. Free Brush Pick up by Republic August 30, 2021

CONSENT AGENDA:

1. **Consideration and Action** to change the time of the September 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 7-20-2021.**
 - b) **Consideration and Action** to approve Accounts Payable for July 2021.

Mayor Garza asked if anything needed to be pulled from the consent agenda. Nothing was pulled. All in favor. Motion carried.

BUSINESS:

3. **Consideration and Action to convene into EXECUTIVE SESSION. In accordance with Section 551.072 of the Texas Government Code (Deliberations about Real Property), the City Council may go into executive session to discuss the following:**

- a) Discussion on the Waste Water Sewer Treatment Plant.

Mayor Garza entertained a motion to enter Executive Session. Move as read by Patricia Clifton. Seconded by Tim Humphrey. Mayor Garza called for a vote. All in favor. Council entered Executive Session at 6:44 p.m.

4. Consideration and Action to Reconvene

Zoom ID: 871 0811 6698

PW: 655570

Mayor Garza entertained a motion to reconvene. Move as read by Patricia Clifton. Seconded by Tim Humphrey. All in favor. Council reconvened at 7:11 p.m.

5. Consideration and Action to retain Jackson Walker L.L.P. for legal services regarding the Waste Water Treatment Plant.

Move as read by Patricia Clifton. Seconded by Jearl Rannefeld. There was no discussion. All in favor. Motion Carried.

6. Discussion on Animal Control and appropriate Chain of Command.

Mayor Garza called for no action.

7. Discussion on 2021-2022 Proposed Budget Workshop.

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

Mayor Garza, stated that Shirley Holm has done an outstanding job in the last few years with the budget. The city has never had any issues since she has been doing it. He trusts her 150% on this. There has never been anyone in the history of George West that has been able to do a budget the way that she can do it. He will go with any suggestions or recommendations that she has, the council agreed with him. Ms. Holm reported that she spent a lot of time with the department heads regarding the 2021-2022 Budget for their respective areas. She stated that in both the General and Utility Fund both the revenue will stay the same. We are already seeing our sales tax revenue coming back up this month. She feels comfortable using the same numbers we had last year. The revenue and expenditures are the same. She is proposing the 2021-2022 General Fund Budget to be set at \$1,828,194.00 and the Utility Fund at \$1,898,353.00 for a total of \$ 3,726,547. She added that an increase for projected performance evaluations and COLA increases are in the budget if City Council votes for COLA in 2022. The fuel line time for all departments have increased due to increases in fuel cost. In the Police Department we added a monthly maintenance fee for a K9 Police Dog, which is an increase of \$ 12,000. Chief Perkins would

like to get a K-9 dog for this next fiscal year. Mr. Perkins will be asking for that money at the next City Council meeting to be purchased out of the Drug Fund. Vehicle maintenance has increased in all departments. There used to be a mechanic in Public Works, but we chose not to have one and it seems to have been working out to outsource that service. There is only one piece of equipment requested by the Utility Department. Several request for equipment will be on the agenda later for approval to purchase in the 2020-2021 Utility Budget Funds. Public Works would like to explore getting a generator with lights for working at night. The Police Department would like to get two more vehicles. Ms. Holm stated that the two new vehicles can also be purchased with the 2020-2021 Budget Funds if approved by Council. The K9 that chief is looking at is a tracking dog so it would serve a dual purpose.

8. Consideration and Action to set the 2021 proposed Property Tax Rate.

Move as read by Jearl Rannefeld. Seconded by Patricia Clifton. Open for discussion. Shirley Holm stated that the appraisal office are still working on the "Truth and Taxation" Worksheet for the 2021 Proposed Property Tax Rates. The total property certification value was not much different from 2020. Ms. Holm reported that Epi Ysassi, City Attorney is involved in the process due to the overpayment in the Debt Service Fund 30; however, it will be resolved by August 17, 2021. Mayor Garza entertained a motion to postpone agenda item number 8. Move as read by John Walker. Seconded by Patricia Clifton. All in favor. Agenda item number 8 is postponed.

9. Consideration and Action to set the date and times for Public Hearings on Proposed FY 2021-2022 Tax Rate.

Move as read by Patricia Clifton. Seconded by Tim Humphrey. Open for discussion. Shirley Holm went over the proposed dates. If we get the Proposed Property Tax Rate by August 17, 2021, we could have an Emergency Meeting on Thursday, August 19, 2021. The first proposed date is September 9, 2021 for the First Hearing and September 23, 2021 for the Second Hearing. The attachment is entered as Exhibit GW-2021-020. Mayor Garza entertained a motion to amend agenda item #9 by inserting at the end "as depicted on Exhibit GW-2021-020." Move as read by John Walker. Seconded by Patricia Clifton. All in favor. Amendment carried.

Amended agenda item #9 Consideration and Action to set the date and times for Public Hearings on Proposed FY 2021-2022 Tax Rate as depicted on Exhibit GW-2021-020. All in favor. Motion carried.

10. Consideration and Action to set dates and times for FY 2021-2022 Proposed Budget Public Hearings.

Move as read by Jearl Rannefeld. Seconded by Tim Humphrey. Mayor Garza entertained a motion to amend by at the end insert "as depicted on Exhibit GW-2021-2020." Move as read by Jearl Rannefeld. Seconded by John Walker. All in favor. Amendment carried.

Amended agenda item #10 Consideration and Action to set dates and times for FY 2021-2022 Proposed Budget Public Hearings as depicted on Exhibit GW-2021-2020. All in favor. Motion carried.

11. Consideration and Action to approve the purchase of one 84" wide Hydraulic Angle Broom Attachment for Public Works from Spartan Equipment in the amount of \$6,000.00.

Move as read by Patricia Clifton. Seconded by Tim Humphrey. Open for discussion. Pete Pena let the council know that it is an attachment for the skid steer. All in favor. Motion carried.

12. Consideration and Action to approve the purchase of one 72" wide Skid Steer Mower Attachment for Public Works from Spartan Equipment in the amount of \$8,500.00.

Move as read by Patricia Clifton. Seconded by Tim Humphrey. Open for discussion. This is also an attachment for the skid steer. Pete Pena let the council know that they would be able to clean-up better. Call for a vote. All in favor. Motion carried.

13. Consideration and Action to approve Proposition 2021-001, November 2, 2021; a proposed charter amendment to be placed on the City Election Ballot for November 2, 2021 from George West Charter, ARTICLE VI. CITY MANAGER, Section 6.01 Appointment and qualifications; amending the residential requirements for the City Manager by allowing residence within a 60 mile radius of George West; correcting all pronouns to identify as gender neutral; shall be appointed by and hold office at the pleasure of the council; and lastly, not prohibiting a member of the council to serve as the City Manager only after a one year waiting period; as further described in Exhibit GWCC-21-001.

Move as read by Patricia Clifton. Seconded by Jearl Rannefeld. Open for discussion. Jearl Rannefeld would like to change the 60 mile radius to 70. Mayor Garza entertained a motion to strike 60 mile radius and replace with 70 mile radius. Move as read by Jearl Rannefeld. Seconded by Tim Humphrey. All in favor. Amendment carried.

Amended Agenda item #13 Consideration and Action to approve Proposition 2021-001, November 2, 2021; a proposed charter amendment to be placed on the City Election Ballot for November 2, 2021 from George West Charter, ARTICLE VI. CITY MANAGER, Section 6.01 Appointment and qualifications; amending the residential requirements for the City Manager by allowing residence within a 70 mile radius of George West; correcting all pronouns to identify as gender neutral; shall be appointed by and hold office at the pleasure of the council; and lastly, not prohibiting a member of the council to serve as the City Manager only after a

one year waiting period; as further described in **Exhibit GWCC-21-001**

Patricia Clifton, asked why it was all on one agenda item. Mayor Garza stated that this came from an old Ordinance so it must stay in one Ordinance. The council discussed the proper wording for the Proposition. Mayor Garza entertained a motion to strike after lastly not prohibiting a member of the council to serve as the City Manager only after a one year waiting period; as further described in Exhibit GWCC-21-001 and replace it with and lastly City Council Members may become an employee of the City immediately following their voluntary discharge as a Mayor or City Council Member for the City of George West. Move as read by Patricia Clifton. Seconded by Tim Humphrey. All in favor. Amendment carried.

Amended Agenda Item #13 Amended Agenda item #13 Consideration and Action to approve Proposition 2021-001, November 2, 2021; a proposed charter amendment to be placed on the City Election Ballot for November 2, 2021 from George West Charter, ARTICLE VI. CITY MANAGER, Section 6.01 Appointment and qualifications; amending the residential requirements for the City Manager by allowing residence within a 70 mile radius of George West; correcting all pronouns to identify as gender neutral; shall be appointed by and hold office at the pleasure of the council; and lastly City Council Members may become an employee of the City immediately following their voluntary discharge as a Mayor or City Council Member for the City of George West. Move as read by Tim Humphrey. Seconded by Jearl Rannefeld. All in favor. Motion carried.

14. Consideration and Action to approve Proposition 2021-002, November 2, 2021; a proposed charter amendment to be placed on the City Election Ballot for November 2, 2021 from George West Charter, ARTICLE III. THE CITY COUNCIL, Section 3.10. (c); amending the residential requirements for the Chief of Police, by allowing residence within a 70 mile radius of George West; as further described in **Exhibit GWCC-21-002.**

Move as read by John Walker. Seconded by Patricia Clifton. Open for discussion. All in favor. Motion carried.

15. Consideration and Action to approve Proposition 2021-003, November 2, 2021; a proposed charter amendment to be placed on the City Election Ballot for November 2, 2021 from George West City Charter, ARTICLE IX. FINANCE ADMINISTRATION, Section 9.04. Contracts for city expenditures; amending the expenditure amounts for the City Manager and Department Heads, by allowing the City Manager to have the authority to make expenditures, without the approval of the city council, for all expenditures not exceeding ten thousand dollars (\$10,000.00) and the Department Heads the authority to make expenditures, without the approval of the city council, for all expenditures not exceeding five thousand dollars (\$5,000.00); and grammatical corrections; as further

described in **Exhibit GWCC-21-003**.

Move as read by John Walker. Seconded by Tim Humphrey. Open for discussion. Mayor Garza went over this Proposition. All in favor. Motion carried.

16. Consideration and Action to approve Proposition 2021-004, November 2, 2021; a proposed charter amendment to be placed on the City Election Ballot for November 2, 2021 from George West City Charter, ARTICLE III. THE CITY COUNCIL, Section 3.03. Compensation; amending compensation for the Mayor and Council Members by increasing compensation for the Mayor to \$50.00 per meeting; increasing compensation for Council Members to \$40.00 per meeting; allowing compensation for reasonable contracted or professional services, by the Mayor and / or Council Members, not to exceed six thousand dollars (\$6,000.00) per year, subject to the approval of the council; as further described in **Exhibit GWCC-21-004**.

Move as read by Patricia Clifton. Seconded by Tim Humphrey. Open for discussion. They discussed the amount that other cities pay their council members. This amount is lower than cities around us. All in favor. Motion carried.

17. Consideration and Action to approve Proposition 2021-005, November 2, 2021; a proposed charter amendment to be placed on the City Election Ballot for November 2, 2021 from George West City Charter, ARTICLE III. THE CITY COUNCIL, by adding Section 3.10: Mayor or City Council Members may become an employee of the City immediately following their voluntary discharge as a City Council Member for the City of George West; as further described in **Exhibit GWCC-21-005**.

Move as read by Patricia Clifton. Seconded by Tim Humphrey. All in favor. Motion carried.

18. Consideration and Action to approve Proposition 2021-006, November 2, 2021; a proposed charter amendment to be placed on the City Election Ballot for November 2, 2021 from George West City Charter, ARTICLE III. THE CITY COUNCIL, MUNICIPAL COURT Section 3.10; amending that the Mayor or Mayor Pro-Tem may serve as the Municipal Judge without the requirement of appointing a successor; as further described in **Exhibit GWCC-21-006**.

Move as read by Jearl Rannefeld. Seconded by Tim Humphrey. Open for discussion. The council voted with 3 ayes (Tim Humphrey, John Walker, and Jearl Rannefeld) 1 nay (Patricia Clifton). Motion carried.

19. Consideration and Action to approve Proposition 2021-007, November 2, 2021; to Legalize the sale of alcoholic beverages including mixed beverages; to be placed on the

City Election Ballot for November 2, 2021.

Move as read by Patricia Clifton. Seconded by Tim Humphrey. Open for discussion. D'Ann Lane announced for the record she received the petition and verified the signatures. The petition did receive the needed signatures. All in favor. Motion carried.

20. Consideration and Action to approve Proposition 2021-008, November 2, 2021; to explore the sale of the Natural Gas Distributing System owned by the City of George West, Texas.

Move as read by Patricia Clifton. Seconded by John Walker. Open for discussion. Ms. Holm stated that there have been several inquiries from Gas Distribution companies to operate and provide citizens with Gas. Based on several preliminary factors such as a yearly loss in providing Gas, mandatory guidelines with the Railroad Commission to upgrade our pipelines to poly, electronic reporting and very few Gas customers, she would recommend that we explore the option of letting a Gas Distribution Company operate the Gas System for the City. As for as cost to the citizens, it would also be explored to see if there could be Council vote on such increases/decreases proposed by outside firm. All in favor. Motion carried.

21. Consideration and Action on Issuing Order of Election for City Election to be held on November 2, 2021.

Consideration y acción sobre la Emisión de la Orden de la Elección para convocar la elección de la ciudad el 2 de noviembre de 2021.

Move as read Patricia Clifton. Seconded by Tim Humphrey. Open for discussion. All in favor. Motion carried.

BRIEFINGS:

22. Interim City Manager's Report:

- a) Revenue and Expense Report for July 2021.
- b) City and Project Updates

Ms. Holm reported that the City of George West is well within the 2020-2021 Budget for Revenues and Expenditures. Both General and Utility Funds are reporting a net positive balance of \$ 1,168,362 through July 31, 2021. The bank account balances are at a grand total of \$ 2,707,773. Due to the pandemic and shortages in revenue, all departments have done a great job to monitor expenditures closely to stay with budget.

23. 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

24. Adjournment

Mayor Garza entertained a motion to adjourn. Move as read by Tim Humphrey. Seconded by John Walker . All in favor. Meeting was adjourned at 9:22 p.m.

ATTEST: _____
D'Ann Lane, City Secretary

SIGNED: _____
Andrew Garza, Mayor