

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
Nathan Stroleny
David Ainsworth, Jr.
John Walker

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

REGULAR SESSION CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES 8/28/2024

- I.** Call Meeting to Order-Mayor Andrew Garza called the meeting to order at 5:38 p.m.
- II.** Roll Call-All council members were present.
- III.** Invocation-Mayor Andrew Garza gave the invocation.
- IV.** Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States-The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States was led by D'Ann Lane.
- V.** Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of Texas-The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of Texas was led by D'Ann Lane.
- VI.** Public Comments
NONE

- VII.** Announcements and Correspondence
 - a) George West Homecoming Parade will be on October 2, 2024, at 6:00 p.m.
 - b) Performance at Dobie West Theatre Bobby Smith will perform October 12, 2024, at 7 p.m. \$10 per person.
 - c) Big Lou's Labor Day Celebration at the City Park.
 - d) The benefit for Trooper Loya was a success.

CONSENT AGENDA

- 1. Consideration and Action** to change the time of the September City Council Regular Session Meeting to 5:00 p.m.
- 2. Consideration and Action** to approve the following minutes:
 - a) **Regular Session City Council Meeting Minutes 7/30/2024.**
- 3. Consideration and Action** to approve Accounts Payable for July 2024.
- 4. Consideration and Action** to approve the closures of Houston Street, South Pecos Street, and Fannin Street from 5:30-6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, October 2, 2024, for the George West Longhorn Homecoming Parade.

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

BUSINESS

5. Consideration and Action to ratify the approval to evenly distribute the monthly City Utility Bill donations to the following:

- a) Animal Control Support Group**
- b) Boys & Girls Club of Live Oak County**
- c) Dobie West Performing Art Theatre**
- d) Live Oak County Child Welfare**
- e) Unify to Beautify**

Move as read by Jearl Rannefeld. Seconded by John Walker. All in favor. Motion carried.

6. Consideration and Action to ratify the approval of the current TML Health Insurance plan in the amount of \$1,154.40 per employee for the 2024-2025 fiscal year.

Move as read by Jearl Rannefeld. Seconded by David Ainsworth. Mayor Garza called for a vote. All in favor. Motion carried.

7. Consideration and Action to approve a date and time for setting the Proposed FY 2024-2025 Tax Rate.

Move as read by Jearl Rannefeld. Seconded by Nathan Stroleny. Open for discussion. Mayor Garza entertained a motion to amend by striking a date and time and replacing with August 28, 2024. Move as read by Jearl Rannefeld. Seconded by John Walker. All in favor. Amendment carried.

Amended Agenda item #7 Consideration and Action to approve August 28, 2024, for setting the Proposed FY 2024-2025 Tax Rate.

Mayor Garza entertained a motion to amend by at the end inserting at .78264 per \$100 of estimated property value. Move as read by Jearl Rannefeld. Seconded by David Ainsworth. Open for discussion. Mayor Garza called for a vote. All in favor. Amendment carried.

Amended agenda item #7 Consideration and Action to approve August 28, 2024, for setting the Proposed FY 2024-2025 Tax Rate at .78264 per \$100 of estimated property value. This is a roll call vote. The vote is as follows:

Mayor Andrew Garza-AYE

Mayor Pro-Tem/Council Place 2 Jearl Rannefeld-AYE

City Council Place 1 Nathan Stroleny-AYE

City Council Place 3-David Ainsworth-AYE

City Council Place 4- John Walker-AYE

Motion carried with a unanimous vote.

- 8. Consideration and Action to approve dates and times for Public Hearings on the Proposed FY 2024-2025 Tax Rate.**

Move as read by Jearl Rannefeld. Seconded by David Ainsworth. Open for discussion. Mayor Garza entertained a motion to amend by at the end inserting as September 9, 2024, at 5:00 p.m. and September 25, 2024, at 5:00 p.m. Move as read by Jearl Rannefeld. Seconded by David Ainsworth. Mayor Garza called for a vote. All in favor. Amendment carried.

Amended Agenda item #8 Consideration and Action to approve dates and times for Public Hearings on the Proposed FY 2024-2025 Tax Rate as September 9, 2024, at 5:00 p.m. and September 25, 2024, at 5:00 p.m. Mayor Garza called for a vote. All in favor. Motion carried.

- 9. Consideration and Action to approve dates and times for Public Hearings on the Proposed FY 2024-2025 Budget.**

Move as read by Jearl Rannefeld. Seconded by David Ainsworth. Mayor Garza entertained a motion to amend by at the end inserting as September 9, 2024, at 5:00 p.m. and September 25, 2024, at 5:00 p.m. Move as read by Jearl Rannefeld. Seconded by David Ainsworth. Mayor Garza called for a vote. All in favor. Amendment carried.

Amended Agenda item #9 Consideration and Action to approve dates and times for Public Hearings on the Proposed FY 2024-2025 Budget as September 9, 2024, at 5:00 p.m. and September 25, 2024, at 5:00 p.m. Mayor Garza called for a vote. All in favor. Motion carried.

- 10. Discussion on Proposed FY 2024-2025 Budget.**

Shirley Holm presented the Proposed Budget for FY 2024-2025 based on the actual and projected revenues, expenditures, and needed equipment for FY 2023-2024.

GENERAL FUND

FY 2024-2025 Proposed Budget is \$ 2,287,770, which is 7% higher than FY 2023-2024. Sales tax, Municipal Court fees, and Administrative Fees were higher this year. With the property tax values up, we are projected higher Ad valorem taxes. Also, Live Oak County is proposing in their budget to assist with a portion of Animal Control expenditures to initiate a shared program. A meeting to discuss details will be upcoming if budget passes. Expenditures includes 23 employees with a proposed 3% COLA, with an increase in pay

for City Manager, Chief of Police, and a Finance Director (part time). All departments' budgets increased for employee health insurance, which is up by 26% and property/liability insurance premiums increased slightly. Additionally, expenses include pool renovations, park pavilion sandblast/painting, swimming pool replaster/paint, electronic speed signs on Hwy 281., police tasers & body worn cameras, SCBA's for Fire Department. In Animal Control, we added a part time tech, washing machine, and improvements/additions to kennels.

UTILITY FUND

FY 2024-2025 Proposed Budget is \$ 2,154,526, which is 1% below 2023-2024 Budget. Revenue was slightly up for garbage sales; however, most other revenue items were down. Water sales are down, due to booster pump distribution station down at Old Marbach School. Gas sales are low; however, gas purchases are down as well. For the 2023-2024 Proposed Budget, revenues are expected to be slightly down. Expenditures includes 15 employees with a proposed 3% COLA Expenditures. All departments will have increased budgets in employee health insurance, which is up 26% and property/liability insurance premiums increased slightly. The budget includes \$250,000 in equipment, which include a Kubota HB74 Hopper Broom Sweeper with skid steer, booster pump for Old Marbach Water booster station, chlorinator and meter gauge for well #2, #3, replacement of 8% of gas distribution line according to the RRC guidelines, Godwin and hydrovac pumps for WWTP and lift stations.

11. Discussion on City Manager meetings with Old Marbach School Water Supply Corporation Board.

Shirley Holm met with OMSWS Board on August 12, 2024, to discuss the booster pump failure at the distribution station where the City supplies water to the OMSWS. The replacement cost of the pump is \$8,000 and 2 are needed to replace the original pumps from 2012. Additionally, there is some maintenance expenditures needed for the hardware and pipes. The Board understood the City's concern regarding cost with low demand from OMSWS. They also discussed a new agreement with a minimum fee per month or possible transfer to OMSWS to manage. Another meeting was held with a few Board members, City Manager, and Grady Atkinson to discuss a simpler system to install. The group will meet again soon. In the meantime, the City has ordered one booster pump at \$8,000 to get the distribution station up and running soon. There was a long lead time on the delivery of pump.

12. Consideration and Action to convene into EXECUTIVE SESSION. In accordance with Section 551.074 of the Texas Government Code (Personnel Matters), the City Council may go into executive session to discuss the following:

- a) Discussion on City Manager Applications.

Move as read by Jearl Rannefeld. Seconded by Nathan Stroleny. Mayor Garza called for a vote. All in favor. The Council entered Executive Session at 7:32 p.m.

13. Reconvene

Move as read by Jearl Rannefeld. Seconded by Nathan Stroleny. All in favor. The council reconvened at 8:56 p.m.

BRIEFINGS:

14. Interim City Manager's Report:

- a) Revenue and Expense Report for July 2024.
- b) City and Project Updates

Ms. Holm gave the Revenue and Expense Report for the period ending July 2024. The General Fund is 93% of the budget for revenue and 83% of the budget for expenditures. In the Utility Fund, we are 78% of budget for revenue and 70% of budget for expenditures. Both Funds are well within the budget currently and reflect a net positive balance of combined balance of \$359,643. The bank balance total is \$ 2,488,437. The City is financially sound at this time with budget expenditures below the reasonable 84% level and revenue on target with the exception of water sales, which is slightly below level.

15. 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

16. Adjournment.

The council meeting was adjourned at 8:59 p.m.

ATTEST: _____
D'Ann Lane, City Secretary

SIGNED: _____
Andrew Garza, Mayor