

City Council met for a special called City Council meeting/Budget Workshop No. 1 on August 14, 2018 in the Council Chambers at City Hall, 907 E. Houston, with Mayor Pro-Tem Lee presiding.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Councilmember Mike Penry, Councilmember Marilyn Clay, Councilmember Fred Terrell, Councilmember Jennifer Bergman, Councilmember Danny Lee, City Manager Kelly McDonald and City Secretary Angela Smith

ABSENT: Mayor Otis Cohn, City Attorney Olson

VISITORS PRESENT: Jim Carson, Vanesa Braisher, Patrick Wilshire, Terry Carroll, Linda Jennings, JoAnn Robbins, Carolyn Gilbert

EMPLOYEES: Frieda Joyce, Bobby Pennington, Rod Hailey, Sean Anderson, Darrel Broussard, Jeremy Chesnutt, Wendy Thorp, Scott Felts

Mayor Pro-Tem Lee called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm and stated there was a quorum and that Mayor Cohn was absent. Darrel Broussard gave the invocation and Councilmember Penry led the pledge to the US flag and Councilmember Bergman led the pledge to the Texas flag.

Discussion and Action

1. Consider awarding Request for Qualifications (RFQ)-Admin Professional Services for upcoming Community Development Block Grant – Disaster Recovery funding from the General Land Office – Community Development & Revitalization (GLO) in addition to a Hurricane Harvey DR-4332 Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) to Public Management and approving contract for aforementioned services.

City Manager McDonald spoke on topic. Eight submittals were distributed and we received one proposal and two denial letters. Public Management was the only one that submitted a proposal. Staff is recommending Public Management for awarding RFQ.

Councilmember Penry made a motion to award the bid to Public Management for Admin Professional Services for upcoming Community Development Block Grant – Disaster Recovery funding and the Hurricane Harvey DR4332 Hazard Mitigation Grant Program and approving contract as submitted with a second from Councilmember Clay.

AYES: Penry, Clay, Lee, Terrell

NAY: Bergman

MOTION PASSED

Executive Session

Council left for closed executive session at 6:07 pm.

2. Closed Executive Session under Texas Government Code 551.071 for Consultation with Attorney, specifically to discuss pending or contemplated litigation concerning the possible relocation of the Carroll and Jennings family cemetery plots, and to discuss matters in which the duty of the City Attorney requires to be discussed in executive session under the Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct of the State Bar of Texas.

- 3. Closed Executive Session under Texas Local Government Code 551.072 to deliberate the purchase, exchange, lease or value of real property**

Open Session

- 4. Return to open session and take action on any or all items from Executive Session, specifically the possible settlement of the Carroll and Jennings family cemetery plot matter, if needed.**

Council returned to open session at 6:26 p.m.

Councilmember Bergman made a motion to approve the settlement for the Carroll and Jennings family cemetery plot matter with a second from Councilmember Penry.

AYES: Bergman, Lee, Penry, Terrell Clay

NAY: None

MOTION PASSED

Budget Workshop

- Budget Workshop No. 1 for FY 18-19

City Manager McDonald introduced Jeremy Chesnutt as our new Development Services Director. Assistant City Manager/Finance Director Bobby Pennington reviewed the proposed budget submitted. The effective tax rate is .74987, current tax rate is .77000 and rollback rate is .83595. The proposed budget includes a 5% merit increase for all employees (both full and part-time). Discussion occurred about cities in survey used and need to remain competitive in salaries. Councilmember Penry commented that he would like to see a .25 cent reduction in property tax to show citizens we are helping with some tax relief. Mr. Pennington stated he would like to assign any FEMA money for contingency to be used by council. FEMA items in budget are not started until we receive money from FEMA as we are concerned about denials. It may take two years or longer to get reimbursements. Mr. Pennington reviewed the water and sewer funds and the challenges it faced this current fiscal year (i.e. problem with equalization ponds, screw pump failures). We received the \$73k in escrow from the water board to help with the screw pump issue. They have asked the engineers on the water well project to cut costs where possible.

Councilmember Bergman asked about using HOT funds to pay for the log cabin and Stencil repairs. Mr. Pennington stated that he would verify if it is an allowable expense. There is also a need for a new A/V system at the Civic Center. Out of the 900 fund, we can fund two vehicles - unmarked and marked police vehicle. EDC has adopted their budget already. Mr. Pennington stated that the City will have to absorb the maintenance cost of the sports park next fiscal year.

Discussion on water well project and basin clean out project occurred. City Manager McDonald asked council if they had any recommendations to let her know and that the next budget workshop is next week.

Adjourn

Councilmember Bergman made a motion to adjourn with a second from Councilmember Penry. Meeting adjourned at 8:13 pm.

PASSED AND APPROVED this 18th day of September 2018.

_____/signed_____
Mayor Pro Tem Cohn

ATTEST:

_____/signed_____
Angela Smith, City Secretary