

**CITY OF VIDOR
VIDOR CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
SEPTEMBER 10, 2020**

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mayor Kelly Carder
Councilmember Julie Hannon
Councilmember Angela Jordan
Councilmember Misty Songe
Councilmember Gary Herrera
Councilmember Jane Hill

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Councilmember Keith Buesing

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

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 Carder 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

Robert Crane, 5624 Pine Needle Drive, Orange, Texas, read a letter from Brandon Hebert, Acadian Ambulance Regional Vice-President. The letter discussed Orange County Emergency Services District #1's termination of their agreement with Acadian on August 14, 2020, and the special permission Acadian was granted to operate temporarily in order to transport patients for the nursing homes. Councilmember Herrera accused Mr. Crane of making allegations without having any proof and bringing up the same thing he always brings up. Mr. Crane continued to read the letter.

Mr. Crane stated when a major hurricane threatened our area, the ESD #1 Chief and the nursing homes looked to Acadian for evacuation, which is one of the largest undertakings a nursing home and EMS provider can endure. Mr. Crane stated residents of both facilities were quickly moved to safety, even with no permit or legal obligation, simply a promise and desire to do what is right. Several comments were made by Councilmember Herrera.

Mr. Crane asked Council for their consideration and swift action on Acadian's official request for a permit and contract to serve as a secondary provider per Sections 2.02, 2.04, 2.05 and 2.11(a)(1) of the ESD's Ordinance. Mr. Crane thanked Council for their consideration and clarified that while the sections quoted were from the ESD's Ordinance, there are matching sections in the City's Ordinance.

Chris Leavins, City Attorney, reminded Council that only the recitation of policy or background facts can be discussed by Council during Citizen Comments. Councilmember Herrera thanked Mr. Leavins.

B. COUNCIL CONSENT AGENDA

B -1. Approval of Accounts Paid:

Paid Invoices: **General Fund – \$496,787.40**
 Sanitation Fund – \$36,214.09
 Juvenile Case Management – \$146.59
 Municipal Court Building Security Fund – \$47.28
 Emergency Management – \$863.67
 Disaster Fund – \$3,154.60

B -2. Approval of Minutes: **Emergency Special Called Meeting – August 25, 2020**
 Special Called Meeting – September 3, 2020

A motion was made by Councilmember Hannon, seconded by Councilmember Jordan, to **APPROVE THE COUNCIL CONSENT AGENDA AS PRESENTED.** The Council voted five (5) for and none (0) opposed. The motion carried.

C. COUNCIL REGULAR AGENDA

C -1. Public Hearing - on the proposed tax rate for the City of Vidor for fiscal year 2020-2021

Mayor Carder opened the **Public Hearing - on the proposed tax rate for the City of Vidor for fiscal year 2020-2021** at 7:05 p.m.

Cheryl Ray, Supervisor of Finance & Accounting, stated, *“The current fiscal year 2019/2020 tax rate is \$.70371. The 2020/2021 effective tax rate is \$.69335; the 2020/2021 voter-approval tax rate is \$.71942; and the 2020/2021 proposed tax rate is \$.70371. The proposed tax rate is less than the 2020/2021 voter-approval tax rate of \$.71942 and therefore there would be no rollback election.”*

Mayor Carder stated, *“The 2020 Certified Property Tax Value for the City of Vidor is \$415,580,378. The breakdown of the proposed tax rate is as follows: \$.59959 for maintenance and operation; \$.10412 for interest and sinking with a combined proposed tax rate of \$.70371. The proposed tax rate is lower the voter-approval tax rate. The proposed tax rate is estimated to raise more maintenance and operation funds of \$27,593 than the prior year and less interest and sinking funds of \$4,847 than the prior year. The proposed tax rate is estimated to raise \$2,575,605 at a 100% collection rate before the debt service is deducted. Only one public hearing is required and is being held on September 10, 2020, at 7:00 p.m. at Vidor City Hall, 1395 North Main Street, Vidor, Texas.”*

Mayor Carder asked if there were any questions or comments, and there were none. Mayor Carder closed the **Public Hearing - on the proposed tax rate for the City of Vidor for fiscal year 2020-2021** at 7:08 p.m.

C -2. Public Hearing – on the proposed fiscal year 2020-2021 budget for the City of Vidor

Mayor Carder opened the **Public Hearing – on the proposed fiscal year 2020-2021 budget for the City of Vidor** at 7:08 p.m.

Cheryl Ray, Supervisor of Finance & Accounting, stated, *“We are going to go over the changes since the first draft of the general fund budget was presented on July 23, 2020:*

CITY OF VIDOR, TEXAS
CHANGES FOR 9/10/20 PROPOSED BUDGET

1. The first draft of the budget was drafted on the preliminary taxable value of \$431,893,543 at a tax rate of .70371. The second draft of the budget was drafted on the certified taxable value of \$415,580,378 (a decrease in value of \$16,313,165) at a tax rate of .70371, which would generate \$2,238,350. From draft one to draft two, property tax revenue decreased by \$98,665 in the General Fund (page 14)
2. Took out dump truck from street department budget in the amount of \$94,000
3. Decreased health insurance costs by \$130,112 by going out for bids and awarding new contract
4. Decreased dental insurance costs by 38
5. Increased life insurance costs by \$132
6. Increased payroll costs by \$59,954 by adding \$50,000 back to PD budget that we had taken out due to unfilled positions and some changes in the street dept budget
7. Increased Finance equipment lease line item by \$750 to correct line item insufficiency
8. Increased liability/property insurance rates by \$10,431 with TML renewal rates
9. Moved \$360,000 from fund balance overage in prior year as drainage project on Lamar will not be completed until next fiscal year.
10. Added amounts for CDBG-DR revenue and expenditures for the total amount of CDBG-DR funding allocated to the City for TS Harvey for housing and infrastructure in the amount of \$8,221,924. These are 2-year grants so some money will carry over into the 2021/2022 budget.
11. Added \$500,000 to disaster fund revenue and expenditures for Hurricane Laura and Covid-19
12. For the sanitation fund, decreased health insurance costs by \$17,588, decreased dental insurance costs \$49, increased life insurance costs by \$4 and increased liability/property insurance by \$299
13. Current Fiscal Year Rev/Expend 19/20 & Projected 9/30/20

Total Revenues for the proposed 2020/2021 proposed budget year are:

General Fund	\$6,745,690
Debt Service Funds	\$ 494,900
Special Revenue Funds	\$8,423,263
Sanitation Fund	\$1,110,200
Capital Projects Fund	\$ 0

The total revenues budgeted for all funds - \$17,274,053

Total expenditures for the proposed 2020/2021 budget year:

General Fund	\$7,522,775
Debt Service Funds	\$ 520,287
Special Revenue Funds	\$8,517,308
Sanitation Fund	\$1,057,271
Capital Projects Fund	\$ 0

The total expenditures budgeted for all funds \$17,617,641."

Ms. Ray stated there are a couple of things related to the budget staff would like to discuss. Robbie Hood, City Manager, explained he does not need the leased vehicle the City provides and would like to repurpose it. Mr. Hood explained the Police Department has use for that type of truck, a 2020 with very low mileage. Mr. Hood stated in lieu of the vehicle, he would like some type of vehicle allowance. A brief discussion ensued.

Mr. Hood also discussed the increase from two to four part-time, temporary positions in the Street Department, and the reallocation of the part-time superintendent for street projects. Mr. Hood explained the

City is moving in a different direction, and drainage will be the focus. Mr. Hood stated if we have to babysit the contractor, we do not need that contractor. Mr. Hood stated the part-time position was budgeted at 30 hours per week, but we will be making it a permanent, full-time position at a lower rate, which will only be an increase of approximately \$6,000 in wages. A brief discussion ensued.

Ms. Ray asked if there were any questions, and Councilmember Herrera asked how much was budgeted for roads. Ms. Ray explained due to the State lowering our revenue, there is only \$150,000 budgeted for the coming fiscal year.

Ms. Ray stated the only changes she foresees to the budget presented tonight will be the addition of the HOT (Hotel Occupancy Tax) funds that are awarded tonight. Ms. Ray explained we will adopt the budget at the next meeting on Thursday, September 24, 2020, and asked Council to please be here.

There were no further questions or comments, and Mayor Carder closed the **Public Hearing – on the proposed fiscal year 2020-2021 budget for the City of Vidor** at 7:19 p.m.

C -3. Consideration and possible action resulting from the first public hearing on the City’s proposed tax rate for fiscal year 2020-2021

No action was taken.

C -4. Consideration and possible action resulting from the public hearing on the City’s proposed 2020-2021 budget

Chris Leavins, City Attorney, explained we will have to bring the City Manager’s contract back to Council in order to change from the City-provided vehicle to the vehicle allowance. No action was taken.

No action was taken.

C -5. Consideration and possible approval of A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF VIDOR, TEXAS IN COMPLIANCE WITH CHAPTER 102, LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE PROVIDING FOR THE ADOPTION OF A BUDGET THAT WILL REQUIRE RAISING MORE REVENUE FROM PROPERTY TAXES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2020-2021 THAN WERE RAISED IN FISCAL YEAR 2019-2020; PROVIDING FOR THE REPEAL OF ANY AND ALL RESOLUTIONS IN CONFLICT; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY CLAUSE; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE

Cheryl Ray, Supervisor of Finance & Accounting, read from HB 3195 80(R):

(c) Adoption of a budget that will require raising more revenue from property taxes than in the previous year requires a separate vote of the governing body to ratify the property tax increase reflected in the budget. A vote under this subsection is in addition to and separate from the vote to adopt the budget or a vote to set the tax rate required by Chapter 26, Tax Code, or other law.

Ms. Ray stated, *“The proposed budget for fiscal year 2020/2021 provides for the raising of more revenue from property taxes than in fiscal year 2019/2020.”*

A motion was made by Councilmember Songe, seconded by Councilmember Herrera, **to approve Resolution 946**. ROLL CALL VOTE: Councilmember Hannon, aye; Councilmember Jordan, aye; Councilmember Songe, aye; Councilmember Herrera, aye; and Councilmember Hill, aye. The motion carried.

C -6. Consideration and possible approval of a Resolution reappointing of Andy Collins to the Vidor Civil Service Commission for a 3-year term to expire on 9/6/2023

This item was tabled until the next meeting.

C -7. Consideration and possible action to approve the designation of surplus property of the City and authorizing the sale/auction of the surplus property by Rene Bates Auctioneers, Inc.

Robbie Hood, City Manager, explained during the cleanup at the operations center last month, they noticed a lot of equipment just sitting around that is at the end of its useful life. Mr. Hood stated some of this equipment has already been replaced. Mr. Hood reviewed the surplus property to be sold/auctioned off which included a 2007 International Sanitation truck with just under 96,000 miles (*starting bid at \$7,500*); a 2008 Ford F350 with 77,000 miles that has been grounded and is at the end of its useful life (*starting bid at \$2,500*); a 2013 gooseneck trailer which needs both axles repaired (*starting bid of \$500, similar item sold for \$5,000*); a 1993 Ford tractor that has all kinds of rust and needs a transmission clutch (*starting bid of \$800, similar sold for \$2,000*); and a 10' batwing bushhog that is collecting rust and dust (*starting bid of \$2,000, similar item sold for \$4,000*). Mr. Hood explained the City reserves the right to reject any and all bids. A brief discussion ensued.

Councilmember Jordan made a motion **to approve the designation of surplus property to Rene Bates to be auctioned off**. Councilmember Herrera seconded. The Council voted five (5) for and none (0) opposed. The motion carried.

C -8. Report on Hotel Occupancy Tax (HOT) fund grants from 2019-2020

Robbie Hood, City Manager, explained the first page of the packet placed before Council has a recap of the funds requested and granted last year. Mr. Hood explained a lot of events had to be cancelled due to COVID-19 and the restrictions placed by state and local governments, so out of the amounts granted, we only allocated \$46,000. A brief discussion ensued.

C -9. Public Hearing – Discussion and presentation of applicants/applications seeking hotel occupancy tax funds for fiscal year 2020-2021 in accordance with Chapter 351 of the Texas Tax Code

Mayor Carder opened the **Public Hearing – Discussion and presentation of applicants/applications seeking hotel occupancy tax funds for fiscal year 2020-2021 in accordance with Chapter 351 of the Texas Tax Code** at 7:28 p.m. Ms. Carder explained a representative for each application will be allowed a total of three (3) minutes to make their presentation.

- a) **Eastgate Church Bible Quiz Program (\$4,000)** – Larry Williams thanked Council for their support in the past and explained the requested funds will allow them to add a senior quiz for the first time. Mr. Williams stated between 250-300 folks will be coming to town for the event. Mr. Williams stated the top quizzier for the whole State of Texas this past year was from Vidor.
- b) **District 8 Checkers Association (\$10,000)** – James Welborn spoke on behalf of Watson Franks and requested \$10,000 to sponsor the event to be held in late spring or early summer 2021. Mr. Welborn explained winners from the tournament here will qualify for the larger tournaments, and competitors will be coming in from all over the world.
- c) **Q'ing for a Cause (\$10,000)** – Derek Veazey explained the requested funds will be used to host the annual barbeque cookoff. Mr. Veazey stated the event has seen an increase in numbers each year, and they have had to spill over to the Oaks Event Center next door. Mr. Veazey stated the Big Buc BBQ Bash

will be a two-day event, and teams will come from all over. Mr. Veazey explained this year, the proceeds will benefit Heartbeats of Hope.

- d) **Music by the Stars (\$10,000)** – Donna Little, Bow Tie Events, stated this will be the fifth annual event, and some of the past artists include Mark Chestnut, Tracy Byrd, and Neil McCoy. Ms. Little explained fans come from as far away as Florida and Kentucky, and room packages are offered.
- e) **Vidor Chamber of Commerce (\$10,000)** – Atasha Quebedeaux, Chamber President, discussed last year’s Christmas Cruise and Christmas tree lighting event. Ms. Quebedeaux explained the Cruise is set, so they are focusing on the tree lighting and trying to make it better.
- f) **Texas Star Music Festival (\$10,000)** – Johnnie Andrus explained on the Friday night of the event, nine people will be inducted into the Walk of Fame. Ms. Andrus stated free tickets will be offered on Friday night, and then on Saturday, John Connally will be performing along with three more bands. Ms. Andrus stated John Nickum and the Chamber are working to get a Music Friendly designation for Vidor, the smallest town in Texas with the most musical talent.
- g) **Vidor Winter Light Show (\$10,000)** – Renee Lloyd explained she has been working in partnership with the Chamber of Commerce the past two years in an effort to brighten the holiday season. Councilmember Songe expressed her concern that this is not an actual event and will not put heads in beds. Councilmember Herrera responded we normally allocate money for first time events, and then see what happens. Discussion ensued. Robbie Hood, City Manager, asked Ms. Lloyd if she has reached out to Entergy to get permission to use their poles or TxDOT since it is their right-of-way. Ms. Lloyd responded she has contacted Entergy. Mr. Hood expressed concerns regarding traffic control during installation, and Ms. Lloyd explained two escorts have already been lined up, Sheriff Lane Mooney and Constable Matt Ortego.

Mayor Carder closed the **Public Hearing – Discussion and presentation of applicants/applications seeking hotel occupancy tax funds for fiscal year 2020-2021 in accordance with Chapter 351 of the Texas Tax Code at 7:48 p.m.**

C-10. Consideration and possible action of a request from Eastgate Bible Quiz Program for hotel occupancy tax funds for fiscal year 2020-2021, to include a schedule for releasing the funds to the applicant if approved

A motion was made by Councilmember Songe, seconded by Councilmember Jordan, **to award \$7,000 in hotel occupancy tax funds to Eastgate Church’s Bible Quiz Program.** The Council voted five (5) for and none (0) opposed. The motion carried.

C-11. Consideration and possible action of a request from District 8 Checkers Association for hotel occupancy tax funds for fiscal year 2020-2021, to include a schedule for releasing the funds to the applicant if approved

A motion was made by Councilmember Songe, seconded by Councilmember Hannon, **to award \$10,000 in hotel occupancy tax funds to the District 8 Checkers Association.** The Council voted five (5) for and none (0) opposed. The motion carried.

C-12. Consideration and possible action of a request from Q’ing for a Cause for hotel occupancy tax funds for fiscal year 2020-2021, to include a schedule for releasing the funds to the applicant if approved

A motion was made by Councilmember Jordan, seconded by Councilmember Songe, **to award \$10,000 in hotel occupancy tax funds to the Q’ing for a Cause.** The Council voted five (5) for and none (0) opposed. The motion carried.

C-13. Consideration and possible action of a request from Music by the Stars for hotel occupancy tax funds for fiscal year 2020-2021, to include a schedule for releasing the funds to the applicant if approved

A motion was made by Councilmember Hannon, seconded by Councilmember Songe, to award \$10,000 in hotel occupancy tax funds to Music by the Stars. The Council voted five (5) for and none (0) opposed. The motion carried.

C-14. Consideration and possible action of a request from Vidor Chamber of Commerce for hotel occupancy tax funds for fiscal year 2020-2021, to include a schedule for releasing the funds to the applicant if approved

A motion was made by Councilmember Jordan, seconded by Councilmember Hannon, to award \$10,000 in hotel occupancy tax funds to the Vidor Chamber of Commerce. The Council voted five (5) for and none (0) opposed. The motion carried.

C-15. Consideration and possible action of a request from Texas Star Music Festival for hotel occupancy tax funds for fiscal year 2020-2021, to include a schedule for releasing the funds to the applicant if approved

A motion was made by Councilmember Songe, seconded by Councilmember Hannon, to award \$10,000 in hotel occupancy tax funds to the Texas Star Music Festival. The Council voted five (5) for and none (0) opposed. The motion carried.

C-16. Consideration and possible action of a request from Vidor Winter Light Show for hotel occupancy tax funds for fiscal year 2020-2021, to include a schedule for releasing the funds to the applicant if approved

A motion was made by Councilmember Herrera, seconded by Councilmember Jordan, to award \$10,000 in hotel occupancy tax funds to the Vidor Winter Light Show. The Council voted four (4) for and one (1) opposed. (Councilmember Songe was the nay vote.) The motion carried.

C-17. Consideration of Adjournment

A motion was made by Councilmember Songe, seconded by Councilmember Herrera, for Consideration of Adjournment. The Council voted five (5) for and none (0) opposed. The motion carried, and the Regular Meeting of the Vidor City Council adjourned at 7:57 p.m.

These minutes approved September 24, 2020.



Kelly Carder, Mayor

ATTEST:



Vicki Watson, City Secretary