

**CITY OF VIDOR
VIDOR CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
OCTOBER 22, 2020**

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Councilmember Misty Songe
Councilmember Julie Hannon
Councilmember Angela Jordan
Councilmember Keith Buesing
Councilmember Gary Herrera
Councilmember Jane Hill

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Mayor Kelly Carder

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

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 Pro-tem Songe 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

Jerad Spencer, 951 N. Main, discussed his safety concerns at the intersection of Old Highway 90 at FM 105. Mr. Spencer explained there is no turn indicator to turn from Highway 90 back onto Main which backs up traffic both directions. Mr. Spencer stated he understands the devices are TxDOT's, but TxDOT does listen to the City.

Sharla Hagler, 290 N. Ashland, expressed concerns with the tiny homes which are being built in Maplecrest. Ms. Hagler stated she understands they are up to code, but the neighbors do not want to see many of these in the neighborhood. Ms. Hagler also discussed the need for speed limit signs as there are twelve roads with no signage in Maplecrest.

Robbie Hood, City Manager, explained he received an email from Nicole Herrera asking for candy donations for the Trunk or Treat event to be held at Crossroads Shopping Center. Mr. Hood stated any Council member that would like to make a donation, candy or monetary, may do so at Herrera's Wrecker Service.

B. COUNCIL CONSENT AGENDA

B -1. Approval of Accounts Paid:

Paid Invoices:

**General Fund – \$88,489.77
Municipal Court Building Security Fund – \$41.48
Hotel Occupancy – \$22,000.00**

Juvenile Case Management – \$117.88
Judicial Efficiency – \$75.00
Sanitation Fund – \$13,371.21
Employee Benefits Trust – \$4,878.09

B -2. Approval of Minutes: Regular Meeting – October 8, 2020

B -3. Ratification of the payment of the monthly sales tax in the amount of \$5,995.63 out of General Account/Pooled Cash

A motion was made by Councilmember Jordan, seconded by Councilmember Buesing, to **APPROVE THE COUNCIL CONSENT AGENDA AS PRESENTED**. The Council voted six (6) for and none (0) opposed. The motion carried.

C. COUNCIL REGULAR AGENDA

C -1. Discuss and take possible action to approve resolution authorizing the submittal of a CDBG-MIT application for Citywide flood and drainage improvements, authorizing the Mayor and City Manager to act as the authorized representatives in all matters pertaining to the application, and committing \$159,608 in matching funds

Cheryl Ray, Supervisor of Finance & Accounting, explained this is the wonderful, big grant for which we have worked so hard. Ms. Ray thanked Council for their help with the surveys and stated we are applying for \$16,000,000-\$17,000,000, which will give us a better chance in the ranking.

A motion was made by Councilmember Buesing, seconded by Councilmember Jordan, to **approve the Resolution authorizing the submittal of the application**. The Council voted six (6) for and none (0) opposed. The motion carried.

(Mayor Pro-tem Songe moved up agenda item C-9.)

C -9. Discussion and possible action to approve AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF VIDOR, TEXAS, AMENDIGN THE CODE OF ORDINANCES BY AMENDING CHAPTER 22 – ENVIRONMENT, ARTICLE II. – NOISE, REGARDING EXCEPTIONS AND LIMITATIONS; PROVIDING FOR A REPEALING CLAUSE; PROVIDING FOR A SEVERABILITY CLAUSE; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE

Robbie Hood, City Manager, thanked Councilmember Buesing for bringing this item to his attention. Councilmember Buesing explained the amendment is to exempt church bells from the noise ordinance. Chris Leavins, City Attorney, explained nothing in the current Ordinance was touched, but a few reasonable exemptions were added including alerting persons to the existence of an emergency; in the performance of law enforcement activity or emergency work; stationary bells or chimes used in conjunction with places of religious worship; events held on public school grounds authorized by the School District and reasonable in nature; and events authorized by the City Council, City Manager or Chief of Police conducted on public property and reasonable in nature.

Councilmember Buesing made a motion to **approve the Ordinance to allow exemptions**. Councilmember Hannon seconded. The Council voted six (6) for and none (0) opposed. The motion carried.

C -2. Consideration and possible approval of a lease with Government Capital Corporation for a Zetron MAX Dispatch System, Installation and Configuration with 5 annual payments of \$31,726.22

Cheryl Ray, Supervisor of Finance & Accounting, stated this is to replace the current dispatch system which is outdated. Rod Carroll, Chief of Police, explained the newer system is not working and the older one has now also gone down. Aleta Cappen, Police Captain & Emergency Management Coordinator, explained

dispatch is currently working off of mobile radios on the desktop, but Chief Carroll clarified no one from the outside has noticed anything. Captain Cappen stated the new system will have three stations instead of two, and this lease-to-own agreement will allow us to make five annual payments instead of \$144,000+ up front.

Chris Leavins, City Attorney, explained the terms of a few things in the contract are still being negotiated. Mr. Leavins stated some of the language was overbroad, and he is waiting on the revisions, but Council can approve pending legal review and approval.

Councilmember Herrera moved **to approve the lease pending legal review and approval**. Councilmember Jordan seconded. The Council voted six (6) for and none (0) opposed. The motion carried.

C -3. Consideration and possible action to approve a Resolution authorizing the Application for the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department Local Parks Grant for 2021

Aleta Cappen, Police Captain & Emergency Management Coordinator, gave an overview of the application process, the proposed project, and the required community involvement. Captain Cappen explained Kyle Stephens, the gentleman doing our park plan, is also the one doing our grant project. Captain Cappen displayed pictures of some of the potential playground equipment (*slides with shades, rock walls, ADA/regular combination swings, pavilions with picnic tables, walking paths, ADA and standard parking, and the pour & play surface*). Captain Cappen stated this “pocket park” will be located on a half-acre in Maplecrest and explained they are trying to get the other half-acre next to it. In closing, Captain Cappen stated this will be a totally completed project and discussed trying to get community buy-in to help purchase equipment.

Councilmember Hannon moved **to approve the application for the Texas Parks & Wildlife Department grant**, and Councilmember Herrera seconded. The Council voted six (6) for and none (0) opposed. The motion carried.

C -4. Consideration and possible action to approve a Resolution authorizing the City Manager to sign the Financial Commitment and Shovel Ready Project Letter for project with Texas Parks and Wildlife Department for park improvement project

Chris Leavins, City Attorney, explained this is basically a letter from the City Manager stating we are ready to get to work.

A motion was made by Councilmember Jordan, seconded by Councilmember Hill, **to approve the Resolution authorizing the City Manager to sign the letter**. The Council voted six (6) for and none (0) opposed. The motion carried.

C -5. Consideration and possible action to approve a Resolution authorizing the Professional Service Contract with Stephens Engineering for 2021 Texas Parks and Wildlife Department park improvements project

Chris Leavins, City Attorney, stated this is a short-form contract for engineering services. Councilmember Buesing made a motion **to approve the Resolution**. Councilmember Herrera seconded. The Council voted six (6) for and none (0) opposed. The motion carried.

C -6. Consideration and possible action to approve the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department Certification & Program Assurances for the 2021 Texas Parks and Wildlife Department Local Parks Grant Application

Chris Leavins, City Attorney, explained this is the same project and basically assures you will use the funds in the appropriate way. A motion was made by Councilmember Herrera, seconded by Councilmember Hannon, **to approve the Assurances**. The Council voted six (6) for and none (0) opposed. The motion carried.

C -7. Discussion and possible action to approve new design and replacement, as needed, for new street signs

Robbie Hood, City Manager, asked Chris Leavins, City Attorney, to hold up a display of one of the sign color options. (One of the signs was black with gold lettering, and the other was gold with black lettering.) Mr. Hood explained the gold background is reflective, but the black background is not. Rod Carroll, Chief of Police, stated it is better if the lettering is reflective. A brief discussion ensued.

Councilmember Hannon moved **to approve the purchase of the black with gold lettering**. Councilmember Jordan seconded. The Council voted six (6) for and none (0) opposed. The motion carried.

C -8. Consideration and possible action to approve a Resolution nominating a person for the Orange County Appraisal District's Board of Directors to replace retiring Board Member, James Brown

A brief discussion ensued regarding the role of the Appraisal District Board of Directors. No action was taken.

C-10. Consideration and possible approval of the certification of the 2020 assessed tax roll for the City of Vidor as certified and submitted by Karen Fisher, Tax Assessor Collector

Cheryl Ray, Supervisor of Finance & Accounting, explained we do this every year and just need Council's approval.

A motion was made by Councilmember Herrera, seconded by Councilmember Hill, **to approve the certification of the 2020 assessed tax roll**. The Council voted six (6) for and none (0) opposed. The motion carried.

C-11. Consideration and possible approval of the certification of the 2020 delinquent tax roll for the City of Vidor as certified and submitted by Karen Fisher, Tax Assessor Collector

A motion was made by Councilmember Herrera, seconded by Councilmember Buesing, **to approve the certification of the 2020 delinquent tax roll**. The Council voted six (6) for and none (0) opposed. The motion carried.

C-12. Discussion and possible action regarding the process for selecting an Employee of the Year and Citizen of the Year Award

Robbie Hood, City Manager, thanked Councilmember Herrera for bringing this suggestion to him but questioned whether or not the Chamber of Commerce still has a Citizen of the Year Award. Councilmember Herrera explained the Chamber of Commerce's Citizen of the Year does not have to be from within the city limits. Mr. Herrera stated after the last couple of storms, he has seen people going above and beyond and used one of his neighbors who feeds the homeless and goes to half-way houses as an example. Mr. Herrera explained he would like to come up with an award, Proclamation, or something to recognize these citizens, even if it is just a \$25 plaque. A brief discussion ensued.

Mr. Herrera also discussed an Employee of the Year Award and explained the employees work hard and step up when we need them to. Discussion ensued regarding timelines, possible prizes, criteria, and nominations. Mr. Hood explained the City cannot give monetary gifts but could possibly give days off. Mr. Hood stated he will start back having staff meetings next week and can discuss with Department Heads at that time. Discussion continued, but no action was taken.

C-13. Consideration of Adjournment

A motion was made by Councilmember Hill, seconded by Councilmember Jordan, for **Consideration of Adjournment**. The Council voted six (6) for and none (0) opposed. The motion carried, and the Regular Meeting of the Vidor City Council adjourned at 7:47 p.m.

These minutes approved November 12, 2020.



Kelly Carder, Mayor

ATTEST:



Vicki Watson, City Secretary