

**City Of Vidor
Vidor City Council
Regular Meeting
September 22, 2022**

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mayor Misty Songe
Councilmember Kelly Carder
Councilmember Nicole McGowan
Councilmember Michael Thompson
Councilmember Jessica Barker
Councilmember Gary Herrera

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Councilmember Jane Hill

Administrative Personnel: Robbie Hood, City Manager; Betty Strong, City Secretary; Katrina Jones, Finance Director; Chris Leavins, City Attorney and, Rod Carroll, Police Chief

A. OPENING, PRESENTATIONS, AND CITIZENS COMMENTS

A -1. Call to order and the establishment of a Quorum

A quorum was present, and the Special Called Meeting of the Vidor City Council began at 7:03 p.m., Mayor Songe presiding. Mayor Songe asked for a moment of silence.

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

No Citizen Comments

B. COUNCIL CONSENT AGENDA

B -1. Approval of Accounts Paid:

Paid Invoices:	General Fund - \$162,645.82
	MCBSF - \$66.78
	Emergency Management - \$.30
	LEOSE - \$2,400.00
	Hotel Occupancy Tax Fund - \$2,504.48
	Disaster Fund - \$43,141.37
	Juvenile Case Manager Fund - \$104.07
	Proprietary Fund - \$37,391.05

B -2. Approval of Minutes:

Special Called Meeting – September 15, 2022

B -3. Ratification of the transfer of funds from Interest & Sinking 2013 General Obligation Refunding Bonds-Capital One Bank account to Interest & Sinking 2008/2016 General Obligation Refunding Bonds-TexPool account in the following amounts:

September 7, 2022:	\$ 1385.73
September 15, 2022:	\$ 618.38

B -4. Ratification of the payment of the monthly sales tax in the amount of \$6362.44 for August 2022 out of General Account/Pooled Cash.

A motion was made by Councilmember McGowan, seconded by Councilmember Thompson, 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 2022-2023

The proposed tax rate is greater than the voter-approval tax rate but not greater than the de minimis rate. However, the proposed tax rate exceeds the rate that allows voters to petition for an election under Section 26.075, Tax Code. If the City of Vidor, Texas adopts the proposed tax rate, the qualified voters of the City of Vidor, Texas may petition the City of Vidor, Texas to require an election to be held to determine whether to reduce the proposed tax rate. If a majority of the voters reject the proposed tax rate, the tax rate of the City of Vidor, Texas will be the voter-approval tax rate of the City of Vidor, Texas.

Mayor Songe opened the public hearing at 7:05p.m. Katrina Jones, Finance Director stated, “The current fiscal year 2021/2022 tax rate is \$.69190. The 2022/2023 no new revenue rate is \$.63935; the 2022/2023 voter-approval tax rate is \$.67393; and the 2022/2023 proposed tax rate is \$.67393. The 2022/2023 proposed tax rate is the same as the 2022/2023 voter-approval tax rate of \$.67393 and therefore there will be no rollback election.”

Mayor Songe stated, “The 2022 Certified Property tax value for the city of Vidor is \$493,576,410.00, less value under protest. The market value under protest is \$79,962.00. The breakdown of the proposed tax rate is as follows: \$.56153 for maintenance and operations; \$.11240 for interest and sinking with a combined proposed tax rate of \$.67393. The proposed tax rate is the same as the voter-approval rate. The proposed tax rate is estimated to raise more maintenance and operation funds of \$189,896.00 than the prior year and more interest and sinking funds of \$14,171.00 than the prior year. The proposed tax rate is estimated to raise \$2,941,182.00 at a 100% collection rate before the debt service is deducted. Only one public hearing is required and is being held on September 22, 2022, at 7:00 p.m. at Vidor City Hall, 1395 North Main Street, Vidor Texas.”

Mayor Songe asked if there were any questions or comments. There were none from the citizens.

Katrina Jones, Finance Director stated the \$493 million is just the value of all properties. Any increase will be due to the raising of values on the homes.

Robbie Hood, City Manager explained the values of the homes going up and Chris Leavins, City Attorney explained the proposed tax rate was initially higher than the voter approved, so the language had to be adjusted accordingly.

Mayor Songe closed the public hearing at 7:08 p.m.

C -2. Consideration and possible action to approve 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 2022-2023 THAN WERE RAISED IN FISCAL YEAR 2021-2022; PROVIDING FOR THE REPEAL OF ANY AND ALL RESOLUTIONS IN CONFLICT; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY CLAUSE; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Chris Leavins, City Attorney explained this is a notice of raised revenue due to property increases.

A motion was made by Councilmember Herrera, seconded by Councilmember McGowan, to **Approve the Resolution**. The Council voted five (5) for and none (0) opposed. The motion carried.

C -3. Consideration and possible action to approve of AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING A BUDGET FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING OCTOBER 1, 2022, AND ENDING ON SEPTEMBER 30, 2023, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE CHARTER OF THE CITY OF VIDOR, TEXAS; CONTAINING A SEVERABILITY/REPEALING CLAUSE; WAIVING A SECOND READING AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE FOR THIS ORDINANCE

Katrina Jones, Finance director stated, “We will go over the total revenues and expenditures for the 2022/2023 budget and a list of changes I have included from the 2nd draft of the budget presented on August 25,2022. We will also adopt the 2022/2023 budget tonight if approved.”

Total Revenues for the proposed 2022/2023 proposed budget year are as follows:

General Fund	\$7,384,335.00
Debt Service Funds	\$499,600.00
Special Revenue Funds	\$24,128,285.00
Sanitation Funds	\$1,092,200.00
The total revenues budgeted for all funds -	\$33,104,420.00

Total expenditures for the proposed 2022/2023 budget year are as follows:

General Fund	\$8,010,829.00
Debt Service Funds	\$519,265.00
Special Revenue Funds	\$24,900,239.00
Sanitation Fund	\$1,159,429.00
The total expenditures budgeted for all funds	\$34,589,762.00

“I’ve included a list of changes made since the last draft of the budget was presented on August 25,2022”. Ms. Jones read the list of changes on the 3rd draft of the budget.

Discussion ensued.

Ms. Jones explained the deficit and how this needs to be used to get the contingency fund down below seven (7) months. Ms. Jones stated it needs to be at six (6) months.

Discussion ensued.

A motion was made by Councilmember Herrera, seconded by Councilmember McGowan, to **Approve the Ordinance adopting the budget for Fiscal year 2022-2023**. The Council voted five (5) for and none (0) opposed. The motion carried.

C -4. Consideration and possible action to approve of AN ORDINANCE CREATING A TAX LEVY AND FIXING THE TAX RATE FOR THE CITY OF VIDOR, TEXAS, FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING OCTOBER 1, 2022, AND ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2023, UPON ALL TAXABLE PROPERTY IN THE CITY OF VIDOR, TEXAS, ACCORDING TO THE LAWS OF THE STATE OF TEXAS, CHARTER PROVISIONS AND ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF VIDOR, TEXAS; CONTAINING A SEVERABILITY/REPEALING CLAUSE; WAIVING A SECOND READING AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE FOR THIS ORDINANCE

Mayor Songe stated: “\$.56153 of the total rate is hereby specifically levied for current expenses of maintenance and operation purposes. \$.11240 of the total rate is hereby specifically levied for the payment of principal and interest on debt of the City of Vidor Tax & Revenue Certificate of Obligation, Series 2016 and General Refunding Bonds, Series 2013.”

Nicole McGowan stated: “I move that the maintenance and operations property tax rate be decreased by the adoption of a tax rate of \$.56153, which is effectively a 2.83% decrease in the maintenance and operations property tax rate from last year’s tax rate.”

Nicole McGowan Stated: “I move that the debt service property tax rate be decreased by the adoption of a tax rate of \$.11240 which is effectively a 1.43% decrease in the debt service property tax rate from last year’s rate.”

A motion was made by Councilmember McGowan, seconded by Councilmember Thompson, to **Approve the adoption of a tax rate of \$.56153, which is effectively a 2.83% decrease**. ROLL CALL VOTE: Councilmember Carder, aye; Councilmember McGowan, aye; Councilmember Thompson, aye; Councilmember Barker, aye; and Councilmember Herrera, aye. The Council voted five (5) for and none (0) opposed. The motion carried

A motion was made by Councilmember McGowan, seconded by Councilmember Carder, **that the debt service property tax rate be decreased by the adoption of a tax rate of \$.11240, which is effectively a 1.43% decrease**. ROLL CALL VOTE: Councilmember Carder, aye; Councilmember McGowan, aye; Councilmember Thompson, aye; Councilmember Barker, aye; and Councilmember Herrera, aye. The Council voted five (5) for and none (0) opposed. The motion carried

C -5. Consideration and possible action to approve of AN ORDINANCE RATIFYING THE PROPERTY TAX INCREASE REFLECTED IN THE BUDGET FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING OCTOBER 1, 2022, AND ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2023, FOR THE CITY OF VIDOR, TEXAS, IN ACCORDANCE WITH HOUSE BILL 3195; CONTAINING A SEVERABILITY/ REPEALING CLAUSE; WAIVING A SECOND READING AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE FOR THIS ORDINANCE

Mayor Songe stated: “The property tax rate will decrease by 2.60% with the adoption of a tax rate of \$.67393 from last year’s property tax rate, which is effectively a 4.23% increase in property tax revenue.”

A motion was made by Councilmember McGowan, seconded by Councilmember Barker, to **approve the Ordinance ratifying the property tax increase reflected in the budget**. ROLL CALL VOTE:

Councilmember Carder, aye; Councilmember McGowan, aye; Councilmember Thompson, aye; Councilmember Barker, aye; and Councilmember Herrera, aye. The Council voted five (5) for and none (0) opposed. The motion carried.

C-6. Consideration and possible action to approve AN ORDINANCE BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF VIDOR, TEXAS, declining to approve the change in rates requested in Entergy Texas, Inc.'s Statement of Intent filed with the City on August 31, 2022, AND FINDING AND DETERMINING THAT THE MEETING AT WHICH THIS ORDINANCE WAS CONSIDERED WAS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC AND IN ACCORDANCE WITH TEXAS LAW.

Chris Leavins, City attorney stated Entergy submitted a notice of intent to increase rates and this is declining that request.

A motion was made by Councilmember McGowan, seconded by Councilmember Thompson, to **Approve the Ordinance**. The Council voted five (5) for and none (0) opposed. The motion carried.

C -7. Consideration and possible action to approve a Resolution approving the appointment of a reserve officer to the Vidor Police Department Reserve Force

Rod Carroll, Police Chief explained his request for a Reserve Officer. Chief Carroll explained the individual is a former Emergency Coordinator with Orange and former Fire Chief.

A motion was made by Councilmember McGowan, seconded by Councilmember Carder, **Approve the Resolution**. The Council voted five (5) for and none (0) opposed. The motion carried.

C -8. Consideration and possible action to approve a Resolution approving the staff's selection of a Lead and Asbestos Assessment Contractor for FMA Grant Program FY2022.

Katrina Jones, Finance director explained the grant associated with this contractor. Ms. Jones explained we received one (1) bid from EFI Global. Ms. Jones explained this contractor meets all criteria and does both lead and asbestos assessments. Gary Herrera, Councilmember Ward 5 asked what happens to the property once the homes are purchased by the city. Discussion ensued.

A motion was made by Councilmember McGowan, seconded by Councilmember Thompson, to **Approve the Resolution**. The Council voted five (5) for and none (0) opposed. The motion carried.

C-9. Consideration of Adjournment

A motion was made by Councilmember McGowan, seconded by Councilmember Thompson, 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 7:29 p.m.

These minutes approved October 13, 2022.


Misty Songe, Mayor

ATTEST:


Betty Strong, City Secretary

