

City of Newark
City Council Special Called Meeting Minutes
Thursday, August 3, 2017

1. Call to Order, Roll Call, and announce a Quorum is Present.

Mayor Pro-Tem Mark Wondolowski called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, August 3, 2017 in the Newark Community Center located at 209 Hudson Street in Newark, Texas and announced that a quorum was present. Those present were: Mayor Pro-Tem Mark Wondolowski, Councilmember Chris Raines, Councilmember Eric Fleischer, City Attorney Will Trevino, City Administrator Diane Rasor, Director of Public Works William Allen, Library Director Linda Ortberg, Library Assistant Jon Inman, Court Administrator Lisa Mayo and Assistant City Secretary Jeanine Inman. Those absent: Mayor Gary Van Wagner

2. Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag - Mayor Pro-Tem Wondolowski offered a moment of silence and led the pledge to the Flag.

Library Director Linda Ortberg and Library Assistant Jon Inman gave a presentation concerning the Summer Reading program, Storytime on Thursdays and some other programs they were planning.

3. EXECUTIVE SESSION – In accordance with Texas Government Code, Section 551.001, et seq., the City Council will recess into Executive Session (closed meeting) to discuss the following:

- a) §551.071(1), (2): Consultation with the City Attorney on a matter in which the duty of the attorney to the governmental body under the Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct of the State Bar of Texas clearly conflicts with the Texas Open Meetings Act and pending or contemplated litigation with Philip Timothy Pixler.

The City Council closed the regular session and opened the executive session at 6:07 p.m.

4. RECONVENE INTO OPEN SESSION – In accordance with Texas Government Code, Chapter 551, the City Council will reconvene into Regular Session to consider action, if any, on matters discussed in Executive Session.

The City Council closed the executive session and reopened the regular session at 6.53 p.m.

Councilmember Raines moved to go forward in seeking recovery of the administrative fines against Philip Timothy Pixler and Councilmember Fleischer seconded the motion. All approved. The motion passed.

5. Budget Workshop and Action Items – Discussion and possible action on the proposed revenues, expenditures, Capital Improvement Projects for the 2017-2018 fiscal year, and set dates for public hearings and budget workshops.

City Administrator Rasor went over the current and proposed budget. She explained that the change in sales tax revenue was due to the \$20,000 going towards the MDD. She went on to say that the property taxes are coming in slightly over what was budgeted and the building permits were coming in at a lower amount.

City Administrator Rasor explained that the administrative computer expense line is over the budgeted line due to several issues they have been having with the computers. She went on to say that she has had to call the IT person out just about every day to resolve issues. She continued that she is proposing to purchase a new server and 4 new pcs at a cost just over \$5,000 but she is getting more estimates. If the issues continue, then she may have to get the new equipment out of this year's budget.

City Administrator Rasor discussed the current legal fees lines explaining that the City has spent quite a bit on legal fees this year in an effort to correct issues and become more professional. She went on to say that the legal fees will be going down next year.

The employee wages will be discussed at the next meeting.

City Administrator Rasor stated that Court Administrator Lisa Mayo has done a great job so far with the court. There was some concern that the deputies were not working the full hours allotted and that it would be discussed to talk with the Deputies concerning this.

Concerning Code Enforcement, City Administrator Rasor asked the City Council to reevaluate if they wished to continue at this rate of enforcement or more.

The Fire Department stipend would remain at \$8,000 unless the City Council wished to change it.

Library Director Linda Ortberg went over the proposed library portion of the budget. She explained that they are looking to change out 2 computers, updating what books that they have and the addition of more audio books that are being requested by the library patrons. She went on to say that she wants to add more programs that the library will offer as well.

City Administrator Rasor stated that the parks budget of \$500 is proposed to remain the same amount as this year's budget.

City Administrator Rasor went over the Public Works portion of the budget saying that the proposed amounts are the same as this year's but may go up if the mowing contract goes up. She went on to say that they are down one employee.

City Administrator Rasor explained that the Capital Improvements is showing \$10,000 in the red but would go back up if we get a conduit loan.

City Administrator Rasor went over the Water and Sewer portion of the budget. She explained that some amounts have gone up due to repairs needed such as the clarifier and rotors that need to be rebuilt every year. She went on to say that the Central lift station had been done and that Director of Public Works Allen will discuss wages at the next meeting.

City Administrator Rasor briefly discussed that the City Council may want to consider charging drainage fees as a way to offset the cost of work that has to be done in the drainage. Possibly charging \$3 per person to maintain or improving the City's drainage. She went on to say that the water rates have not gone up in 4 to 5 years and that the City Council may want to consider revisiting the rates. She continued that the City must have a balanced budget.

City Administrator Rasor went over the proposed tax rate table that was included in the packet.

City Administrator Rasor addressed the proposed Capital Improvement projects. She explained all possible proposed projects that they could consider. They projects are:

- Community Center renovation cost would be \$50,000;
- Codification of City ordinances would be \$5,000, she explained that the codes have not been updated in a few years;
- Workstation PC would be approximately \$5,354;
- SCADA system would be approximately \$44,600;
- Main Street – street repairs and upgrade would be approximately \$120,000;
- Killough - street repairs and upgrade would be approximately \$79,040;
- Post Oak - street repairs and upgrade would be approximately \$120,000;
- 402 Hovey Remodel (to include new roof, pier and beam flooring and repainting) and for possible use as library (main house) and storage building for Public Works storage approximate cost would be \$20,000; and
- Electric digital sign (would need to find a land owner to let the City place a sign on their property) approximate cost would be \$ 25,000.

City Administrator Rasor explained that if all the projects were done based on these figures, the total cost would be \$468,994. She explained that the City Council could consider using a certificate of obligation bond in the amount of \$500,000 at a yearly cost of \$33,000 if they wished to do all of the projects. The City Council would just need to decide which projects they would like to do. She continued that since they have a grant for it, the Community Center would need to be done. It was discussed that if the City would like to attract more businesses to Newark then the vacant buildings in the City need to be addressed. Councilmember Raines

wanted to know if anyone might want to sell their properties along Highway 156. City Administrator Razor reminded the City Council that the MDD monies can be used for economic development and should be approximately \$25,000 by the end of the year. Also that depending on what the legislature does or votes on, the City should look at annexations.

Mayor Pro-Tem Wondolowski would like to see one full budget workshop meeting at the end of August and then one in September to vote on it.

6. Consider and act on proposed property tax rate for the 2017 tax year.

Councilmember Fleischer moved to set the proposed property tax rate for the 2017 tax year at .6614 effective rollback rate and Councilmember Raines seconded the motion. All approved. The motion passed.

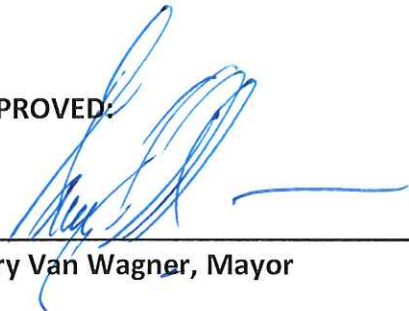
7. Consider and act on the two dates for the proposed property tax rate public hearings.

It was decided that the two dates for the proposed property tax rate public hearings would be at August 24th at 6:00 p.m. and on September 21st at 7:00 p.m.

8. Adjourn.

Mayor Pro-Tem Wondolowski adjourned the meeting at 8:08 p.m.

APPROVED:



Gary Van Wagner, Mayor

9.11.2017
Date

ATTEST:



Diane Razor, City Administrator