

**MINUTES OF SPECIAL CALLED MEETING OF THE GOVERNING BODY
OF THE CITY OF LAMPASAS, TEXAS
CALVERT MUNICIPAL BUILDING
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
302 E THIRD STREET
Monday August 5, 2024
5:00 p.m. Special Session**

The City Council of the City of Lampasas met in a Special Called Meeting on the above date and time with Mayor Pearce presiding.

Council Members Present:

Zachary Morris
Charlie Pratus
Eric Hernandez
Davis Keele
Myles Haider

Council Members Absent:

Cathy Kuehne

City Staff Present:

Finley deGraffenried, City Manager
Becky Sims, City Secretary
Ryan Ward, ACM
Kayleigh Stanley, Executive Secretary
Jody Cummings, Police Chief
Charlie Boswell, Asst Police Chief
Yvonne Moreno, Finance Director
Van Sims, WWW Operations Manager
Chris Eicher, Parks Director
Wayne Sanders, Electric Superintendent
Micah Harry, Electric Dept.
Joe Adams, Fire Chief
Carlos Garcia, Street Superintendent

**SPECIAL SESSION
5:00 P.M.**

- I. Call to order Special Session- *Mayor Pearce called the Special Session to order at 5:04 pm.*
- II. Mayor Pearce administered the Oath of Office to Newly Appointed Council Member- Myles Haider



III. Discussion regarding the Proposed Tax Rate.

Yvonne Moreno, Finance Director presented the following for Council review and consideration:

The property tax rate range is derived from calculations that comprise of the no-new tax rate (old effective rate) and the voter approval rate (old rollback rate).

The current tax rate is \$0.304888

No-new tax rate is \$0.309776

Voter approval rate is \$0.404616

The certified property roll is \$662,043,999

Impact of a \$.01 increase on a \$100,000 home is \$10.00 per year.

If the proposed tax rate is higher than the no-new tax rate but lower than the voter approval rate, the entity must schedule a Public Hearing. If the proposed rate is higher than the voter approval rate, the citizens must vote to approve the rate.

IV. Departmental Budget Presentations

- **5:15- Opening Comments**

Finley deGraffenried, City Manager highlighted the following from the first budget memo:

- *\$416,000 surplus overall*
- *Capitol Items*
- *Utility Rates*
- *Personnel*
 - *Finance*
 - *PW Director/Development Services*
- *1% burdened cost of living increase equates to \$75,000*
- *Hamilton EMS Services cost share with County*
 - *Schedule meeting between Council (2 members) /County (2 members) to discuss details*
- *Injection Site Improvements*
- *Spring Street Pump Station*
- *Irrigation Systems*
- *Hi Ranger- Electric Department*
- *Modeling*
- *Tree Trimming*
- *Turner Field Lighting Package*
- *FD Ladder Truck*
- *FD Equipment*

- **5:30- Street**

Carlos Garcia, Street Superintendent reviewed the following line items:

- *Second Street Rebuild*

- *Western Street Bridge*
- *Seal Cost Project (10-15 blocks)*
- *New Parking Lot*
- *Hike/Bike Trail Signage*
- *Burn Permit Renewal*
- *Citizen Collection Station Hours*

- **5:45- Water/Wastewater**

Van Sims, WWW Operations Manager reviewed the following line items:

- *Completed Turner Field Sewer Extension*
- *Completed 430 ft water line extension on Ave G*
- *Completed 85 ft of sewer line extension on Ave G*
- *Completed 400 ft. of water line extension on Ave J*
- *Completed 165 ft of sewer line extension on Ave J*
- *Completed fire line on the west side and north side of the square*
- *Completed 740 ft of water looping project on Samac*

General discussion with Council regarding water quality, flushing, injection site improvements, water treatment process, impact to system with new development, capacity and supplemental water study.

- **6:00- Electric**

Wayne Sanders, Electric Superintendent reviewed the following:

- *SCADA*
- *Business Park*
- *Tuner Field*
- *Tree Trimming*
- *Modeling*
- *GIS Study/Data Collection*
- *1999 Hi-Ranger Bucket Truck*
- *Maintain Open Position*
 - *6 years to train*
 - *Competitive field*

- **6:15- Parks**

Chris Eicher, Parks Director reviewed the following:

- *13 Full time employees*
 - *department could benefit from having additional staff.*
 - *salary comparison analysis*
- *Cemetery*
 - *40% mowing/60% weed eating*
 - *Maintain gravesites by Ordinance*
 - *Contract help for cemetery as option*

General discussion regarding care and maintenance of Oakhill Cemetery; specific to Veterans who may not have relatives.

- **6:30- Police Department**

Jody Cummings, Police Chief reviewed the following line items:

- *Salaries/Benefits*
 - *Emergency Medical Dispatchers*
 - *School Resource Officers*
- *Supplies*
- *Contract Services*
- *Maintenance*
- *Capital Expenses*
 - *New Vehicles/Equipment*

- **6:45- Fire Department**

Joe Adams, Fire Chef reviewed the following:

- *Flat Budget*
- *New crew/structure*
 - *Improved moral*
 - *Less fatigue*
- *Consider allocating funding for new ladder truck for purchase in the next 5-8 years*
 - *Refurbish costs would be approximately \$101,000 to repair ladder truck; which would last another 5-8 years.*

General discussion regarding # of firefighters needed per population and # of county calls, Lampasas assists.

- **7:00- Finance- Utility Billing and Collection**

Yvonne Moreno, Finance Director reviewed the following:

- *Supplies is the largest budgeted item, billing cards, past due notices, envelopes etc.*
- *Budget for new Printronix Machine this cycle. This machine prints the bills and notices.*

Council general discussion regarding electronic billing options, auto payment, modern technology, possibility of hiring new FTE.

V. Discussion and direction regarding modifications to the FY 2024/2025 Budget

Mr. deGraffenried recapped the following as priorities/areas of focus based on Council direction.

- *Water/Wastewater Rates*
- *Tax Rate*
- *EMS Funding*
- *Increase Streets Paving Budget (east second street project)*
- *Injection Site Improvements- Priority*
- *Turner Field Lighting*
- *Electric Modeling/Study*
- *Replace Hi-Ranger Bucket Truck*
- *Pay Scale/Comparison/FTE Needs*
- *Parks Master Plan*
- *Future Improvements to Ball Fields/Rodeo Arena/Additional Parking*
- *Splashpad Costs/Liability*
- *FD Equipment*
- *Specs for FD Ladder Truck*

- *Electronic Billing Options*

VI. Adjourn Special Session

Council Member Pratus moved to adjourn at 7:45 pm, the motion was seconded by Council member Haider and with a unanimous vote, the motion carried. (Kuehne absent)

PASSED AND APPROVED this _____ day of _____, 2024.

Herb Pearce, Mayor

ATTEST

Becky Sims, City Secretary