

CITY OF SULPHUR SPRINGS, TEXAS

SPECIAL MEETING OF THE

CITY COUNCIL

AUGUST 09, 2016

6:00P.M.

Mayor Emily Glass called the special meeting of the Sulphur Springs City Council to order at 6:13 p.m. The following council members and staff were present:

Mayor Emily Glass
Mayor Pro Tem Clay Walker
Councilman Clay Walker
Councilman Oscar Aguilar
Councilman Freddie Taylor

Absent: Councilman Craig Johnson
Councilman John Sellers

Staff present: Marc Maxwell, City Manager
Peter Karstens, Finance Director
Lesa Smith, Budget Analyst
Joey Baker, Airport/Tourism Director
Shane Shepard, Community Development Director
Robert Lee, Director of Utilities
Kevin McCarty, Parks Director
Hope Cain, Director of Library Services
Jay Sanders, Chief of Police
Eric Hill, Fire Chief
Russ Nuss, Public Works Director

PLEDGE AND INVOCATION

Mayor Glass led in the pledge of allegiance to the United State Flag, the Texas Flag and City Manager Marc Maxwell led the invocation.

DISCUSSIONS ON PROPOSED FISCAL YEAR 2016-2017 BUDGET

Peter Karstens, Director of Finance, presented a summary of highlights from the proposed budget for fiscal year 2016-2017 to the City Council. The department heads were available to answer any questions. There was a general discussion and Mr. Karstens gave a thorough presentation, answering all questions.

DISCUSSION/ACTION ON SELECTION OF PARK DESIGN AND ENGINEERING CONSULTANT AND APPROVAL OF SPECIFIC CONTRACT FOR CONCEPTUAL DESIGN OF CROSS TOWN TRAIL

Peter Karstens, Director of Finance, presented the staff report. The project includes two grants recently awarded to Sulphur Springs. The goal of each grant is to connect Coleman Lake Park with downtown plaza via a pedestrian/bicycle trail. The trail will also connect Buford Park, Sulphur Springs High School, the Dairy Museum, Civic Center, and Paris Junior College. The staff recommendation is MHS Planning & Design, LLC through the year 2022 and the initial contract for conceptual design at \$14,500.00. There was a brief discussion. There was no one else to speak to the issue. Councilman Taylor made a motion to select MHS Planning and Design through 2022 and a specific contract for conceptual design in the amount of \$14,500.00. Councilwoman Price-Mitchell seconded and the vote was unanimous.

The motion carried.

DISCUSSION/ACTION TO VOTE TO PROPOSE A TAX INCREASE AND SCHEDULE TWO (2) PUBLIC HEARINGS FOR THE PROPOSED TAX INCREASE

Director of Finance, Peter Karstens, explained that two (2) public hearings had to be scheduled as well as the date to vote on the proposed budget that would bring about the proposed tax increase. Councilman Taylor made a motion to place the proposal to adopt a 44-cent property tax rate on the agenda of the September 6, 2016, regular City Council meeting, for consideration which if adopted would result in a tax increase and to schedule two public hearings for August 19, 2016 at 12:00PM (noon) and August 23, 2016 at 12:00PM (noon). Councilwoman Price-Mitchell seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

The motion carried.

This is an increase in overall tax revenue but not an increase in the tax rate.

ADJOURN

With all business complete the meeting adjourned at 7:59 p.m.