

**Minutes
Special Meeting
September 3, 2019**

On this 3rd day of September, 2019, at 6:00 p.m., the City Council of the City of Devine convened in a Special Meeting; at the Devine Municipal Golf Course Club House, 116 Malone Drive, Devine, Texas. Notice of said Meeting having been prescribed in Chapter 551, Government Code, and Vernon's Texas Codes, Annotated, and the following members being present:

Mayor Cory Thompson
Alderman Steve A. Lopez
Alderman David Espinosa
Alderwoman Jennifer Schott

Absent being Alderman David Valdez; thus, constituting a quorum.

Personnel present: Dora V. Rodriguez, Interim City Administrator/City Secretary; Denise Duffy, City Accountant; Mary Rodriguez, City Financial Officer; Ismael Carrillo, Director of Public Works; Ruben Chapa, Superintendent of Municipal Golf Course; and Tom Cate, City Attorney.

Others present: Marly Davis, Devine News; Debbie Randall, Shannon Rangel, Doug Trott, George Valdemar, Jessica Ornelas, Glenn & Eva Thompson, Mary Herrera, Aurora Hernandez, Richard & Cynthia Chalaire, William DeSalme, Erica Camacho, Christy Williamson, Dale Williamson, David Sanchez and Scott & Shirl Grego, of Devine, Texas.

Mayor Thompson, presiding, called the meeting to order.

The first order of business was Calling for a Public Hearing on the Proposed Budget for FY 2019-2020 to be held on September 10, 2019 at 6:00 p.m.

Motion by Alderwoman Schott, seconded by Alderman Espinosa to Call for a Public Hearing on the Proposed Budget for FY 2019-2020 to be held on September 10, 2019 at 6:00 p.m.

Ayes	--	Three (With 1 Vacancy in District #5)
Nays	--	None
Absent	--	One -- Alderman David Valdez

Motion carried.

The second order of business was Calling for a Public Hearing on the Proposed Tax Rate for FY 2019-2020 to be held on September 10, 2019 and September 17, 2019 at 6:00 p.m.

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Motion by Alderman Espinosa, seconded by Alderman Lopez to call for a Public Hearing on the Proposed Tax Rate for FY 2019-2020 to be held on September 10, 2019 and September 17, 2019 at 6:00 p.m.

Ayes	--	Three (With 1 Vacancy in District #5)
Nays	--	None
Absent	--	One – Alderman David Valdez

Motion carried.

The third order of business was to discuss and consider Devine Little League Agreement for the Lighting Project at the Devine Little League Field.

Council reviewed the agreement. According to Interim City Administrator/City Secretary Dora V. Rodriguez, this is a \$50,000 agreement and they've paid \$20,000 back to the City already.

Aurora Hernandez addressed Council and stated that she was told they've paid \$25,000 already but if they owe \$30,000, it's going to take them six more years to pay at \$5,000 per year. She explained that what they pay yearly is not exactly what they bring in to the Little League. She told Council that they are not asking to have the balance removed or to not have to pay this; they are simply asking for the City to lower the amount for them to pay at this time in order for them to maintain their bills.

Council held discussion.

City Attorney advised that we would just need to modify the agreement.

Motion by Alderman Espinosa, seconded by Alderman Lopez to table this item until next week.

Ayes	--	Three (With 1 Vacancy in District #5)
Nays	--	None
Absent	--	One – Alderman David Valdez

Motion carried.

The fourth order of business was the Budget Workshop.

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Interim City Administrator/City Secretary Dora V. Rodriguez informed Council that we are still working with numbers so they will be bringing another budget before Council next week. She told Council to just review the budget and to call if they have any questions. She said all departments are already in the Budget; she is only waiting for TML's information to be able to plug in the figures for the Workman's Comp and the Liability.

Mayor Thompson commented that he would like to know how far we are from coming to an agreement on the golf course.

Mayor Thompson had asked Council on their input or ideas for the golf course. Discussion was held by Council.

Alderman Lopez suggested:

1. Giving the golf course more time (6-8 months); such as making the greens better.
2. Scale down the maintenance crew to 3-4 people (currently we have 5)
3. Advertise the course (we need to invest in this)

Alderman Espinosa commented that he wants to see the golf course succeed. Being that we are not too familiar with the golf course, he stated that he is leaning toward an outside source and on giving them an opportunity to talk to us just to see what they have to offer, so he suggested going with an outside source.

Alderwoman Schott agreed with Alderman Espinosa and commented that her first choice would be to source it out. She told Council that she did a lot of research on this since she, too, does not know a lot about golf. She spoke to several people who are in the golf industry and who have worked with management companies in the past, and she shared her findings with Council.

Alderwoman Schott told Council that the information she's gathered from people who manage golf courses is that they're going to want the golf course fixed; they're going to want it completely 100% up to par. She's also been in touch with the person who came before Council who was interested in this possibility; she said that it's a work in progress, but she personally would like to exhaust all options before we continue to spend all this money on the golf course.

Mayor Thompson commented that this is a work in progress and it's all hit too quickly.

Alderwoman Schott also shared information with Council and held discussion with Interim City Administrator/City Secretary Dora V. Rodriguez on golf course budgets from the cities of Hondo and Uvalde.

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Mayor Thompson commented that we're not as far off as he was given the impression. He suggested that we continue to keep working on getting information on our end such as costs for advertising with the golf magazine. He will get together with Alderman Espinosa later regarding Foresight, and he said Alderwoman Schott will be in contact with the gentleman interested in managing the golf course. He told Council we'll come back next week to see what kind of progress we've made between now and then.

Alderman Espinosa suggested for Council to all put their heads together to try to resolve this. He stated that it may work out or it may not, but at least we have the option to look into this.

Council heard several comments from the floor regarding the Budget

Motion by Alderman Espinosa, seconded by Alderman Lopez to close out the Budget Workshop.

Ayes	--	Three (With 1 Vacancy in District #5)
Nays	--	None
Absent	--	One – Alderman David Valdez

Motion carried.

The fifth order of business was Informational Items.

The following was discussed:

- Hiring a new city administrator – Council inquired how that is coming along. Interim City Administrator/City Secretary Dora V. Rodriguez will bring information from the TML website to Council at the next council meeting so they can decide how they want to go about posting it.
- TML Conference – Interim City Administrator/City Secretary announced that the conference will be in San Antonio this year, and Council is welcome to attend but they need to let her know right away so it can be put in the budget. She stated that it is costly.
- AACOG – Alderman Espinosa inquired if Devine has any representation at AACOG right now. According to Interim City Administrator/City Secretary Dora V. Rodriguez, right now Devine is not being represented. She thinks the county judge from Hondo is currently on the board. Discussion was held on Devine getting back on the AACOG board but that would be up to the Board.

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There being no further business to come before the governing body, motion made by Alderman Espinosa, seconded by Alderman Lopez to adjourn the meeting.

Ayes	--	Three (With 1 Vacancy in District #5)
Nays	--	None
Absent	--	One – Alderman David Valdez

Motion carried.

Mayor

City Secretary