

**Minutes**  
**Special Meeting**  
**September 21, 2019**

On this 21<sup>st</sup> day of September 2019, at 6:00 p.m., the City Council of the City of Devine convened in a Special Meeting; the same being opened to the public at their at their regular meeting lace thereof, at City Hall, 303 S. Teel 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  
Alderwoman Jennifer Schott  
Alderwoman Debbie Randall

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

Personnel present: Dora V. Rodriguez, Interim City Administrator/City Secretary; Denise Duffy, City Accountant; and Tom Cate, City Attorney.

Others present: Marly Davis, Devine News; and Scott & Shirl Grego, of Devine, Texas.

Mayor Thompson, presiding, called the meeting to order.

The first order of business was to discuss and consider Amending Current Budget for Fiscal Year 2018-2019.

Council reviewed budget.

Motion by Alderwoman Schott, seconded by Alderman Lopez to Amend the Current Budget for Fiscal Year 2018-2019.

Current Budget for FY 2018-2019 attached as Exhibit A.

Ayes	--	Three
Nays	--	None
Absent	--	Two – Alderman Espinosa Alderman Valdez

Motion carried.

The second order of business was to discuss and consider Adopting Budget for Fiscal Year 2019-2020.

**Special Meeting Minutes**  
**September 21, 2019**  
**Page 2**

Alderman Randall inquired about Longevity Pay. Interim City Administrator/City Secretary Dora V. Rodriguez explained the breakdown of tiers on the longevity pay for the employees. She told Council this was set way back when Gary Pelech was City Administrator. City Attorney Tom Cate explained that a lot of cities do this because they can't give employees bonuses. He said this is not a merit, but it is rewarding them for their loyal and faithful service.

Alderman Schott inquired about the Salaries in Administration. Interim City Administrator/City Secretary Dora V. Rodriguez explained how the salaries are split in percentages by employees in various funds. For example, the split for her, Denise and the new city administrator will be 40% in General Fund, 30% in the Water Fund and 30% in the Sewer Fund. Discussion was held on employees in other departments.

Alderman Randall and Alderman Schott inquired about the salary totals and expressed having a problem in not understanding how the totals are determined because they could not see the numbers adding up. Interim City Administrator/City Secretary Dora V. Rodriguez and City Accountant Denise Duffy explained the budget to help them understand how to arrive at the totals for just salary and also for the whole departments, in various funds.

Interim City Administrator/City Secretary Dora V. Rodriguez told Council that we do want them to ask questions because we want them to know and understand the budget.

Alderman Schott inquired about the decrease of \$53,000 for the Golf Course and asked what that included. Interim City Administrator Dora V. Rodriguez explained that we took out two outside employees, one part-time student was taken out of the inside, and a college student was taken out of the inside; so, a total of four employees were taken out effective October 1, 2019. She told Alderman Randall that one of these employees was transferred to the Parks Department, and he will be in charge of the Emergent Program for the Parks, among other things.

More discussion was held on the golf course.

Alderman Schott also inquired about what Scott Grego proposed that he needed for the Club House; she asked where that was in the Budget. Interim City Administrator Dora V. Rodriguez explained that is not in the budget yet; it is going to be a Capital Outlay. She said we will probably end up having to amend the budget and either cash in a CD or do a Certificate of Obligation.

Alderman Schott requested if they could, for the next six months, have a monthly report given to them at the regular meetings that shows what came in and what went out. She felt that this will also help Scott Grego. According to Interim City Administrator/City Secretary Dora V. Rodriguez, we can give them a Revenue vs. Expenses Report every month. She told Council that this report is usually given to the Department Heads, and explained that when they get it, it will be for the end of the previous month.

Motion by Alderman Lopez, seconded by Alderman Randall to Adopt Budget for Fiscal Year 2019-2020.

**Special Meeting Minutes**  
**September 21, 2019**  
**Page 3**

New Budget for Fiscal Year 2019-2020 attached as Exhibit B.

Ayes	--	Two
Nays	--	One – Alderwoman Schott
Absent	--	Two – Alderman Espinosa Alderman Valdez

Motion carried.

Discussion was held after the motion. Alderwoman Schott explained the reason she voted against it is just because she feels that she needs to serve her people in her district, and they're just not happy with the amount of money that we're spending.

The third order of business was to discuss and consider Adopting an Ordinance establishing the Budget beginning October 1, 2019, and ending September 30, 2020, appropriating funds for the operation of the General Fund, Water Fund, and Sinking Fund to pay interest and principal due on all city indebtedness.

Council reviewed ordinance, and held discussion with Interim City Administrator/City Secretary Dora V. Rodriguez.

Motion by Alderwoman Randall, seconded by Alderman Lopez to Adopt Ordinance 9-19A establishing the Budget beginning October 1, 2019, and ending September 30, 2020, appropriating funds for the operation of the General Fund, Water Fund, and Sinking Fund to pay interest and principal due on all city indebtedness.

Ordinance attached as Exhibit C.

Ayes	--	Two
Nays	--	One – Alderwoman Schott
Absent	--	Two – Alderman Espinosa Alderman Valdez

Motion carried.

The fourth order of business was to discuss and consider Adopting 2019 Tax Rate.

Council reviewed the Budget Cover Page for Fiscal Year 2019-2020 for the City of Devine. Mayor Thompson announced that the new property tax rate is \$0.5298/\$100, which is just a little over three pennies from last year. Council held discussion on taxes.

**Special Meeting Minutes**  
**September 21, 2019**  
**Page 4**

Motion by Alderwoman Randall, seconded by Alderman Lopez that this budget will raise more revenue from property taxes than last year's budget by an amount of \$117,805, which is a 12.46 percent increase from last year's budget. The property tax revenue to be raised from new property added to the tax roll this year is \$7,327.

Budget Cover Page attached as Exhibit D.

Ayes	--	Three
Nays	--	None
Absent	--	Two – Alderman Espinosa Alderman Valdez

Motion carried.

The fifth order of business was to discuss and consider Adopting an Ordinance levying ad valorem taxes for use and support of the municipal government of the City of Devine for the 2019-2020 Fiscal Year; providing for appointing each levy for the specific purposes; and, providing when taxes shall become due when same shall become delinquent if not paid with \$0.5298 on each \$100.00 valuation of property for the maintenance and support of the general government (General Fund).

Council reviewed ordinance.

Motion by Alderwoman Schott, seconded by Alderman Lopez to Adopt Ordinance 9-19B levying ad valorem taxes for use and support of the municipal government of the City of Devine for the 2019-2020 Fiscal Year; providing for appointing each levy for the specific purposes; and, providing when taxes shall become due when same shall become delinquent if not paid, with \$0.5298 on each \$100.00 valuation of property for the maintenance and support of the general government (General Fund).

Ordinance 9-19B attached as Exhibit E.

Ayes	--	Three
Nays	--	None
Absent	--	Two – Alderman Espinosa Alderman Valdez

Motion carried.

The sixth order of business was Informational Items.

The following was discussed:

**Special Meeting Minutes**  
**September 21, 2019**  
**Page 5**

- Golf Course – Alderman Lopez inquired as to the name of the company that Mayor Thompson talked to about the golf course, and he wanted to know if they put in a bid. Mayor Thompson said he talked to Foresight Golf, out of Boerne, Texas. He added that they did not seem interested at all in putting in a bid. He explained it was not due so much to our golf course but rather due to demographic issues; they do business with much bigger courses than ours, mostly in Corpus Christi, Texas. Alderwoman Randall also spoke about other courses.
- Golf Course – Alderwoman Randall inquired if we’ve heard anything from our financial lawyers regarding the golf course. City Attorney Tom Cate stated that we’ve not heard anything from Jeff Kuhn or Andrew Friedman with SAMCO yet. Interim City Administrator/City Secretary Dora V. Rodriguez informed Council that City Attorney Tom Cate is reviewing some management agreements. City Attorney Tom Cate mentioned that we are looking at the Cities of Victoria, Fredericksburg and Brady. He commented that the golf course economies are pretty much the same for cities all over. He explained that basically we are waiting for the lawyers’ opinions on what we need to be looking at but, in the meantime, we’ve got copies of the Request for Proposals from the City of Fredericksburg so we have plenty of information that we can ask Scott about. Alderwoman Randall stated that she just wants to keep following up on this because she doesn’t want to let it go.

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

Ayes	--	Three
Nays	--	None
Absent	--	Two – Alderman Espinosa Alderman Valdez

Motion carried.

---

Mayor

---

City Secretary