

**Minutes
Special Meeting
August 25 2020**

On this 25th day of August, 2020, at 6:00 p.m., the City Council of the City of Devine convened at the Dr. George S. Woods Community Center, 202 E. Hondo Avenue, 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 Debbie Randall
Alderman Rufino Vega
Alderman Chuck Guzman

Thus, constituting a quorum.

Personnel present: Dora V. Rodriguez, Interim City Administrator/City Secretary; Denise Duffy, City Accountant; Tom Cate, City Attorney; Ismael Carrillo, Director of Public Works; Rob Flores, Superintendent of Public Works; and Vickie Pumphrey, Airport Manager.

Others present: Blake Caesar and Hilda Juarez, Republic Services; Lynette DeSalme; and Cathryn Rancher, of Devine, Texas.

Mayor Thompson, presiding, called the meeting to order.

The first order of business was to discuss and consider changes to the First Amendment/Contract that was approved by Council on April 23, 2020 with the new Second Amendment/Contract reflecting the corrections made by Republic Services.

Blake Caesar with Republic Services addressed Council and explained that the only change is in the dates. Council reviewed the First and Second Amendments to the Contract. City Attorney Tom Cate explained the CPI price increases.

Motion by Alderman Guzman, seconded by Alderman Lopez to accept the Second Amendment with the date changes made by Republic Services.

Second Amendment to the Contract attached as Exhibit A.

Ayes	--	All
Nays	--	None

Motion carried.

The second order of business was to discuss and consider Republic Services' Contract.

Special Meeting Minutes
August 25, 2020
Page 2

Mr. Blake Caesar went over the contract services with Council before and after the pandemic. He told Council that they try to work with the customers on different issues, and they have a good relationship with city staff. Blake Caesar and Hilda Juarez both offered for Council members to contact them when they get complaint calls from customers, and they will try to address their issues themselves.

No action was taken.

The third order of business was to discuss and consider for Council to Propose a Tax Rate for Notices to be published in the Newspaper. The actual tax rate will be set after the Public Hearings.

Mayor Thompson informed Council that they need to agree on a current tax rate right now, preliminarily, so that Administration can work on a budget and be able to publish whatever they need in the newspaper.

Council reviewed a worksheet for Property Tax Calculations, and also discussed different tax rates over the years.

Council discussed that currently, our tax rate is at \$0.005298 and the most we could go up without an election is at a rate of \$0.005322. Council held lengthy discussion. Most of the council members were comfortable staying with the current tax rate at \$0.005298.

Motion by Alderman Guzman, seconded by Alderman Espinosa to propose staying with the current tax rate at \$0.005298 so that notices can be published in the newspaper.

Property Tax Calculation Worksheets attached as Exhibit B.

Ayes	--	All
Nays	--	None

Motion carried.

The fourth order of business was Informational Items.

The following was discussed:

- Update from Game Warden – Airport Manager Vickie Pumphrey reported that she spoke with Biologist Warden Reeding about the deer issue at the airport. He offered several options: We can have someone from the City designated to a kill; to go ahead and harvest them. Trapping, transportation and harvesting is the second option but the City would have to pay for it, and we would have to go to one of the local shops to get it cut up/processed for a needy family. The third option is with the relocation but we would need to have a site picked out that they are willing to pay for, and the biologist would have to go and check to make sure it can hold the habitat. So, the City will end up paying for a lot.

Special Meeting Minutes
August 25, 2020
Page 3

Council held lengthy discussion with Airport Manager Vickie Pumphrey. According to Ms. Pumphrey, once our lighting project is done, we do have the game fencing to be done with TxDOT but we just need to wait. Discussion was held on the 90/10 grant. According to Mayor Thompson, the only real option would be an 8-10 foot tall game fence.

- Address for Airport – Airport Manager Vickie Pumphrey announced that the Airport finally has a physical address; it is 329 CR 767, Devine, Texas. It is now posted on signs, thanks to Rob Flores, Superintendent of Public Works/Emergency Management Coordinator.
- Halloween – Rob Flores, Emergency Management Coordinator, reported that in talking to Dr. Neel, our Local Health Authority, he is waiting for Labor Day and the two weeks thereafter to see what happens with COVID. In the meantime, depending on what happens, Mr. Flores will have some type of plan ready for whatever we decide to do. Mayor Thompson recommended to just slow the flow, and for more policing to make sure safety guidelines are followed and masks are being worn, and maybe shut down early. Discussion was held.
- National Night Out – Mayor Thompson announced that the National Night Out Organization is cancelling all events.
- Hurricanes Season – Emergency Management Coordinator Rob Flores reported that although we may not get a lot of rain from the hurricanes, we may get evacuees. He explained the problem is that it's not like Katrina but it's Katrina plus the Coronavirus. Limits are being established on how many can be taken in. He explained that with Katrina, we didn't have enough housing so we sent them to San Antonio, but somehow they still end up here. So, we need to pay attention to this and be cautious of what's going to happen. Discussion was held.
- Update on Employees with COVID – Emergency Management Coordinator Rob Flores reported that the last two employees who tested negative came back to work yesterday, but we still have one employee out.
- Ordinances – Alderwoman Randall inquired if all ordinances are online. City Attorney Tom Cate and Interim City Administrator/City Secretary Dora V. Rodriguez talked about Municode codifying our ordinances. It can be done online but it's very expensive. Discussion was held. Council requested a quote.
- Streets – Alderman Guzman inquired if there is plan to start working on our streets after we get done with our asbestos water line project. According to Interim City Administrator/City Secretary Dora V. Rodriguez, that would be up to Council to come up with a plan on which streets they want fixed in each of their districts, and to have City Engineer Raul Garcia provide quotes. Discussion was held.
- Contractors – Interim City Administrator/City Secretary Dora V. Rodriguez reported that the contractors had been parking at the Triple C parking lot, and they were told to leave. She contacted David Wanders, the owner of QT, and got permission for them to park on their property.

Special Meeting Minutes
August 25, 2020
Page 4

- Coker Avenue – Interim City Administrator/City Secretary Dora V. Rodriguez informed Council of a DWI that hit a gas meter on Fernandez Avenue, but they apparently were also in the Coker area and they knocked down a stop sign and street sign, and there was a cable down on Coker Avenue. After contacting the Police Department and researching, we found out the cable belonged to AT&T. Interim City Administrator/City Secretary Dora V. Rodriguez also reached out to our Asbestos Project Engineer and left him a message to call her back. She found out though that the cones belong to TxDOT. She will keep Council posted as soon as we know more.
- Certificates of Obligation - Interim City Administrator/City Secretary Dora V. Rodriguez asked Council for direction on reaching out to Mark McLiney, our Financial Bond Counselor on plugging in some numbers for the Budget for the Golf Club House. Discussion was held on Certificates of Deposit.

City Attorney Tom Cate announced he was leaving the meeting right before Budget Workshop started.

The fifth order of business was Budget Workshop.

Council reviewed the proposed Budget.

Interim City Administrator/City Secretary Dora V. Rodriguez explained that everything in blue (2020-2021 Budget Request) is what we are working on, and she went over the Budget, explaining what numbers have been plugged in, and explained that they are still plugging in numbers. She went over revenues and expenses.

Council then went over different departments, starting with the Street Department. Mayor Thompson talked about a five-year priorities list, to include streets. Lengthy discussion was held on streets.

Discussion was held that numbers are still being plugged into the budget for Council to review.

Interim City Administrator/City Secretary Dora V. Rodriguez informed Council of some publishing deadlines in the newspaper for public hearings on the budget and on the property taxes. She informed Council that we are shooting for September 29, 2020 to approve the amended current budget for Fiscal Year 2019-2020, and to adopt the new budget and set the new tax rate for Fiscal Year 2020-2021.

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

Special Meeting Minutes

August 25, 2020

Page 5

Ayes	--	All
Nays	--	None

Motion carried.

Mayor

City Secretary