

**Minutes
Special Meeting
September 14, 2021**

On this 14th day of September, 2021, 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 regular meeting place, thereof, at the Dr. George S. Woods Community Center, 200 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 David Espinosa
Alderwoman Debbie Randall
Alderwoman Kathy Lawler
Alderwoman Angela Pichardo

Absent being Alderman Rufino Vega; thus, constituting a quorum.

Personnel present: John F. Vidaurri, City Administrator; Dora V. Rodriguez, City Secretary; Denise Duffy, City Accountant; Tom Cate, City Attorney; and Rob Flores, Director of Public Works/ Emergency Management Coordinator.

Others present: Marly Davis, Devine News; Josh Ritchey; Kevin Hicks; Margaret Greehey; Steve Lopez; Phil Montgomery; Kennan Buckner; and Jamohn Hayden of Devine, Texas.

Mayor Thompson, presiding, declared the meeting open.

The first order of business was a Public Hearing on the Proposed Budget for FY 2021-2022.

At 6:01 p.m., Mayor Thompson announced that the Public Hearing was open.

Council heard comments from Josh Ritchey and Phil Montgomery.

At 6:04 p.m., hearing no other comments from the public, Mayor Thompson closed the Public Hearing.

The second order of business was a Public Hearing on the Proposed Tax Rate for FY 2021-2022.

At 6:04 p.m., Mayor Thompson announced that the Public Hearing was open.

Council heard comments from Josh Ritchey and Kennan Buckner.

At 6:08 p.m., hearing no other comments from the public, Mayor Thompson closed the Public Hearing.

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The third order of business was to administer the Oath of Office to Emergency Management Committee Members.

City Attorney Tom Cate administered the Oaths of Office to Margaret Greehey, District 3; and to Steve A. Lopez, District 2.

The fourth order of business was to discuss and consider for Council to place their vote for the Medina Electric Cooperative, Inc. 2021 Director Election.

Council reviewed the biographies of the two candidates running for Voting District 1: Levi McKenzie and Wayne Scholtz.

Motion by Alderwoman Randall, seconded by Alderman Espinosa to place their votes with Levi McKenzie for the Medina Electric Cooperative, Inc. 2021 Director Election.

Ayes	--	Four – Alderwomen Randall, Lawler, Pichardo; Alderman Espinosa
Nays	--	None
Absent	--	One – Alderman Vega

Motion carried.

The fifth order of business was the Budget Workshop.

Council held lengthy discussion on the Budget; namely:

- American Relief Fund - \$598,272 is being moved out of the General Fund to Utilities.
- Streets – We have \$263,000.
- Salaries – Salaries for the City Secretary and City Treasurer have been corrected.
- Sales Tax Revenue – Lengthy discussion was held on this. FY 2021-2022 will have an increase of \$33,000. QT just opened, so the ISO should be up.
- Council held lengthy discussion on plan to control the spending.
- Improving our infrastructure was discussed.
- On Improvements for water/waste water infrastructure, we'll need to get with Judy Langford to see if there is anything we can do.
- Streets Cut – Alderwoman Randall was upset about the streets being cut; only four streets and Transportation got done this year. According to City Administrator John F. Vidaurri, Commissioner Jerry Beck wants to do more streets, and he suggested to look at the list so he can get started on this.
- City Administrator talked about an increase in Water/Sewer for the Well Yard.
- Council also discussed reducing Police overtime

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- Discussion was held on a 40% increase in TML Insurance, Workman's Comp Property & Liability. We can look for more. The best thing would be to get it into the budget and then review it.
- Streets – Alderwoman Pichardo stated that we need to come up with solutions because there are some streets that are not getting paved, and some are still dirt roads.

Council discussed needing to look at the City as a whole, and looking at the most damaged streets first, which would be the main roads, and to see what is needed the most to benefit the citizens.

Mayor Thompson expressed beyond disappointment that roads are getting cut. He said we've talked to people about this, and said that thanks to Alderwoman Debbie Randall, she came up with a solution. He said he brought up a 5-Year Plan to Council last year, and he brought it up again. Discussion was held.

The sixth order of business was Informational Items.

Council discussed the following:

- Streets – For Washington, we are waiting on materials. We will start on September 15th; Commissioner Beck is short-handed because of COVID. If Council wants additional streets, he needs to know now. Discussion was held on starting with the smallest streets and going to the biggest. Many streets were mentioned, plus the fact that we are still not finished with the Asbestos Project and making sure that the streets being worked on are not being affected by the Asbestos Project. City Administrator John F. Vidaurri will give Commissioner Beck the streets of Fullerton, E. Watson and see what he can get done.
- Speed Hump on Ingram was discussed.
- Community Health Fair – Medina County ESD #4 will sponsor a free Community Health Fair on Saturday, October 9, 2021 at 200 E. Hondo.
- Airport lighting was discussed.
- Speed Survey was discussed for Mesquite Avenue since it is so close to the school.
- Animal Control – Council held discussion on Animal Control Officer(s). We only have one right now.
- Public Works – According to Public Works Director Rob Flores, two new hires are starting on Monday and we need one more.

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

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Ayes	--	Four -- Alderwomen Randall, Lawler, Pichardo; Alderman Espinosa
Nays	--	None
Absent	--	One -- Alderman Vega

Motion carried.

Mayor

City Secretary