

Minutes
Special Meeting & Budget Workshop
September 12, 2023

On this 12th day of September, 2023 at 6:00 p.m., the City Council of the City of Devine convened in a Special Meeting and Budget Workshop, the same being opened to the public, at the Dr. George S. Woods Community Center, 200 E. Hondo Avenue, Devine, Texas 78016. 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 Butch Cook
Alderman Rufino Vega
Alderman Josh Ritchey
Alderman Michael Hernandez
Alderwoman Stacy Pyron

Absent being Alderwoman Debbie Randall; thus, constituting a quorum.

Personnel Present: Dora V. Rodriguez, Interim City Administrator/City Secretary; Pete Sanchez, Director of Public Works; and Alma Rios-Flores, Municipal Court Clerk.

Others Present: Ron Richards and Sandra Richards with Devine Golf Group.

Mayor Cook presiding, declared the meeting open.

The first order of business was a Public Hearing on the Proposed Budget for FY 2023-2024.

At 6:10 p.m., Mayor Cook announced that the Public Hearing was open for comments.

At 6:11 p.m., hearing no comments from the public, Mayor Cook closed the Public Hearing.

The second order of business was to discuss and consider the Proposed Tax Rate for FY 2023-2024.

Council held very lengthy discussion on the proposed tax rate of \$.0058 which is above the voter approval rate of \$.005589. At this meeting, Council did not lower the proposed rate; however, there will be a public hearing on September 19, 2023 regarding the tax rate. The new tax rate will be set at the September 26, 2023 Special Council Meeting.

The third order of business was Informational Items.

- Fall Festival Parade – Alderwoman Randall, who was out of town, texted for Council to get a consensus as to who will be participating in the Fall Festival Parade on the first Saturday of November. Council held discussion.
- Air Conditioning at City Hall – City Hall side has air conditioning now and the Police Department gets their AC unit on Thursday.

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- Golf Tournament – Alderman Hernandez announced there’s a Knights of Columbus Golf Tournament going on this weekend.
- Fundraiser – Alderman Hernandez also announced there’s a fundraiser benefit for Robert Ramirez, Jr. who is battling leukemia; they are having a Texas Brisket/Burger in a Bag this weekend across the street from Mr. Reyna’s Welding Shop.
- Property at the School – Interim City Administrator/City Secretary Dora V. Rodriguez advised she talked to Todd Grandjean, Superintendent of Devine ISD, regarding the earnest money contract. He will be turning it in to their attorneys and they will be getting back with us.
- Wells – Alderman Ritchey asked for a status of the Carrizo Well. Director of Public Works Pete Sanchez stated that we are waiting on the plans from the engineer. We already have pumps for the Bain Well. Council held discussion.

The fourth order of business was the Budget Workshop.

Council held discussion on the following:

- Rates and fees for the hangars and land leases at the airport.
- Water rates. It was explained that the Water and Sewer Department budget only receives revenue from the water and sewer rates that are charged. Revenue can also come from a grant once in a while, but no property tax or sales tax money goes into the Water and Sewer Fund. This means that when water wells need repair, water storage tanks need replacing, water towers need replacing, sewer plant equipment needs repair or replacement, the money for these repairs and/or replacements are from the water and sewer rates that all businesses and residents pay monthly. With that said, we are in a financial bind with the Water/Sewer budget. As a City Council, we must raise the water and sewer rates to meet the needs of this department.
- The proposed water rates were based on the usage of water. Council held lengthy discussion on this. Council wishes to change the usage tiers and rate increases to read:
 - Up to 7,000 gallons – 5% increase
 - Up to 12,000 gallons – 15% increase
 - Up to/and over 20,000 gallons – 30% increase
 - Sewer rate would have a 7% increase across the board.
- Interim City Administrator/City Secretary Dora V. Rodriguez will be running a report before the next meeting on September 19, 2023 so that the Council can see if these increases will meet the needs for the current budget. We are hoping this increase also will give us a little extra to go towards the water storage tank that needs replacing and possibly a new water tower on the District #2 side of town, in the future.

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- The General Fund budget is for all other departments of the City, except Water & Sewer; for example, Administration, Police, Animal Control, Emergency Management, Parks & Recreation, Streets, etc. The budgets for all of these departments receive revenue from property taxes, sales taxes, permit fees and other fees the City receives. These departments can also receive grant money that goes into the General Fund for those particular items that the grant specifies.

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

Ayes	--	All
Nays	--	None

Motion Carried.

Mayor

City Secretary