

**Minutes
Special Meeting
September 26, 2023**

On this 26th day of September, 2023 at 6:05 p.m., the City Council of the City of Devine convened in a Special Meeting, 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
Aldерwoman Debbie Randall
Alderman Rufino Vega
Alderman Josh Ritchey
Alderman Michael Hernandez
Aldерwoman Stacy Pyron

Thus, constituting a quorum.

Personnel Present: Dora V. Rodriguez, Interim City Administrator/City Secretary; Denise Duffy, City Accountant; and Pete Sanchez, Director of Public Works.

Others Present: Anton Riecher, Devine News.

Mayor Cook presiding declared the meeting open.

The first order of business was to discuss and consider Approval of Council Minutes: Special Meeting Minutes-Budget Workshop, August 15, 2023; Special Meeting Minutes- Budget Workshop, August 22, 2023; Emergency Meeting Minutes, August 25, 2023; Special Meeting Minutes-Budget Workshop, August 29, 2023; and Special Meeting Minutes-Budget Workshop, September 12, 2023.

Mayor Cook wanted the minutes for August 15, 2023 to read on Page 5, Paragraph 2: "... the City should maintain the infrastructure as it is property of the City." Instead of "...the city should assist the golf course..." Also he wanted Page 6, last paragraph, to read: "... between No-New Revenue and the Voter Approval Rate..." instead of ... "between No-New Revenue and the current tax rate."

Motion made by Alderwoman Randall, seconded by Alderman Hernandez, to accept the minutes for all these meetings, with the changes, if necessary, by Mayor Cook.

Ayes	--	All
Nays	--	None

Motion carried.

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The second order of business was to Discuss and consider Amending Current Budget for FY 2022-2023.

Alderman Randall asked Dora V. Rodriguez, Interim City Administrator/City Secretary, for the amount of the Capital Outlay that will be changed by Auditors (airport hangar certificate of obligation), so we could figure the surplus budget for the year. She advised it was \$924,053. Therefore, the surplus for the current year 2022-2023 that ends on September 30, 2023 will be \$376,783.

Motion made by Alderman Randall, seconded by Alderman Vega, to accept the Amended Current Budget for FY 2022-2023.

Amended Current Budget for FY 2022-2023 attached as Exhibit A.

Ayes	--	All
Nays	--	None

Motion carried.

The third order of business was to discuss and consider Adopting Budget for FY 2023-2024.

Council discussed which budget to vote for, using each of the tax rates discussed throughout the process.

Tax Rate \$.5553 will have a \$476,460 surplus – (No-New Revenue Rate).

Tax Rate \$.5589 will have a \$485,194 surplus – (Voter Approval Rate).

Tax Rate \$.5800 will have a \$536,386 surplus – (Proposed Tax Rate by Council).

Alderman Ritchey did not wish to accept any of the budgets as the salaries he suggested were not in any of the budgets. Alderman Pyron was sure the \$.5553 would be the best at this time. Aldermen Hernandez and Vega agreed \$.5589 would be the best. Alderman Randall stood firm to use tax rate \$.4913 which would have had a \$321,187 surplus.

Dora V. Rodriguez, Interim City Administrator/City Secretary, wanted Council to understand that the Water Budget handout has \$23,500 in the Capital Outlay for the acre of land to be purchased from Devine ISD. Other possible items such as a survey, title search and appraisal are not included, as the City does not have a cost at this time. Council will need to amend the budget when those costs become available.

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More lengthy discussion by Council was had regarding the amount of surplus required for “in case” needs that may arise. Some of the reasoning for the high tax rate was to have a higher surplus to assist in many things necessary in the City.

This Budget includes applying for a USDA Grant for two Police Tahoes.

Motion made by Alderman Ritchey, seconded by Alderwoman Pyron to accept the Adopted Budget for FY 2023-2024 using the \$.005553 tax rate.

Adopted Budget for FY 2023-2024 attached as Exhibit B.

Ayes	--	Four - Aldermen Ritchey, Vega, Hernandez Alderwoman Pyron
Nays	--	One – Alderwoman Randall

Motion carried.

The fourth order of business was to discuss and consider Adopting an Ordinance establishing the Budget beginning October 1, 2023, and ending September 30, 2024, appropriating funds for the operation of the General Fund, Water Fund, and Sinking Fund to pay interest and principal due on all city indebtedness.

Motion made by Alderman Ritchey, seconded by Alderwoman Randall to adopt Ordinance #9-23 establishing the Budget beginning October 1, 2023, and ending September 30, 2024, 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	--	All
Nays	--	None

Motion carried.

The fifth order of business was to discuss and consider Adopting 2023 Tax Rate.

Motion made by Alderman Ritchey, seconded by Alderwoman Pyron to adopt 2023 Tax Rate at \$.005553.

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Ayes	--	Four - Aldermen Ritchey, Vega, Hernandez Alderwoman Pyron
Nays	--	One – Alderwoman Randall

Motion carried.

The sixth 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 2023-2024 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 \$.5553 on each \$100.00 valuation of property for the maintenance and support of the general government (General Fund).

Motion made by Alderman Ritchey, seconded by Alderwoman Pyron to adopt Ordinance #9-23A levying ad valorem taxes for use and support of the municipal government of the City of Devine for the 2023-2024 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 \$.5553 on each \$100.00 valuation of property for the maintenance and support of the general government (General Fund).

Ordinance attached as Exhibit D.

Ayes	--	Four - Aldermen Ritchey, Vega, Hernandez Alderwoman Pyron
Nays	--	One – Alderwoman Randall

Motion carried.

The seventh 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 2023-2024 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 \$.5589 on each \$100.00 valuation of property for the maintenance and support of the general government (General Fund).

No Action Taken.

The eighth 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 2023-2024 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 \$.5800 on each \$100.00 valuation of property for the maintenance and support of the general government (General Fund).

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No Action Taken.

The ninth order of business was to discuss and consider Adopting a Resolution nominating a candidate for the election of the Medina County Appraisal Board of Directors for 2023-2024.

Mayor Cook started the discussion by nominating Jerry Beck. Alderwoman Randall made the statement that of all the years of watching meetings and being part of Council, Mr. Beck was the only one she had ever seen who came to a Council meeting to announce wanting the position.

Motion made by Alderman Ritchey, seconded by Alderwoman Randall, to adopt Resolution 9-23B to nominate and assign all 81 votes for Devine, for Jerry Beck as our candidate for the Medina County Appraisal Board of Directors for 2023-2024.

Resolution attached as Exhibit E.

Ayes	--	All
Nays	--	None

Motion carried.

The tenth order of business was Informational Items.

- Alderman Ritchey wanted to note increased reported crime on Crouch & Libold. (Car break-ins).
- Alderman Ritchey advised that Nancy Saathoff has a presentation from the Devine Historical Committee for our next meeting.
- Alderman Vega inquired about the Eclipse coming up. It will be on October 14th. As Council did not follow up and plan an event, there will be no event in Devine.
- Dora V. Rodriguez, Interim City Administrator/City Secretary, handed out applications received for the City Administrator position which have been received. Council is to let her know if we want to have an interview with any of them. Council would need to set a Special meeting for the interviews.
- Alderwoman Randall wanted to remind everyone of the National Night Out at the Golf Course on Tuesday, October 3rd.

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- Alderwoman Randall wanted to update the Council on the Chamber of Commerce happenings. Final plans are happening for the Cactus Festival - Nov 4th – 5.5 weeks away. At our next regular council meeting, the Chamber will be coming to the Council to request a noise variance and street closures. Also, they wish for the City to make or purchase 10 more brackets for street banners, as the Chamber wishes to have 10 more banners made. Alderwoman Randall will send an email to Dora V. Rodriguez, Interim City Administrator, as a reminder. Pete Sanchez, Director of Public Works, will need to get with the Chamber of Commerce people as to where they wish to place the brackets. Also, Chamber of Commerce is working with AEP to get banner poles set for large banners across the street banners for the city.
- Alderwoman Randall advised that the Chamber of Commerce is also asking about the 4-corners and decorating for Christmas. They want to know if Council wishes to decorate the PICO's corner. Council did confirm they would like to do a sign and/or lights. Decorating needs to be done on or near the Thanksgiving weekend to be set up for the entire holiday season.
- Mayor Cook advised Council that Devine ISD Superintendent Grandjean has come back with the contract for the acre of land the City is purchasing from Devine ISD. Their attorneys have stipulated a 1st chance for buy-back if the city wished to sell the land, and a deed restriction added that the land can only be used for city utilities.
- Alderman Vega wanted to know when Council will be decorating the council trailer for the Cactus Festival parade. Date is unknown, however, we will have that information soon.

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

Ayes	--	All
Nays	--	None

Motion carried.

Mayor

City Secretary