

Minutes
Special Meeting
September 24, 2024

On this 24th day of September 2024, at 6:02 p.m., the City Council of the City of Devine convened in a Special Meeting, the same being open 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:

Alderman/Mayor Pro-Tem Debbie Randall
Alderman Ray Gonzales
Alderman Josh Ritchey
Alderman Jeff Miller
Alderman Michael Hernandez

Absent being Mayor Cook, thus constituting a quorum.

Alderman Gonzales arrived late to the meeting.

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

Others Present: Anton Reicher, Devine News; Ron Richards, Brian Navarro, Jay Dishman, Devine Golf Group; Jerry Lee Stevens, Devine, Texas.

Mayor Pro-Tem Randall, presiding, declared the meeting open.

Motion by Alderman Ritchey, seconded by Alderman Hernandez, to move Agenda Item #9 Street Paving to the first order of business.

Ayes	--	Four
Nays	--	None
Absent	--	Two Mayor Cook & Alderman Gonzales

Motion carried.

The first order of business was to consider and act upon identifying future Streets for Paving.

City Administrator Jordan reviewed the street paving list with the Council and advised that the project would begin in about three weeks.

The Council discussed the street project.

City Administrator Jordan advised that he will put it on the agenda for the next street project in the spring.

At this time Alderman Gonzales was present for the meeting.

No action taken

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Motion by Alderman Ritchey, seconded by Alderman Gonzales, to move Agenda Item #8 Golf Course Contract to be discussed next.

Ayes	--	All
Nays	--	None
Absent	--	One Mayor Cook

Motion carried.

The second order of business was to consider and act upon the Golf Course Contract.

City Administrator Jordan informed the Council that the City Employees and Golf Course personnel did a walk through the well/pump at the Golf Course. He advised that a proposal was received to repair/replace all the items that require attention.

The Mayor and Council discussed the cost of repairing everything with the Golf Course Personnel and the City Administrator. They estimated the cost to be \$80,000 for this project.

Motion by Alderman Hernandez that the City approve paying for this project not to exceed \$80,000 with the proposal from Force LLC. Motion died for lack of a second motion.

Motion by Alderman Ritchey, seconded by Alderman Hernandez to replace the jockey pumps, the structure, including everything on the listed project for up to \$80,000 to be funded by the City.

Alderman Miller stated that he is not against this project; he just feels the city is flying in the dark.

Ayes	--	Four
Nays	--	One Alderman Miller
Absent	--	One Mayor Cook

Motion carried.

Mayor Pro-Tem Randall asked if the Council wished to discuss the contract changes tonight or table the item until a future meeting.

Motion by Alderman Ritchey, seconded by Alderman Miller, to table the contract discussion until another meeting.

Ayes	--	All
Nays	--	None
Absent	--	One Mayor Cook

Motion carried.

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The third order of business was to consider and act upon Amending the Current Budget for FY 2023-2024.

City Administrator Jordan advised that the only thing that has changed on this budget was advertising. Mayor Pro-Tem Randall stated that the budget will end the year with a \$53,819 surplus, less than what was proposed when the budget was approved last year. She asked where the rest of the money was spent.

The Council discussed the amended budget.

Motion by Alderman Ritchey, seconded by Alderman Gonzales, to amend the Budget for FY 2023-2024.

Ayes	--	All
Nays	--	None
Absent	--	One Mayor Cook

Motion carried.

The fourth order of business was to consider and act upon Adopting the Budget for FY 2024-2025.

The Council and City Administrator Jordan discussed that the budget would raise more property tax revenue than last year's budget by \$165,085, a 12.12 percent increase. The property tax revenue to be raised from the new property added to the tax roll this year is \$18,360.

City Administrator Jordan went over items in this budget:

- Merit increases for employees who make less than \$60,000.
- Starting Wage from \$17 to \$20 for employees with two or more years.
- New flooring for City Hall.
- New IT Equipment.
- Code Review.
- Iworq for Codes
- Water & Sewer Rate Study
- Curcio Park Canopies
- Golf Course Maintenance

Motion by Alderman Miller, seconded by Alderman Hernandez to adopt the Budget for FY 2024-2025.

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Ayes	--	Three Alderman Miller, Alderman Hernandez & Alderman Gonzales
Nays	--	Two Alderman Ritchey and Alderwoman Randall
Absent	--	One Mayor Cook

Motion carried.

Alderman Ritchey stated that the Mayor Pro-Tem can only vote on an item if there is a tie. Mayor Pro-Tem Randall said the city attorney told her she still had voting rights when the Mayor was not presiding.

The fifth order of business was to consider and act upon Adopting an Ordinance establishing the Budget beginning October 1, 2024, and ending September 30, 2025, appropriating funds for the operations of the General Fund, Water & Sewer Fund, Lodging Fund, TCOLE Fund, Home Program Fund, and Sinking Fund to pay interest and principal due on all city indebtedness.

Motion by Alderman Miller, seconded by Alderman Gonzales, to adopt Ordinance 9-24 A establishing the Budget beginning October 1, 2024, and ending September 30, 2025, appropriating funds for the operations of the General Fund, Water & Sewer Fund, Lodging Fund, TCOLE Fund, Home Program Fund, and Sinking Fund to pay interest and principal due on all city indebtedness.

Ayes	--	Three Alderman Miller, Alderman Gonzales & Alderman Hernandez
Nays	--	Two Alderman Ritchey & Alderwoman Randall
Absent	--	One Mayor Cook

Motion carried.

The sixth order of business was to consider and act upon Adopting the 2024 Tax Rate.

The Council discussed the .5900 Tax Rate.

Motion by Alderman Hernandez, seconded by Alderman Gonzales, to adopt the 2024 Tax Rate of .5900 on each \$100 valuation of property.

Ayes	--	Three Alderman Hernandez, Alderman Gonzales & Alderman Miller
Nays	--	Two Alderman Ritchey & Alderwoman Randall
Absent	--	One Mayor Cook

Motion carried.

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The seventh order of business was to consider and act upon Adopting an Ordinance levying ad valorem taxes for use and support of the municipal government of the City of Devine for the 2024-2025 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 \$.5900 on each \$100.00 valuation of property for the maintenance and support of the general government (General Fund).

Motion by Alderman Hernandez, seconded by Alderman Miller, to adopt Ordinance 9-24B levying ad valorem taxes for use and support of the municipal government of the City of Devine for the 2024-2025 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 \$.5900 on each \$100.00 valuation of property for the maintenance and support of the general government (General Fund).

Ayes	--	Three Alderman Hernandez, Alderman Miller & Alderman Gonzales
Nays	--	Two Alderman Ritchey & Alderwoman Randall
Absent	--	One Alderman Cook

Motion carried.

The eighth order of business was to consider and act upon the Council to restrict the fund balance of \$263,000 to be committed for Street Maintenance.

Mayor Pro-Tem Randall explained to the Council that this is so that we can use this money for Street Maintenance.

Motion by Alderman Miller, seconded by Alderman Hernandez, to earmark \$263,000 specifically for street maintenance.

Ayes	--	All
Nays	--	None
Absent	--	One Mayor Cook

Motion carried.

The ninth order of business was Information Items.

- City Administrator Jordan wanted to thank Public Works for taking care of the potholes on Watson.

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- Mayor Pro-Tem Randall asked about the TextMyGov application and how it gives a generic response upon receipt of the original text. She advised that nothing is returning to the sender, showing them that it is being taken care of. The City Administrator advised that a text can be set up after the resolution is completed. The rest of the Council discussed timeframe. The council discussed getting a monthly report. City Administrator Jordan advised the Council that a monthly report will be given to the Council.
- Alderman Hernandez was concerned about the Curcio Park house, which needs cleaning. The Director of Public Works, Sanchez, said they would take care of it.

There being no further business to come before the Council, Alderman Miller made a motion, seconded by Alderman Ritchey, to adjourn the meeting.

Ayes	--	All
Nays	--	None
Absent	--	One Mayor Cook

Motion carried.

Mayor

City Secretary