



The City of Liberty City Council

Special Called Meeting

~ Minutes ~

1829 Sam Houston
Liberty, TX 77575
www.cityofliberty.org

Dianne Tidwell
City Secretary
(936) 336-3684

Tuesday, August 23, 2011

6:00 PM

City Council Chambers

I. CALL TO ORDER

The Meeting was called to order on August 23, 2011 at the City Council Chambers, 1829 Sam Houston, Liberty, TX at 6:03 PM by Mayor Carl Pickett.

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
Carl Pickett	Mayor	Present	
Mike McCarty	Mayor Pro-Tem	Absent	
Dennis Beasley	Councilperson	Present	
Diane Huddleston	Councilperson	Present	
Frank Jordan	Councilperson	Present	
Louie Potetz	Councilperson	Present	
Libby Simonson	Councilperson	Present	
Gary Broz	City Manager	Present	
Dianne Tidwell	City Secretary	Present	
Brandon Davis	City Counsel	Present	

II. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF GUESTS AND VISITORS / PUBLIC COMMENT

Mayor Pickett welcomed guests and visitors, opening the floor for public comment to those individuals wishing to address the Council. There were no comments from the audience.

Mayor Pickett reported on the following items:

- 1) the Texas Municipal League Annual Conference will be held October 11-14 in Houston,
- 2) Fire Chief Fred Collins made a presentation to the weekly meeting of the Liberty Rotary Club,
- 3) "Hoses for Heroes", a fundraiser 9 (dinner and dance) for the Liberty Volunteer Fire Department will be held September 10, in the Liberty Center,
- 4) and thanked Wisconsin college student, Kurtis Leffelman for his work and internship as an Urban Planner with the City of Liberty.

City Manager Gary Broz reported on the following:

- 1) nominations to the Central Appraisal District Board of Directors will be made at the September Council Meeting, and
- 2) the second Public Hearing on the proposed tax rate will be held on Wednesday, August 31, along with a presentation from the Brazos Transit District.

III. PRESENTATIONS / REPORTS

A. Information Item (ID # 2144)

Various Project Updates**COMMENTS - Current Meeting:**

City Manager Gary Broz reported on several of the City's current projects as follows, stating that information on other current projects is included in the Council handout:

- 1) the Monta Elevated Tank project is nearing completion, with the valve replacement project to begin September 6, and by mid-September the entire project should be complete and the water facilities back in working order,
- 2) start up of new equipment (belt press, bar screen) at the Wastewater Treatment Plant should begin this week,
- 3) new generators currently being placed at the Wastewater Treatment Plant, water wells, and select lift stations, and
- 4) the new electric and water smart meter installation is still in progress.

B. Information Item (ID # 2145)**Financial Report****COMMENTS - Current Meeting:**

This item will be discussed at the Council Meeting to be held on Wednesday, August 31, 2011.

IV. WORK SESSION**1. Work Session (ID # 2146)**

Discussion of the Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year 2011-2012.

COMMENTS - Current Meeting:

Lengthy discussion was held regarding revenues for the upcoming fiscal year, the various funds, possible revenue from the sale of various City properties, maintenance and operation and sinking funds, the proposed tax rate of \$.5900, risks of adopting the effective tax rate, Central Appraisal District property values, transfers, bond indebtedness, and numerous additional budget related items.

V. REGULAR AGENDA**A. Regular Session****1. Public Hearing (ID # 2147)**

Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year 2011-2012.

COMMENTS - Current Meeting:

At 7:03 p.m., Mayor Pickett opened the Public Hearing on the proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2011-2012. Discussion was continued from the work session on the proposed budget to include the electric fund, the SRMPA buy down, Boomerang Tube electric adder, and additional financial related items. Fire Chief Fred Collins and Electric Department Director Randy Wiggins spoke in favor of a pay raise on behalf of the employees in their respective departments. Council responded by saying that though all City employees deserved such salary increases, there are not adequate funds contained within the proposed budget. Mayor Pickett followed by expressing appreciation for the City employees and the work they do.

At 7:11 p.m., Mayor Pickett closed the public hearing.

2. Council Action 2011-92

Consider Postponement of Final Vote on the Fiscal Year Budget 2011-2012 Until September 13, 2011.

COMMENTS - Current Meeting:

Motion was made to postpone the final vote on the FY 2011-2012 Budget until September 13, 2011.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Frank Jordan, Councilperson
SECONDER:	Dennis Beasley, Councilperson
AYES:	Pickett, Beasley, Huddleston, Jordan, Potetz, Simonson
ABSENT:	Mike McCarty

3. Public Hearing (ID # 2149)

Proposed Tax Rate for Fiscal Year 2011-2012.

COMMENTS - Current Meeting:

At 7:14 p.m., Mayor Pickett opened the Public Hearing on the proposed tax rate for FY 2011-2012. Discussion was held regarding the proposed tax rate of \$.5900 per \$100 valuation, the possibility of reducing the tax rate along with associated risks, and review of the budget and tax rate adoption schedule.

At 7:16 p.m., Mayor Pickett closed the public hearing.

4. Council Action 2011-93

Declare Miscellaneous Water and Electric Meters as Surplus Property.

COMMENTS - Current Meeting:

City Manager Gary Broz stated that in regard to the new smart meter replacement project, he would like to request that the old water and electric meters be declared surplus property. Mr. Broz stated that the City would place these items for sale and receive approximately \$5.00 per meter.

Motion was made to declare the old water and electric meters as surplus property.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Frank Jordan, Councilperson
SECONDER:	Dennis Beasley, Councilperson
AYES:	Pickett, Beasley, Huddleston, Jordan, Potetz, Simonson
ABSENT:	Mike McCarty

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Motion To: Adjourn

COMMENTS - Current Meeting:

There being no further business before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 7:19 p.m.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Louie Potetz, Councilperson
SECONDER:	Dennis Beasley, Councilperson
AYES:	Pickett, Beasley, Huddleston, Jordan, Potetz, Simonson
ABSENT:	Mike McCarty

Carl Pickett, Mayor

ATTEST:

Dianne Tidwell, City Secretary