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 27, 2013 | **6:00 PM** | **City Council Chambers**

I. CALL TO ORDER

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
Carl Pickett	Mayor	Present	
Diane Huddleston	Councilperson	Present	
Dennis Beasley	Councilperson	Present	
Frank Jordan	Councilperson	Present	
Louie Potetz	Councilperson	Present	
Libby Simonson	Councilperson	Present	
David Arnold	Councilperson	Present	
Gary Broz	City Manager	Present	
Dianne Tidwell	City Secretary	Present	
Randy Gunter	City Counsel	Present	

II. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF GUESTS AND VISITORS / PUBLIC COMMENT

Public Comment is reserved for members of the public who would like to address the City Council regarding agenda and non-agenda items. Please be aware that, under Texas Law, the Council may not deliberate or take any action during Citizen's comments for items not on the agenda. In some situations, City Staff may be able to respond to the public comment with a factual statement or clarification. The City Council may have the item placed on a future agenda for action or refer the item to Management and Staff for study or conclusion.

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.

Police Chief Billy Tidwell reported on National Night Out, a Police Dept. Sponsored event, that will take place at the Liberty Municipal Park on October 1, 2013 from 6-8 p.m.

Mayor Pickett stated the next two meetings of the City Council would be held on September 3rd and September 10th, 2013.

III. PRESENTATIONS / REPORTS

A. Information Item (ID # 2788)

Financial Report - Finance Director N. Herrington

COMMENTS - Current Meeting:

Finance Director Naomi Herrington stated that property tax collections are in excess of budgeted amounts and that the General Fund is doing well. Ms. Herrington reported on each of the various funds, including revenues and expenditures, and the cash balance of each fund.

B. Information Item (ID # 2789)

Recycling Report - Councilperson Huddleston

COMMENTS - Current Meeting:

Councilperson Huddleston reported that a "Shred-It" event will take place at the end of September or October. Final details will be reported at a later date.

C. Information Item (ID # 2790)

Sam Rayburn Municipal Power Agency - Mayor Pickett

COMMENTS - Current Meeting:

Mayor Pickett stated that there was no SRMPA update at this time, as the most recent scheduled meeting had been cancelled.

D. Information Item (ID # 2791)

Houston-Galveston Area Council - Councilperson Jordan

COMMENTS - Current Meeting:

Councilperson Jordan reported on the Liveable Houston Initiative-Houston Tomorrow which details the framework for growth in the City of Houston and the H-GAC Area. This report provides guidelines on how the area should develop, which will also affect the direction of Houston Galveston Area Council grants.

Councilperson Jordan also reported on the Regional Texas Emissions Reduction Plan which includes $3 million in grants to reduce nitrogen oxide emissions by heavy duty diesel engines that power equipment owned or operated by local government entities.

IV. REGULAR AGENDA

A. Regular Session

1. Council Action 2013-76

Consider a Request for Funds from the Executive Director of CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates).

COMMENTS - Current Meeting:

Ms. Kathy Dagle, Case Manager for CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates) addressed Council regarding a request for funds. Ms. Dagle detailed the non-profit program and its services, whose main goal is to provide assistance and support for abused and neglected children in Childrens Protective Services custody. Ms. Dagle commented that CASA does receive limited Federal and State funds. Program services include counseling to children and families, advocates for court appearances, permanent or long-term placement for children in foster care, and other necessary benefits for the care of these children.

Council consensus was to research funding options by other local entities, prior to making a decision.

ATTACHMENTS:

- CASA Req for Funds (PDF)

RESULT:	**NO ACTION TAKEN**

2. Council Action 2013-81

Consider Water Infrastructure Improvements as Proposed by Freese and Nichols, Inc., and Take Any Action Deemed Necessary.

COMMENTS - Current Meeting:

City Manager Gary Broz reported on a handout regarding various options for water/wastewater infrastructure improvements. Discussed were seven options with related costs. Mr. Broz stated he would like to choose a plan that includes at least a new water well, while also pursuing a plan with affordable costs. Mr. Broz explained that this topic is due to a grant available from the U.S. Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration, in the amount of $1 million. Applications may be submitted in mid-September or December, 2013. Items of discussion included a new water well, pumps, storage tank, water tower, water lines, reusable water, and other associated issues. Also discussed was a debt service plan for the remuneration of $4, $5, or $6 million for 20 years, plus an increase in water rates.

After lengthy dialogue, the consensus of Council was to pursue a plan of action for a new water well, pumps, distribution, and locate property for a new well.

RESULT:	**NO ACTION TAKEN**

3. Resolution (ID # 2794)

Consider Approval of a Resolution Authorizing Application for a Public Works and Economic Adjustment Assistance Program Economic Adjustment Grant.

COMMENTS - Current Meeting:

Mr. Broz recommended that no action be taken, as this item will come before Council at a later date for application submission in December, 2013.

RESULT:	**NO ACTION TAKEN**

4. Council Action 2013-77

Consider Award of Bid for Employee Group Dental and Medical Insurance.

COMMENTS - Current Meeting:

Mr. Broz reported that the Texas Municipal League had solicited bids for medical stop loss insurance on behalf of the City and that Mr. Joe Sanchez, TML representative was present to address Council and answer questions regarding this information. Discussed was the City's current plan and comparisons with other quotes received. The proposed cost to move to the TML Intergovernmental Employee Benefits Pool is $1,256,908.32. Reviewed was the stop loss, prescription costs, employee costs, benefits, and other related topics.

A motion was made to award the bid for group medical insurance to TML-IEBP for an annual premium of $1,256,908.32, to include dental and vision coverage.

RESULT:	**APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]**
MOVER:	Frank Jordan, Councilperson
SECONDER:	Diane Huddleston, Councilperson
AYES:	Pickett, Huddleston, Beasley, Jordan, Potetz, Simonson, Arnold

5. Council Action 2013-78

Consider Action to Evaluate and Select Bids And/Or Proposals to Build New Police Department Building and Such Related Site Work Including Action to Award Bids as Necessary, and to Adopt a Resolution Memorializing Such Selection and Award.

COMMENTS - Current Meeting:

Mr. Broz reviewed with Council the competitive sealed proposal process and the project budget of $2.5 million for the new Police Department facility. Fourteen proposals were received ranging from $2.4 - $3.6 million. Mr. Broz reported that the low bid was N&T Construction, Beaumont, Texas, in the amount of $2,400,000. Reviewed was the base bid and alternates, for a total bid of $2,616,000. Discussion was held regarding the Value Engineering Detail and cost reductions to keep the project under budget. Victor Quejada, PGAL, was also present to answer questions regarding this project.

Lengthy discussion was held regarding plumbing changes, assorted building changes, lockers, generator purchase, landscaping, fencing, and related expenditure amounts. Also discussed was additional ways in which to fund necessary items.

City Attorney Randy Gunter explained issues with the environmental review related to grant funds from the General Land Office (GLO). To remedy this, Mr. Gunter recommended a Resolution selecting the contractor and conditioning the award on the use of grant funds from the GLO.

The caption of the Resolution reads as follows:

"A RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LIBERTY, TEXAS, SELECTING A GENERAL CONTRACTOR TO CONSTRUCT A NEW POLICE STATION, TO SELECT BIDDING ALTERNATE; MEMORIALIZING VALUE ENGINEERING PLANS; AND CONDITIONING AWARD ON THE CITY'S AUTHORITY TO USE GRANT FUNDS (AUGF) FROM THE TEXAS GENERAL LAND OFFICE."

Motion was made to approve the Resolution awarding the bid to N&T Construction, contingent on grant funds from the General Land Office.

RESULT:	**APPROVED [6 TO 1]**
MOVER:	Dennis Beasley, Councilperson
SECONDER:	Diane Huddleston, Councilperson
AYES:	Pickett, Huddleston, Beasley, Jordan, Simonson, Arnold
NAYS:	Louie Potetz

6. Public Hearing (ID # 2798)

Public Hearing on the Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year 2013-2014.

COMMENTS - Current Meeting:

At 8:00 p.m., Mayor Pickett opened the Public Hearing on the proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2013-2014. Brief discussion was held regarding cost reductions for the new Police Department facility. Mr. Broz stated that funds for salary increases and moving the City's insurance coverage to the TML Pool are included in the new budget. Council consensus was to also increase the salaries of the City Manager, City Engineer/PWD, and Municipal Court Judge, by 3 percent.

At 8:10 p.m., Mayor Pickett closed the Public Hearing.

7. Council Action 2013-79

Consider Postponement of Final Vote on the Fiscal Year 2013-2014 Budget Until September 10, 2013.

COMMENTS - Current Meeting:

A motion was made to postpone the final vote on the proposed tax rate for Fiscal Year 2013-2014 until Tuesday, September 10, 2013.

RESULT:	**APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]**
MOVER:	Frank Jordan, Councilperson
SECONDER:	Dennis Beasley, Councilperson
AYES:	Pickett, Huddleston, Beasley, Jordan, Potetz, Simonson, Arnold

8. Public Hearing (ID # 2800)

Public Hearing on the Proposed Tax Rate for Fiscal Year 2013-2014.

COMMENTS - Current Meeting:

At 8:11 p.m., Mayor Pickett opened the Public Hearing on the proposed tax rate for Fiscal Year 2013-2014. The Mayor reported that the proposed tax rate is the same rate as the current year, at $.5900 per $100 valuation. There were no other comments.

At 8:12 p.m., Mayor Pickett closed the Public Hearing.

9. Council Action 2013-80

Consider Approval of an Agreement for Fire Protection Services Between Liberty County and the City of Liberty Fire Department.

COMMENTS - Current Meeting:

Mr. Broz stated that this annual contract is for the term October 1, 2013 - September 30, 2014. Discussed were current rates charged, possible 10% increase in rates for the next year, and collection of funds not received for services previously provided. Council directed Mr. Broz to send a letter to Liberty County Judge Craig McNair requesting rates be increased for 2015. Also discussed was drafting a resolution requesting payment of funds for services previously provided to Liberty County.

Motion was made to approve the agreement for Fire Protection Services with Liberty County.

ATTACHMENTS:

- Fire Protection Svs 2013-14 (PDF)

RESULT:	**APPROVED [6 TO 1]**
MOVER:	Dennis Beasley, Councilperson
SECONDER:	Diane Huddleston, Councilperson
AYES:	Pickett, Huddleston, Beasley, Potetz, Simonson, Arnold
NAYS:	Frank Jordan

V. ADJOURNMENT

Motion To: Adjourn

COMMENTS - Current Meeting:

There being no further business before the Council, Mayor Pickett adjourned the meeting at 8:25 p.m.

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Carl Pickett, Mayor

ATTEST:

Dianne Tidwell, City Secretary