



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, July 15, 2014

6:00 PM

City Council Chambers

I. CALL TO ORDER

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

III. REGULAR AGENDA

A. Regular Session

1. Information Item (ID # 3056)

Presentation by Mr. Anthony Mills, Texas Municipal Retirement System, regarding employee retirement benefits.

COMMENTS - Current Meeting:

Mayor Pickett jointly opened the Texas Municipal Retirement System (TMRS) presentation and budget work session. City Manager Gary Broz prefaced these sessions by briefly reporting on the following in regard to the proposed FY 2014-2015 budget:

- 1) 3 cent tax increase
- 2) TMRS Retirement Plan and Updated Service Credits
- 3) Step Plan for Public Safety

- 4) Certification Pay
- 5) Seal Coat Program
- 6) 2% salary increase
- 7) \$2 increase in base water rates
- 8) \$2 increase in base sewer rates
- 9) 2.6% increase in solid waste rates

Mr. Broz stated that the various increases would keep the City moving forward and also assist with various employee issues, to include retaining qualified personnel. Mr. Broz stated that the proposed budget is a balanced budget. Mr. Broz reported this budget includes and provides for an increase in expenses, over the previous year's budget, in the following amounts:

General Fund	\$1,111,863
Water/WW	\$ 225,000
Electric	\$ 322,000
Solid Waste	\$ 15,000

Additional expenditures in the budget include a transport ambulance and equipment, lawn mowers, and updating certain computers.

At this time, Mayor Pickett welcomed Mr. Anthony Mills, Regional Manager with the Texas Municipal Retirement System. Mr. Mills presented a brief history of the Texas Municipal Retirement System, a statewide retirement system established in 1947, of which the City has been a member since 2002. TMRS administers a retirement plan for municipal employees that is funded by the contribution of its members, its member cities, and earnings from investment of those deposits. Mr. Mills continued by reviewing the City's current plan and the plan change/design as proposed by City management. Mr. Mills reviewed the current employee deposit rate of 5%, with a 2/1 match by the City, funding ratios, amortization schedule, the City's contribution rate, requirements for retirement eligibility, and numerous other related information. Mr. Mills stated that the City has made no plan changes since 2002 and the proposed change of an employee deposit rate of 7% with a 2/1 match and adoption of the updated service credit (additional credits toward retirement), on an ad hoc basis, would not only benefit the retiree but most importantly benefit the City in retaining quality employees and remain competitive with neighboring cities.

IV. WORK SESSION

1. Work Session (ID # 3057)

Discussion of the proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2014-2015.

COMMENTS - Current Meeting:

Mr. Broz reviewed various issues relating to the proposed FY 2014-2015 budget, speaking to property tax collections, a proposed 3% tax increase from \$.5900 to \$.6200, 2014 certified values from the Liberty County CAD, one-time electric transfer, 2% employee raise, and budget related topics.

City Manager Gary Broz and Finance Director Naomi Herrington reviewed the following funds and related topics including, but not limited to:

Fire Department -

- Stretchers
- Certification Pay
- Transport ambulance (Fixed Asset Fund)

Library -

- No contingency for repairs

Police Department -

- Academy Class sponsored by College of the Mainland (no cost to the City)
- 2 vehicles (Fixed Asset Fund)
- Certification Pay
-

Animal Control

- Body Cameras

Street Department -

- Sealcoat Program - \$175,000

Parks Department -

- Gator
- Playground Maintenance

City Hall -

- Needs painting

Inspection Department -

- Additional employee - Adm. Asst.
- Searching for Building Inspector Replacement

Public Works Service Center -

- Landscaping

- Parking Lot Overlay
- Inventory Room Shelving

Further discussion was held on the above-mentioned topics and other budget related concerns.

V. ADJOURNMENT

Motion To: Adjourn

COMMENTS - Current Meeting:

There being no further business before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 8:14 p.m.

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Carl Pickett, Mayor

ATTEST:

Dianne Tidwell, City Secretary