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 26, 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	Absent	
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 Attorney	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.

City Engineer/PWD Tom Warner introduced Mr. Roy Trotter, the new Director of the Electric Department. Mr. Warner also reported that a new Building Official had been hired and would begin work on Friday, August 29th.

Finance Director Naomi Herrington stated that she had recently completed the ALS Ice Bucket Challenge and challenged the City Council to complete this same task. Ms. Herrington stated that the Ice Bucket Challenge for the employees and City Council would be held on Wednesday, August 27th at 5:15 p.m., at City Hall.

Mayor Pickett reported that the Texas Municipal League Annual Conference would be held Sept. 30 - Oct. 3 in Houston, Texas, at the George R. Brown Convention Center. Mayor Pickett also reported that there would be a Texas Municipal League Region XVI Meeting on September 4th in Beaumont.

III. PRESENTATIONS / REPORTS

1. Information Item (ID # 3076)

New Police Dept. Facility Update

COMMENTS - Current Meeting:

City Engineer/PWD Tom Warner gave an update on the status of the new Police Department facility. Mr. Warner reported that Dispatch is scheduled to begin moving on Monday, August 28th and should take approximately three days. The major tasks remaining are installation of the telephones and 911. During this time, 911 calls will be answered by the Liberty County Sheriff's Office. The remainder of the Police Department employees shall begin moving on September 2nd. Mr. Warner concluded by stating that the Mason's will conduct a Cornerstone Leveling Ceremony at the new building on Saturday, September 20th and the Police Department will have an Open House for the public.

IV. CONSENT AGENDA

All consent items listed are considered to be routine by the City Council and will be enacted by one motion. There will be no separate discussion of these items unless a Council Member so requests, and if such a request is made, the item will be removed from the Consent Agenda and considered in a normal sequence on the agenda.

1. Resolution 2014-10

Consider a Resolution Authorizing the City Manager to Enter into Agreements with the Texas Department of Transportation for Temporary Closure of Main Street During the 2014 Trinity Valley Fair & Exposition Parades.

COMMENTS - Current Meeting:

This Resolution states the 106th Trinity Valley Fair and Exposition serves a public purpose and authorizes the City Manager to execute an agreement for temporary closure of a portion of Main Street, during the TVE Parades. The 2014 Baby Parade will be held on Saturday, October 11th and the Opening Day Parade will be held on Wednesday, October 15th.

A motion was made to approve the Resolution/Consent Agenda.

ATTACHMENTS:

- 2014 TVE Description (PDF)
- TVE Rd Closure Agreement Baby Parade 2014 (DOC)
- TVE Rd Closure Agreement Opening Day Parade 2014 (DOC)

V. REGULAR AGENDA

A. Regular Session

1. Work Session (ID # 3077)

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

COMMENTS - Current Meeting:

City Manager Gary Broz and Finance Director Naomi Herrington reviewed the highlights of the proposed FY 2014-2015 Budget as follows:

1) tax rate to remain the same at $0.5900

2) raised sales tax revenue by $200,000

3) Step Program for Electric, Fire and Police Departments

4) Certification Pay for Public Safety

5) budgeted $175,000 in General Fund to overlay streets

6) Animal Control to receive new cage for truck

7) funds for software and for backup capability in the Cloud

8) EMS to receive a transport ambulance and related equipment, to include stretchers

9) funds budgeted for a gator for the Parks Department

10) 2% salary increase for employees plus updated retirement benefits

11) City will now pay cost of employee insurance, but increased cost for dependents

12) replacement of mini-excavator for the Water Department

13) 2.6% pass-through to the customer factored in for Solid Waste

14) base rate increase of $2.00 each for water and wastewater rates

15) Police car budgeted from the Fixed Asset Fund.

Brief discussion was held regarding EMS revenue projections, fixed asset fund balance and other budget related issues.

2. Public Hearing (ID # 3078)

Public Hearing on the proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2014-2015.

COMMENTS - Current Meeting:

At 6:25 p.m., Mayor Pickett opened the Public Hearing on the FY 2014-2015 Budget. With the previous work session detailing the budget and no comments from the audience, Mayor Pickett closed the Public Hearing at 6:27 p.m.

3. Council Action 2014-57

Consider postponement of Final Vote on the Fiscal Year 2014-2015 Budget, until September 9, 2014.

COMMENTS - Current Meeting:

A motion was made to postpone the final vote on the Fiscal Year 2014-2015 Budget until Tuesday, September 9, 2014.

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

4. Public Hearing (ID # 3080)

Public Hearing on the proposed tax rate for Fiscal Year 2014-2015.

COMMENTS - Current Meeting:

At 6:28 p.m., Mayor Pickett opened the Public Hearing on the proposed tax rate for FY 2014-2015. City Manager Gary Broz remarked that the proposed tax rate of $0.5900 has remained

the same since FY 08-09. With the proposed tax rate to be voted on September 9th, and no comments from the audience, Mayor Pickett closed the Public Hearing at 6:30 p.m.

5. Council Action 2014-58

Consider approval of the purchase of a dump truck for the Water Department, from the Fixed Asset Fund.

COMMENTS - Current Meeting:

Mr. Broz reported that the Water Department is in need of a dump truck, and that the City has found one through the H-Galveston Area Council. H-GAC bids items on a statewide basis, with the City receiving State Contract Prices. This truck is approximately $80,000 and will be paid for through the Fixed Asset Fund.

A motion was made to approve the purchase of the dump truck for the Water Department.

ATTACHMENTS:

- Dump Trk-Aug 2014 (PDF)

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

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Motion To: Adjourn

COMMENTS - Current Meeting:

There being no further business before the Council, Mayor Pickett adjourned the meeting at 6:35 p.m.

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Carl Pickett, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Dianne Tidwell, City Secretary