



The City of Liberty
City Council
Special Called Meeting
~ Minutes ~

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

April Gilliland
City Secretary
936-336-3684

Tuesday, August 24, 2021

6:00 PM

City Council Chambers

I. CALL TO ORDER

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
Carl Pickett	Mayor	Present	
Diane Driggers	Mayor ProTem	Present	
Dennis Beasley	Council Member	Remote	
Libby Simonson	Council Member	Present	
David Arnold	Council Member	Present	
Chipper Smith	Council Member	Present	
Neal Thornton	Council Member	Present	
Tom Warner	City Manager	Present	
Naomi Herrington	Assistant City Manager / CFO	Present	
Chris Jarmon	Assistant City Manager	Present	
Damon Jones	Public Works Director	Present	
Gary Martin	Police Chief	Present	
Brian Hurst	Fire Chief	Present	
Brandon Davis	City Attorney	Present	
April Gilliland	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.

III. REGULAR AGENDA

A. Regular Session

1. Resolution 2021-51

CONSIDER A RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LIBERTY, TEXAS, A HOME RULE MUNICIPALITY EXISTING UNDER THE LAWS OF THE STATE OF TEXAS, APPROVING THE TRANSFER OF CERTAIN INVESTMENT SECURITIES PORTFOLIOS, ADMINISTERED BY FIRST LIBERTY NATIONAL BANK INVESTMENT SERVICES, FROM CETERA INVESTMENT SERVICES, LLC, TO AMERIPRISE FINANCIAL SERVICES, INC.

COMMENTS - Current Meeting:

On November 8, 2016, City Council approved the investment of approximately \$14 million, through First Liberty National Bank Investment Services, with Cetera Investment Services. These funds were invested in government agency bonds, certificates of deposits (CD's) and money market funds. Although First Liberty National Bank Investment Services administered these investments, the accounts were held by Cetera Investment Services, LLC. The City has been notified by First Liberty National Bank that they are changing from Cetera Investment Services to Ameriprise Financial Services. As a result, this requires the City's approval to move the City's investment portfolio. The current investment portfolio totals approximately \$6,969,380.

Motion was made to approve the resolution transferring the City's investment portfolio, held by First Liberty National Bank Investment Services, to Ameriprise Financial Services.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Libby Simonson, Council Member
SECONDER:	Neal Thornton, Council Member
AYES:	Pickett, Driggers, Beasley, Simonson, Arnold, Smith, Thornton

2. Resolution 2021-52

CONSIDER A RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LIBERTY, TEXAS, A HOME RULE MUNICIPALITY EXISTING UNDER THE LAWS OF THE STATE OF TEXAS, AWARDED PROPOSALS FOR EMPLOYEE HEALTH, DENTAL, VISION, AND LIFE INSURANCE.

COMMENTS - Current Meeting:

On August 3, 2021, proposals were received for employee health, dental vision, and life insurance for the Fiscal Year 2022. Three insurance companies submitted a total of four (4) quotes for health insurance and a total of fourteen (14) quotes were received from dental and vision insurance companies. Several of the health, dental and vision plans submitted by the insurance agents were the same plans from the same insurance companies. The health insurance plans were submitted by National General, Cigna and BCBS-TML Health. The proposals were reviewed by Naomi Herrington, Assistant City Manager/CFO, and Tom Warner, City Manager. Each of the health insurance plans submitted were comparable to the City's current plan and would result in an increase in cost ranging from 2% to 11%. Based on the review of the employee health proposals received by the city, the Cigna Plan is considered the most advantageous to the employees and City. The Cigna Plan will increase the health insurance costs by approximately 3%. The only change from the current plan is the emergency room co-pay will change from an \$250 to an \$250 + 20%. All other benefits will remain the same as our existing insurance plan due to the increase in health insurance costs, the employee's contribution for insurance will also increase. The proposed increase in the employee's contribution is provided below:

Employee Only:

Premium Paid by City

Employee/Spouse:	\$353.06/month to \$363.27/month
Employee/Children:	\$203.70/month to \$207.28/month
Employee/Family:	\$485.55/month to \$496.54/month

The dental and vision quotes included a decrease in premiums of \$625.61 and \$45.96, respectively. The quote from Cigna is the quote most advantageous to the city. The life insurance plan submitted by Hartford will result in an annual saving of \$3,112.65 with no change in coverage.

Funds are budgeted in the General, Water/Wastewater and Electric Funds for employee health, life, vision, and dental insurance.

Motion was made to approve the resolution awarding employee health insurance to Cigna, dental and vision insurance to MetLife and life insurance to Hartford for fiscal year 2022.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Libby Simonson, Council Member
SECONDER:	Chipper Smith, Council Member
AYES:	Pickett, Driggers, Beasley, Simonson, Arnold, Smith, Thornton

3. Information Item (ID # 5184)

Presentation of the Proposed Fiscal Year 2021-2022 Budget.

COMMENTS - Current Meeting:

City Manager Tom Warner reviewed the proposed Fiscal Year 2021-2022 budget information that was distributed to Council. The items addressed included the budget summary of all the City Funds. An overview of the General Improvements to city facilities, street rehabilitation program, water improvements, and electric system improvements. City Manager Warner also discussed the factors impacting the budget revenues such as property tax value decreases, tax ceiling, debt service changes and no increase in sales tax. The discussion ended with how the proposed tax rate of \$0.6372 was calculated.

ATTACHMENTS:

- Proposed Budget 2021-2022 (PDF)

4. Resolution 2021-53

CONSIDER A RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LIBERTY, TEXAS, A HOME RULE MUNICIPALITY EXISTING UNDER THE LAWS OF THE STATE OF TEXAS, SETTING A PUBLIC HEARING ON THE PROPOSED CITY BUDGET.

COMMENTS - Current Meeting:

The governing body of a municipality is required to hold a public hearing on the proposed budget. The hearing must be at least fifteen days after the date the proposed budget is filed with the City Secretary and prior to the date the City Council passes the tax levy ordinance. The budget must be passed before the tax levy ordinance can be passed. (LGC §102.006). Any person may attend and/or participate in the hearing.

Management recommends holding the public hearing on September 14, 2021. At the conclusion

of the public hearing, the governing body shall take action on the proposed budget (LGC §102.007).

Motion was made to approve the resolution setting the Public Hearing on the Fiscal Year 2021-2022 Budget for Tuesday, September 14, 2021, in the City Council Chambers at 6:00 pm.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Chipper Smith, Council Member
SECONDER:	Libby Simonson, Council Member
AYES:	Pickett, Driggers, Beasley, Simonson, Arnold, Smith, Thornton

5. Resolution 2021-54

CONSIDER A RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LIBERTY, TEXAS, A HOME RULE MUNICIPALITY EXISTING UNDER THE LAWS OF THE STATE OF TEXAS, SETTING THE PROPOSED TAX RATE FOR FISCAL YEAR 2021-2022.

COMMENTS - Current Meeting:

The City Council of the City of Liberty establishes a tax rate every year in order to continue providing services to the citizens of Liberty. The tax rate options are calculated by the Liberty County Tax Assessor/Collector and the City Council must adopt a proposed tax rate and have one (1) public hearing to discuss the proposed tax rate prior to setting the tax rate. The proposed tax rate for the fiscal year 2021-2022 is \$0.6372.

Motion was made to approve the resolution setting the Fiscal Year 2021-2022 Tax Rate at \$0.6372.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Libby Simonson, Council Member
SECONDER:	David Arnold, Council Member
AYES:	Pickett, Driggers, Beasley, Simonson, Arnold, Smith, Thornton

6. Resolution 2021-55

CONSIDER A RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LIBERTY, TEXAS, A HOME RULE MUNICIPALITY EXISTING UNDER THE LAWS OF THE STATE OF TEXAS, SETTING THE DATE, TIME AND LOCATION FOR PUBLIC HEARINGS ON THE TAX RATE FOR FISCAL YEAR 2021 - 2022.

COMMENTS - Current Meeting:

Taxpayers must be provided the opportunity to express their views regarding the proposed tax rate. A public hearing on a tax rate may not be held before the 7th day after the date the notice of public hearing is given. Management recommends holding the public hearing on September 14, 2021. Adoption of the tax rate ordinance will take place after the public hearing on September 14, 2021.

Motion was made to approve the resolution setting the Public Hearing on the Fiscal Year 2021-2022 Tax Rate for Tuesday, September 14, 2021, in the City Council Chambers at 6:00 pm.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Libby Simonson, Council Member
SECONDER:	David Arnold, Council Member
AYES:	Pickett, Driggers, Beasley, Simonson, Arnold, Smith, Thornton

B. Executive Session**Tx. Gov. Code §551.074 - Personnel Matters.**

- To deliberate the appointment, employment, evaluation, reassignment, duties, discipline, or dismissal of a public officer or employee.

Tx. Gov. Code §551.087 - Deliberation Regarding Economic Development Negotiations.

- To deliberate commercial or financial information received from a business prospect.

At 7:00 p.m., Mayor Pickett closed the open meeting and opened the Executive Session as authorized above and read aloud.

C. Reconvene into Regular Session

At 8:22 p.m., Mayor Pickett closed the Executive Session and reconvened the open meeting.

1. Council Action 2021-19

Consider and take action, if any, on Personnel Matters as discussed in the Executive Session.

COMMENTS - Current Meeting:

No Action was Taken.

RESULT:	NO ACTION TAKEN
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2. Information Item (ID # 5193)

Consider and take action, if any, on Economic Development as discussed in the Executive Session.

COMMENTS - Current Meeting:

Council Action Item - no action was taken.

IV. ADJOURNMENT**A. Motion To: Adjourn**

COMMENTS - Current Meeting:

With no further business to discuss Mayor Carl Pickett adjourned the meeting at 8:23 p.m.

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Carl Pickett, Mayor

ATTEST:

April Gilliland, City Secretary