



The City of Liberty City Council

Special Called Meeting

~ Agenda ~

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

April Gilliland
City Secretary
936-336-3684

Tuesday, August 22, 2023

6:00 PM

City Council Chambers

The City Council of Liberty, Texas reserves the right to meet in closed session on any agenda item should the need arise and if applicable pursuant to authorization by Title 5, Chapter 551 of the Texas Government Code.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Attendee Name	Present	Absent	Late	Arrived
Mayor Carl Pickett				
Mayor Pro Tem Chipper Smith				
Council Member Dennis Beasley				
Council Member Libby Simonson				
Council Member John Hebert, Jr.				
Council Member Tommy Brents				
Council Member Ed Seymour				

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.

III. REGULAR AGENDA

A. Executive Session

1. Texas Government Code §551.074 - Personnel Matters.

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

B. Regular Session

1. 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 FOR FISCAL YEAR 2023 - 2024.

2. Presentation of Proposed Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Budget.

3. 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 FISCAL YEAR 2023 – 2024 CITY BUDGET.
4. 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 A PUBLIC HEARING ON THE 2023 TAX RATE.
5. 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 2023 – 2024.

IV. ADJOURNMENT

A. Motion To: Adjourn

I certify that the attached Notice of Meeting was posted on the bulletin board and in the Message Centers located on the east and west sides of the City Hall Administration Building, located at 1829 Sam Houston on the 18th day of August, 2023 at 5:00 p.m. This notice will remain so posted continuously for at least 72 hours preceding the scheduled time of said meeting in accordance with Chapter 551 of the Texas Government Code.

April Gilliland

April Gilliland, City Secretary

NOTICE

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, the City of Liberty will provide reasonable accommodation for persons attending and/or participating in this Council Meeting. To better serve you, requests must be made at least 24 hours prior to the meeting. Contact the City at (936) 336-3684 or by Fax at (936) 336-9846. The building is wheelchair accessible, with parking available, on the west side of the building.

I certify that the attached Notice and Agenda of items to be considered by the City Council was removed by me from the bulletin board at the City Hall on the _____ day of _____, ____.

CITY OF LIBERTY

City Council Agenda Item Form

Meeting Date: August 22, 2023

Agenda Wording: 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, AWARDING PROPOSALS FOR EMPLOYEE HEALTH, DENTAL, VISION, AND LIFE INSURANCE FOR FISCAL YEAR 2023 - 2024.

Department: Finance

Subject: Employee Insurance

Background: On August 1, 2023, the City received five proposals to provide health, dental, vision and life insurance for Fiscal Year 2023-2024. The firms submitting health, dental and vision proposals were Cigna, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Texas (BCBS) and United Health Care (UNC). Principal and Metlife submitted quotes for only dental and vision insurance. Life insurance quotes were submitted by Hartford, BCBS, Principal and Metlife. The firms submitting health insurance quotes included several plans that the City could select to best meet our needs.

The City's current health plan, provided by Cigna, has incurred a 155% loss ratio of funds to premiums over the last twelve (12) months and a 147% loss ratio to date. The current year's losses had a negative impact on the renewal rates offered by Cigna. The initial renewal from Cigna offered a 24% increase on the medical coverage. After obtaining competitive quotes, Cigna presented a final renewal rate of 5%. The rate was lowered to 4.53% if the City adds some voluntary benefits for employees to purchase (Accident, Hospital Indemnity and Critical Illness).

A BCBS Plan that most closely mirrors the current Cigna plan would result in a 4.34% decrease over the current plan. The detailed analysis between the Cigna and BCBS highlights the differences in the plans. The differences are as follows:

- BCBS's family deductible is \$9,000(I) versus \$6,000(F) on the current Cigna plan.
- BCBS's maximum out-of-pocket is \$8,150(I) and \$16,300(F) versus \$7,150(I) and \$14,300(F) on the current Cigna plan.
- BCBS's office visit co-pay is \$35/\$70 versus \$30/\$60 on the current Cigna plan.
- BCBS prescription plan has a higher rate at non-preferred pharmacies with the maximum Rx co-pay at \$250 versus Cigna's maximum co-pay at \$150.
- BCBS's preferred pharmacies include Walgreen's, Wal-Mart, Sam's, HEB and Brookshire Brothers. CVS is NOT a preferred pharmacy. Cigna does not have a preferred pharmacy arrangement.

Dental Plans:

- The Cigna dental renewal keeps the plan design the same and is priced at a 4% increase.
- The Principal quote mirrors the current plan design and is similarly priced to the Cigna renewal.

Vision Plans:

- The Cigna renewal maintains the same plan design and there is no change in premium.
- Principal's vision plan mirrors the current Cigna plan and is offered at 1% below the current Cigna rates. The rate is guaranteed for 2 years.

Group Term Life Plans:

- The current Hartford plan was renewed at a 46% increase over the current Hartford rates.
- The Principal proposal mirrors the Hartford plan and is offered at a 28% increase over the current Hartford rates.

An overall analysis of the two plans is provided below:

- Selecting BCBS as the medical rate will save \$50,536 over the current Cigna rates and \$103,260 over the Cigna renewal. There are differences in the coverage as noted above.
- Selecting Principal for dental, vision and life in conjunction with BCBS will save an additional \$4,027 over renewing with Cigna and The Hartford. The dental, vision and life benefits with Principal mirror the current benefits.
- Additionally, Principal can offer Accident insurance, Hospital Indemnity and Critical Illness coverage on a voluntary basis to the City of Liberty employees.

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

Staff Recommendation: Staff recommends awarding Fiscal Year 2023-2024 health insurance to Blue Cross Blue Shield of Texas and dental, vision and term life insurance to Principal.



The City of Liberty

City Council
1829 Sam Houston
Liberty, TX 77575

Meeting: 8/22/2023 6:00 PM

Department: Finance
Category: Resolution

Resolution

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 FOR FISCAL YEAR 2023 - 2024.

WHEREAS, on August 1, 2023, the City received five (5) proposals to provide health, dental, vision, and life insurance for Fiscal Year 2023 – 2024; and

WHEREAS, the firms submitting health, dental, and vision proposals were Cigna, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Texas, and United Health Care; and

WHEREAS, Principal and MetLife submitted quotes for only dental and vision insurance; and

WHEREAS, life insurance quotes were submitted by Hartford, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Texas, Principal, and MetLife; and

WHEREAS, the firms submitting health insurance quotes included several plans that the City could select to best meet the City's needs; and

WHEREAS, upon review of the proposals submitted, City staff recommends awarding the proposal for health insurance to Blue Cross Blue Shield of Texas, and the proposals for dental, vision, and term life insurance to Principal, for Fiscal Year 2023 – 2024.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Liberty, Texas, hereby awards the proposal for health insurance to Blue Cross Blue Shield of Texas, and the proposals for dental, vision, and term life insurance to Principal, for Fiscal Year 2023 – 2024.

PASSED AND APPROVED this ____ day of _____, 2023.

Mayor
City of Liberty, Texas

ATTEST:

City Secretary
City of Liberty, Texas

CITY OF LIBERTY

City Council Agenda Item Form

Meeting Date: August 22, 2023

Agenda Wording: Presentation of Proposed Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Budget.

Department: Administration

Subject: Propose Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Budget

Background: The City Manager, between 30-60 days prior to the beginning of each fiscal year, shall submit to the City Council a proposed budget (City Charter Section 9.02).

Funding Source: n/a

Staff Recommendation: n/a

CITY OF LIBERTY

City Council Agenda Item Form

Meeting Date: August 22, 2023

Agenda Wording: 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 FISCAL YEAR 2023 – 2024 CITY BUDGET.

Department: Administration

Subject: Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Budget Public Hearing.

Background: 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 that the 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

Funding Source:

Staff Recommendation: Staff recommends holding the budget public hearing on September 12, 2023.



The City of Liberty

City Council
1829 Sam Houston
Liberty, TX 77575

Meeting: 8/22/2023 6:00 PM

Department: Administration
Category: Resolution

Resolution

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 FISCAL YEAR 2023 – 2024 CITY BUDGET.

WHEREAS, the governing body of a municipality is required to hold a public hearing on the proposed budget; and

WHEREAS, the hearing must be at least fifteen (15) days after the date the proposed budget is filed with the City Secretary and prior to the date that the Council passes the tax levy ordinance; and

WHEREAS, the budget must be passed before the tax levy ordinance can be passed; and

WHEREAS, any person may attend and/or participate in the hearing; and

WHEREAS, at the conclusion of the public hearing, the governing body shall take action on the proposed budget; and

WHEREAS, the City Council desires to hold a public hearing on the proposed City budget for Fiscal Year 2023 – 2024 on Tuesday, September 12, 2023, at 6:00 p.m. at the Liberty City Hall located at 1829 Sam Houston Street in Liberty, Texas.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Liberty, Texas hereby sets a public hearing on the proposed fiscal year 2023 – 2024 City budget to be held at the City Hall of the City of Liberty, Texas, located at 1829 Sam Houston Street, Liberty, Texas, 77575, at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, September 12, 2023.

PASSED AND APPROVED this ____ day of _____, 2023.

Mayor
City of Liberty, Texas

ATTEST:

City Secretary
City of Liberty, Texas

CITY OF LIBERTY

City Council Agenda Item Form

Meeting Date: August 22, 2023

Agenda Wording: 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 A PUBLIC HEARING ON THE 2023 TAX RATE.

Department: Finance

Subject: Setting Public Hearing on Tax Rate.

Background: Tax payers 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 a public hearing is given. The public hearing on setting the proposed tax rate is scheduled for September 12, 2023.

Funding Source: n/a

Staff Recommendation: Staff recommends approval of the resolution setting the public hearing for the proposed tax rate for Fiscal Year 2023-2024 on September 12, 2023.



The City of Liberty

City Council
1829 Sam Houston
Liberty, TX 77575

Meeting: 8/22/2023 6:00 PM

Department: Finance
Category: Resolution

Resolution

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 A PUBLIC HEARING ON THE 2023 TAX RATE.

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Liberty, Texas, establishes a tax rate every year in order to continue providing services to the citizens of Liberty; and

WHEREAS, taxpayers must be provided the opportunity to express their views regarding the proposed tax rate; and

WHEREAS, a public hearing on the tax rate may not be held before the 7th day after the date the notice of public hearing is given; and

WHEREAS, the City Council desires to hold a public hearing on the 2023 tax rate for Fiscal Year 2023 – 2024 on Tuesday, September 12, 2023, at 6:00 p.m. at the Liberty City Hall located at 1829 Sam Houston Street in Liberty, Texas.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Liberty, Texas, hereby sets a public hearing on the 2023 tax rate for Fiscal Year 2023 – 2024 on Tuesday, September 12, 2023, at 6:00 p.m. at the Liberty City Hall located at 1829 Sam Houston Street in Liberty, Texas.

PASSED AND APPROVED this ____ day of _____, 2023.

Mayor
City of Liberty, Texas

ATTEST:

City Secretary
City of Liberty, Texas

CITY OF LIBERTY

City Council Agenda Item Form

Meeting Date: August 22, 2023

Agenda Wording: 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 2023 – 2024.

Department: Administration

Subject: Proposed Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Tax Rate.

Background: The City's current tax rate is \$0.6122 and staff is recommending a tax rate of \$0.6204 for Fiscal Year 2024. Truth in Taxation requires that we have one Public Hearing on the proposed tax rate.

Funding Source: n/a

Staff Recommendation: Staff recommends approval of the resolution setting the proposed tax rate.



The City of Liberty

City Council
1829 Sam Houston
Liberty, TX 77575

Meeting: 8/22/2023 6:00 PM

Department: Administration
Category: Resolution

Resolution

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 2023 – 2024.

WHEREAS, 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; and

WHEREAS, the tax rate options are calculated by the Liberty County Tax Assessor/Collector; and

WHEREAS, 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; and

WHEREAS, the City's current tax rate is \$0.6122 and staff is recommending a tax rate of \$0.6204 for Fiscal Year 2023 – 2024.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Liberty, Texas hereby adopts a proposed tax rate for Fiscal Year 2023 – 2024 of \$0.6204.

PASSED AND APPROVED this ____ day of _____, 2023.

Mayor
City of Liberty, Texas

ATTEST:

City Secretary
City of Liberty, Texas