



Regular Meeting – Giddings City Council
July 25, 2016

Present: Mayor John Dowell; Mayor Pro Tem Fred Jones; Council Members Alan Casey, Doug Gaeke, Joel Lopez, and Linda Pruitt; and City Manager Ricky Jorgensen.

Absent: City Attorney Charlie Crossfield.

I. Call to Order

Mayor Dowell called the meeting of the City Council to order at 7:13 pm on Monday, July 25, 2016, at the Giddings Municipal Building.

II. Pledges to the U.S. and Texas Flags

Pledges were said.

III. Invocation and Welcome

City Manager Ricky Jorgensen gave the invocation and Mayor Dowell welcomed all in attendance.

IV. Announcements

There were no announcements

V. Presentations and Proclamations

a. Recognition of You Got Our Attention recipient

Chief Walpole presented Lorenzo Marquez with the You Got Our Attention plaque for this month.

b. Showing of video: Giddings Prayer Service to End Violence

City Secretary Lola Hazel showed the video of Giddings Prayer Service to End Violence.

VI. Citizens' Comments

There were no citizens' comments

VII. Consent Agenda

a. Consider approval of Minutes for Regular Meeting held on June 27, 2016.

Council Member Joel Lopez moved to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held on June 27, 2016. Council Member Linda Pruitt seconded the motion.

Motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Council Members Jones, Casey, Gaeke, Lopez and Pruitt

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Nays: None

VIII. New Business

- a. Discuss and possibly act upon a request from the Economic Development Corporation for long-term dedicated maintenance for the Depot Complex.

Economic Development Corporation (EDC) Board Chairman Alan Casey gave an overview of this item. Mr. Casey explained a total of \$75,000 is being requested for restoration of the Depot Complex. The Giddings Chamber of Commerce already budgeted \$50,000 for this project from hotel occupancy tax (HOT) funds received last year and still plans to dedicate those funds for maintenance and restoration of the Depot Complex. Mr. Casey explained the total request includes the remaining \$25,000 for this year and \$35,000 for the following four (4) years, for a total of five (5) years of dedicated funds. These funds would be awarded prior to the Hotel Occupancy Tax Revenue Advisory Board meeting and submitting recommendations to Council for fund distributions.

After the initial motion was made by Mayor Pro-Tem Fred Jones to approve this item, Council Member Joel Lopez suggested the motion be approved pending approval from the city attorney.

The motion was made as follows:

Mayor Pro-Tem Fred Jones moved to approve the request from the Economic Development Corporation for long-term dedicated maintenance for the Depot Complex, by giving \$25,000 this year from hotel occupancy tax funds and then \$35,000 for the following four (4) years, for a total of five (5) years of dedicated funds, pending approval from the city attorney. Council Member Linda Pruitt seconded the motion.

Motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Council Members Jones, Casey, Gaeke, Lopez and Pruitt

Nays: None

City Manager Ricky Jorgensen consulted with City Attorney Charlie Crossfield after City Council met on this item. Mr. Crossfield stated hotel occupancy tax funds cannot be committed for more than one (1) year. At this time, the \$25,000 for this year can be committed but not \$35,000 for the remaining four (4) years.

- b. Discuss and possibly act upon approval of the 2017 proposed budget for the operations of the Lee County Appraisal District.

Chief Appraiser James Orr gave a brief overview of the Appraisal District's budget. City Council had questions about the increase in salaries and 2016 projections versus actual expenses. Mr. Orr explained a new position has been added to the budget in order to train someone to eventually take over the position of a retiring appraiser. Mr. Orr explained an administrative assistant position was added at the end of last year's budget, making actual expenses higher than projected expenses.

After limited discussion on this item, Council Member Alan Casey moved to approve the 2017 proposed budget for the operations of the Lee County Appraisal District. Mayor Pro-Tem Fred Jones seconded the motion.

Motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Council Members Jones, Casey, Gaeke, Lopez and Pruitt

Nays: None

- c. Discuss and possibly act upon a request to purchase a city-owned alleyway abutting the property located at 487 N. Manse Avenue.

City Manager Ricky Jorgensen gave an overview of the process to purchase a city-owned alleyway.

With limited discussion on this item, Council Member Joel Lopez moved to approve a request to purchase a city-owned alleyway abutting the property located at 487 N. Manse Avenue. Council Member Doug Gaeke seconded the motion.

Motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Council Members Jones, Casey, Gaeke, Lopez and Pruitt

Nays: None

d. Discuss and possibly act upon appointment of members to the Charter Review Committee.

No official vote was taken on this item, but the following members were nominated to serve on the Charter Review Committee. The Committee is now considered full and the City will move forward with review of the Charter.

1. Ralph Mutscher
2. Gary Pietsch
3. Joe Franks
4. Pastor J.R. Roberson
5. Wayne Bennett

e. Presentation of the first draft of the 2016-2017 proposed budget.

Finance Director Clifton Wachsmann presented the first draft of the 2016-2017 budget. Mr. Wachsmann explained by Charter, the budget must be presented by August 1st of each year. He further explained this first draft includes both departmental wants and needs, and future drafts will narrow down departmental want lists.

No action was taken on this item.

IX. City Manager's Report, And Announcements

1. CEFCO TCF Application – The CEFCO application for the Texas Capital Fund Grant was submitted on July 19th.
2. Auditor Bids – The City is accepting bids for auditors until August 12th.
3. Seal Coat Bids – The City is accepting bids for the 2016 Seal Coat/Paving Project until August 17th.
4. Demolition – The structure at 215 W Railroad ROW was demolished by the property owner.
5. HOT Funds – The Hotel Occupancy Tax Advisory Board will meet in August for recommendations of HOT Fund distributions. Those recommendations will then go to City Council for approval.
6. Chamber Banquet – The Chamber Banquet is Tuesday, August 16th.
7. FEMA – Public Works Director Jeff Zgabay and City Manager Ricky Jorgensen met with FEMA regarding damages sustained in the storms occurring earlier this year.
8. CEFCO - Public Works Director Jeff Zgabay and City Manager Ricky Jorgensen met with TxDOT regarding signalization for the CEFCO project.
9. South WWTP Property – Metes and bounds done by O'Malley, the city's engineering firm, to the South Wastewater Treatment Plant property. The police department's firing range is located on this property. This will allow them to move forward with enhancements of the firing range.
10. Movie in the Park – Kung Fu Panda 3 will be shown Friday, July 29th in the park at dark.

X. Adjournment

Mayor Dowell adjourned the meeting at 8:13 pm.