

**GIDDINGS CITY COUNCIL-REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**  
**MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2020 AT 7:00 P.M**  
**COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 118 E RICHMOND, GIDDINGS, TEXAS**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by Mayor John Dowell at 7:02 p.m. with the following present:

Members Present: Mayor John Dowell, Mayor Pro-Tem Joel Lopez, Council Members Frank Castro, Alan Casey, Jake Horne, Linda Pruitt.

Staff Present: City Manager Ricky Jorgensen, City Secretary Andrea Ray, Director of Public Works Spencer Schneider, Police Chief Haril Walpole and Captain Steve Spencer, Director of Finance Clifton Wachsmann.

**2. PLEDGES TO THE US AND TEXAS FLAGS-** Pledges were said.

**3. INVOCATION AND WELCOME-** City Council Member Linda Pruitt gave the invocation and Mayor John Dowell welcomed all in attendance

**4. ANNOUNCEMENTS-**No Announcements.

**5. PRESENTATIONS AND PROCLAMATIONS-**No Presentations and Proclamations.

**6. CITIZENS' COMMENTS-**Darla Hilmo spoke on face masks.

**7. CONSENT AGENDA** – All of the following items are considered to be self-explanatory by the Council and will be enacted with one motion. There will be no discussion of these items unless a Council Member so requests.

**a. Consider approval of Minutes for Special Meeting held on September 21, 2020.**

**b. Consider approval of Minutes for Special Meeting held on September 25, 2020.**

A motion was made by Mayor Pro-Tem Joel Lopez and seconded by City Council Member Frank Castro for approval of Minutes for Regular Meeting held on September 21, 2020.

A motion was made by Mayor Pro-Tem Joel Lopez and seconded by City Council Member Frank Castro for approval of Minutes for Regular Meeting held on September 25, 2020.

Motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: City Council Members Casey, Castro, Horne, Pruitt, Lopez

Nays: None

**8. PUBLIC HEARING**

**a. Presentation from the Goodman Corporation on the Downtown Giddings Economic Development Strategic Resiliency Plan.**



Jim Webb from the Goodman Corporation made a presentation to the City of Giddings Council for the Downtown Giddings Economic Development Strategic Resiliency Plan. Jim Webb presented a plan that Provides goals and recommendations developed to support and strengthen the economic vitality and resiliency of Downtown Giddings. The recommendations in the plan envision a modified Downtown boundary referred to as the Proposed Downtown District. The plan also comprehends a vision for expansion beyond the initial focus area in a secondary focus.

**b. Conduct a public hearing on the Downtown Giddings Economic Development Strategic Resiliency Plan.**

**MAYOR JOHN DOWELL OPENED PUBLIC HEARING AT 7:15 P.M. FOR THE DOWNTOWN GIDDINGS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIC RESILIENCY PLAN.**

**Mayor John Dowell asked and if anyone would to speak at this time.**

Brain Fischer spoke and said he was not contacted by the GEDC for housing which shows in the plan. Brain also stated it is very hard to reach someone at the GEDC Office. Brain also feels like this plan is working against each other.

Alan Casey spoke about the GEDC and there are restricting's on how the money from GEDC can be used to help fund the Sub-division's in the City of Giddings.

Mayor John Dowell spoke on how some of the money will spent on the water loop system and a fiber line out to the New 290 Business Park.

Brian Fischer stated that he was not aware of the money going towards the 290 Business Park.

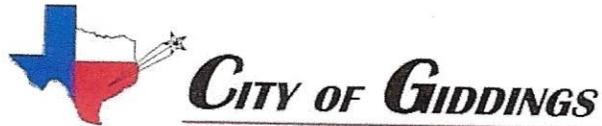
Charlie Brown questioned City Council are you following the plan for the grant that City Council would like to vote for. Charlie Brown stated everybody needs to pull together and go in the same direction.

Giddings Chamber Director Denise Harlan spoke to City Council and stated this:

The 2020 Strategic Plan that has been submitted by the Giddings EDC has many positive plans that will be great if implemented.

The very first step in this is for the City Council to create a comprehensive Master Plan that will encompass the Downtown Plan.

- Giddings Depot & Sterling Theater – in progress with infrastructure improvements
- Downtown Pedestrian Realm – currently no plan to control building use which allows for any building to be used for storage or other purpose.
- Wayfinding Program – improved signage for current parking in downtown could be implemented immediately
- Downtown Incentive Program – should require building owners to maintain property through façade enhancement programs or fines that would help offset costs to the City/EDC to keep downtown clean and neat



The second step is to expand the Master Plan the City Council will develop to help home and housing developers with infrastructure costs.

- Internet, water, sewer, electric, and roads are the current largest cost preventing developers from starting projects
- Infill housing is currently being developed through independent builders in one off projects through-out the city. The water, sewer, and electric already exists in the city of Giddings
- Identify areas of the city that are ideal for housing and then find infrastructure grants to expand the area

The third and final step that the Master Plan will identify is community programming. Where and what kind of events and activity the community will create and support in specific areas of downtown.

When the City of Giddings develops the Master Plan it should work hand in hand with the County and the EDC to create a long-term plan that will define future neighborhoods where infrastructure investment will be made.

Investment in high speed internet, water sewer and electric infrastructure is the first thing on the Master Plan list that will help attract investment in our community.

City ordinances that are well defined on the defined use of properties will help the potential investor in our community to feel safe in bringing their investment.

While the City Council is developing the Master Plan the current and future traffic patterns will need to be identified and integrated so that the investment and future growth of Giddings complement our identity as the home of Hometown Hospitality.

The Giddings EDC plans hinge on the City of Giddings and Lee County becoming completely invested in the future development of Giddings and Lee County. The City and County will have to sign off on all of the infrastructure grants that are applied for the future.

A complete Master Plan should include the City, County and EDC working in concert for the benefit of our community.

**MAYOR JOHN DOWELL CLOSED THE PUBLIC HEARING AT 8:08 P.M. FOR THE DOWNTOWN GIDDINGS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIC RESILIENCY PLAN.**

**9. PUBLIC HEARING**

**MAYOR JOHN DOWELL OPENED PUBLIC HEARING AT 8:09 P.M. FOR THE PROPOSED 2020-2021 TAX RATE AND THE FY 2020-2021 GIDDINGS CITY BUDGET.**

**a. Conduct a public hearing on the proposed 2020-2021 tax rate.**

No public response to the public hearing on the proposed 2020-2021 tax-rate.

**b. Conduct a public hearing on the FY 2020-2021 Giddings City Budget.**

No public response to the public hearing on the FY 2020-2021 Giddings City Budget.

**MAYOR JOHN DOWELL CLOSED PUBLIC HEARING AT 8:10 P.M. FOR THE PROPOSED 2020-2021 TAX RATE AND THE FY 2020-2021 GIDDINGS CITY BUDGET.**

**10. BUDGET**

**a. Discussion and possible action on the City of Giddings FY 2020-2021 Budget in accordance with Section 102.007 of the Local Government Code.**

City Manager Ricky Jorgensen presented this agenda item to City Council.

1. Property Tax Proposed same as last year 0.5188.
2. 3% Salary increase in budget, for all employees, no special step raises for Police Department.
3. Police Fines & Court cost budget decreased by \$150,000.00 to project the latest revenue flows.
  - a. Police fines lowered \$85,000.00 b. Court Cost lowered \$65,000.00 Total \$150,000.00
4. No seal coating project in this budget.
5. Sales tax projections same as last year.
6. Sewer revenues increased by raising the minimum rate by \$1.50 per month.  
Sewer Rates last increased in April 2011.
  - a. Residential \$22.15 to \$23.65 and Commercial \$26.88 to \$28.38.
7. Water revenues increased by raising the minimum rate by \$1.50 per month.
  - a. Residential \$21.50 to \$23.00 and commercial \$26.50 to \$28.00.

A motion was made by City Council Member Jake Horne seconded by City Council Member Alan Casey for approval on the City of Giddings FY 2020-2021 Budget in accordance with Section 102.007 of the Local Government Code.

Motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: City Council Members Casey, Castro, Horne, Lopez, Pruitt  
Nays: None.

**11. NEW BUSINESS**

**a. Discussion and take possible action on Resolution No. 461-2020 for accepting the proposed 2020 Giddings Downtown Economic Development Plan and authorizing Finalization of the Plan.**

A motion was made by City Council Member Alan Casey seconded by City Council Member Linda Pruitt for approval on the proposed 2020 Giddings Downtown Economic Development Plan and authorizing Finalization of the Plan.

Motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: City Council Members Casey, Castro, Horne, Lopez, Pruitt  
Nays: None



**b. Discussion and take possible action on Giddings-Lee County Airport Proposed Budget 2020-2021.**

Director of Finance Clifton Wachsmann presented the Giddings-Lee County Airport Proposed Budget 2020-2021 to the City Council. Clifton stated all airplane hangers are rented to customers. The airport has been closed four to five months due to construction projects. The airport is in good standing for 2020-2021 budget year.

A motion was made by City Council Member Jake Horne seconded by City Council Member Frank Castro for approval on the Giddings-Lee County Airport Proposed Budget 2020-2021.

Motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: City Council Members Casey, Castro, Horne, Lopez, Pruitt

Nays: None.

**c. Discussion and take possible action on Ordinance No. 848 adopting the FY 2020-2021 City Budget.**

City Manager Ricky Jorgensen stated this Ordinance No. 848 is to adopt the FY 2020-2021 City Budget. Ricky, stated this Ordinance will finalize the City of Giddings FY 2020-2021 City Budget.

A motion was made by City Council Member Alan Casey seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Joel Lopez for the approval on Ordinance No. 848 adopting the FY 2020-2021 City Budget.

Motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: City Council Members Casey, Castro, Horne, Lopez, Pruitt

Nays: None

**d. Discussion and take possible action on Ordinance No. 849 adopting the 2020-2021 Tax Rate of 0.5188 per \$100 valuation.**

City Manager Ricky Jorgensen stated the Property Tax Proposed same as last year 0.5188.

A motion was made by City Council Member Frank Castro seconded by City Council Member Jake Horne for the approval on Ordinance No. 849 adopting the 2020-2021 Tax Rate of 0.5188 per \$100 valuation.

Motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: City Council Members Casey, Castro, Horne, Lopez, Pruitt

Nays: None

**e. Discussion and take possible action on Ordinance No. 850 increasing the water rates.**

City Manager Ricky Jorgensen stated the raising the minimum rates to \$1.75 will gain an additional \$51,540.00 will start building the City's fund balance.

A motion was made by City Council Member Linda Pruitt seconded by City Council Member Alan Casey for the approval on Ordinance No. 850 increasing the water rates.

Motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: City Council Members Casey, Castro, Horne, Lopez, Pruitt

Nays: None

**f. Discussion and take possible action on Ordinance No. 851 increasing the sewer rates.**

City Manager Ricky Jorgensen stated the raising the minimum rates to \$2.00 will gain an additional \$50,400.00 will start building the City's fund balance.

A motion was made by Mayor Pro-Tem Joel Lopez seconded by City Council Member Linda Pruitt by for the approval on Ordinance No. 851 increasing the sewer rates.

Motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: City Council Members Casey, Castro, Horne, Lopez, Pruitt

Nays: None

**g. Discussion and take possible action on Ordinance No. 852 adopting international 2018 codes.**

Director of Public Works Spencer Schneider presented this agenda item to City Council. The international 2018 codes need to brought up to date for The City of Giddings.

Section 1. That the following Codes, together with existing amendments and amendments hereinafter, are incorporated by reference and are hereby adopted by reference as though they were copied herein fully:

- 2018 International Building Code, Appendices F and G
- 2018 International Plumbing Code, Appendices A, C, and E
- 2018 International Mechanical Code, Appendix B
- 2018 International Fuel Gas Code, Appendices A, B, and D
- 2018 International Residential Code, Appendices A, B, D, E, G, and J
- 2018 International Energy Conservation Code
- 2018 International Property Maintenance Code
- 2018 International Existing Building Code
- 2018 International Fire Code
- 2018 NFPA Life Safety Code
- 2018 Private Sewage Disposal Code
- 2017 National Electrical Code

A motion was made by Mayor Pro-Tem Joel Lopez seconded by City Council Member Fran Castro by for the approval on Ordinance No. 852 adopting international 2018 codes.

Motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: City Council Members Casey, Castro, Horne, Lopez, Pruitt

Nays: None

**h. Discussion only for the Board of Commissions for the 2020-2021 year.**

City Secretary Andrea Ray presented this agenda item to City Council. The 2020-2021 Board appointments/reappointments will be:

**1) Board of Adjustment (2-year term)**

Douglas Thielemann (Chair)	<b>YES</b>	BOA	2022
Gary Spivey	<b>YES</b>	BOA	2022
Alternant	<b>Need recommendation</b>	BOA	Vacancy
Alternant	<b>Need recommendation</b>	BOA	Vacancy

**2) Parks Board (3-year term)**

Clayton Graefe	<b>YES</b>	PARKS	2023
Tony Francis Vacancy	<b>YES</b>	PARKS	2023
April Gaitan Vacancy	<b>YES</b>	PARKS	2023

**3) Planning and Zoning (3-year term)**

Gina Reat	<b>YES</b>	P&Z	2023
Tony Raiford	<b>YES</b>	P&Z	2023

**4) Airport Board**

Charlie Brown	<b>Airport Board Recommendation</b>	Airport	2023
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**5) Library Board (no term)**

Vacancy (Joe Leavengood)	<b>Library Board Recommendation</b>
Vacancy (Ruth Meyer)	<b>Library Board Recommendation</b>
Vacancy (Carol Bennett)	<b>Library Board Recommendation</b>

**6) Giddings Economic Development Board**

Two vacancies Angie Brown, Larry Orsag will term out.

**Giddings Economic Development Corporation Board Applicants for 2020-2021.**

**CHARLIE BROWN**

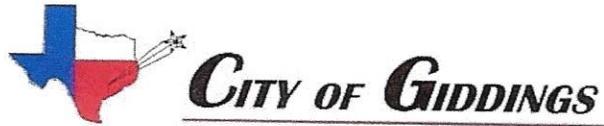
**ANTHONY FRANCIS**

**CHARLES HURLEY**

**TROY MOORE**

**GINA REAT**

**JOHN MICHAEL SIMMANG JR.**



The discussion on the Board of Appointments will be determined and finalized on the October 26, 2020 City Council Meeting.

Mayor John Dowell and City Council would like to have a special meeting on the October 21, 2020 for the interviews for the Giddings Economic Development Board. There are six people who put in an application to serve on the board. The list of applicants is above.

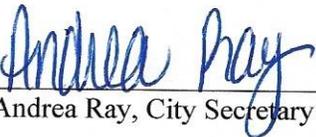
**9. CITY MANAGER'S REPORT, AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

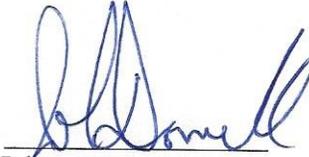
- 1) Director of the Giddings Library called City Manager Ricky Jorgensen, she said there is an employee that has tested positive for COVID-19. The call was to close the Giddings Library for fourteen days. The employees will stay home and still get paid. Javier will clean the Library.

**10. ADJOURNMENT**

**Meeting adjourned at Monday, September 28, 2020 at 8:59 p.m. by Mayor John Dowell**

ATTEST:

  
Andrea Ray, City Secretary

  
John Dowell, Mayor

