

CITY OF SULPHUR SPRINGS, TEXAS

**SPECIAL MEETING OF THE
CITY COUNCIL**

SEPTEMBER 23, 2014

7:00 p.m.

Mayor Freddie Taylor called the special meeting of the Sulphur Springs City Council to order at 7:01 p.m. The following council members and staff were present:

Mayor Freddie Taylor
Mayor Pro Tem Kayla Price
Councilman Craig Johnson
Councilman Clay Walker
Councilman Oscar Aguilar
Councilwoman Emily Glass

Absent: Councilman John Sellers

Staff: Marc Maxwell, City Manager
Gale Roberts, City Secretary
Peter Karstens – Finance Director
Gordon Frazier, Director Human Resources
Roger Feagley, Executive Director, EDC
Glenda Bassham, Customer Retention Specialist, EDC

PLEDGE AND INVOCATION

Mayor Taylor led in the pledge of allegiance to the United States Flag and the Pledge to the Texas Flag as well as the invocation.

**DISCUSSION/ACTION ON PUBLIC HEARING FOR THE SECOND AND
FINAL READING OF ORDINANCE NO. 2652, THE APPROPRIATIONS
ORDINANCE FOR THE CITY OF SULPHUR SPRINGS FISCAL YEAR 2014 -
2015**

Finance Director Peter Karstens presented the staff report and was available to answer any questions. He noted that the requested changes from the previous meeting had been included in the budget. There was no one else to speak to the issue. Councilman Aguilar moved to adopt the ordinance on the second and final reading. Mayor Pro Tem Price seconded and the vote was unanimous.

The motion carried.

DISCUSSION/ACTION ON PUBLIC HEARING FOR THE SECOND AND FINAL READING OF ORDINANCE NO. 2653, SETTING THE TAX RATE FOR THE CITY OF SULPHUR SPRINGS FOR 2015

Finance Director Peter Karstens presented the staff report and was available to answer any questions. The property tax rate is set at 0.44¢ per \$100 of valuation. There was no one else to speak to the issue. Councilwoman Glass moved that the property tax rate be increased by the adoption of a tax rate of \$0.44 per \$100 which is effectively a 1.01% increase in the tax rate. Mayor Pro Tem Price seconded and the vote was unanimous.

The motion carried.

DISCUSSION/ACTION ON PUBLIC HEARING FOR THE SECOND AND FINAL READING OF ORDINANCE NO. 2654, SETTING THE WATER RATE FOR THE CITY OF SULPHUR SPRINGS FOR 2015

Finance Director Peter Karstens presented the staff report and was available to answer any questions. Water rates, as noted in the budget workshops, will increase by 2.0% from last year. There was no one to speak to the issue. Councilman Johnson moved to adopt the ordinance on the second and final reading. Councilman Aguilar seconded and the vote was unanimous.

The motion carried.

DISCUSSION/ACTION ON PUBLIC HEARING FOR THE SECOND AND FINAL READING OF ORDINANCE NO. 2655, SETTING THE SEWER RATE FOR THE CITY OF SULPHUR SPRINGS FOR 2015

Finance Director Peter Karstens presented the staff report and was available to answer any questions. Sewer rates, as noted in the budget workshops, will increase. There was no one else to speak to the issue. Councilman Johnson moved to adopt the ordinance on the second and final reading. Councilwoman Glass seconded and the vote was unanimous.

The motion carried.

DISCUSSION/ACTION ON PUBLIC HEARING FOR THE SECOND AND FINAL READING OF ORDINANCE NO. 2656, SETTING THE SANITATION RATE FOR THE CITY OF SULPHUR SPRINGS FOR 2015

Finance Director Peter Karstens presented the staff report and was available to answer any questions. Sanitation rates, as noted in the budget workshops, will increase by 2.0%. There was no one else to speak to the issue. Councilman Aguilar moved to adopt the ordinance on the second and final reading. Mayor Pro Tem Price seconded and the vote was unanimous.

The motion carried.

DISCUSSION/ACTION ON PUBLIC HEARING FOR THE SECOND AND FINAL READING OF ORDINANCE NO. 2657, AUTHORIZATION OF UPDATED SERVICE CREDITS

Finance Director Peter Karstens presented the staff report and was available to answer any questions. Updated Service Credits enhance each retirement account of current employees for inflationary factors above specific thresholds. There was no one to speak to the issue. Councilwoman Glass moved to adopt the ordinance on the second and final reading. Mayor Pro Tem Price seconded and the vote was unanimous.

The motion carried.

DISCUSSION/ACTION ON RESOLUTION NO. 1068, A REIMBURSEMENT RESOLUTION

Finance Director Peter Karstens presented the staff report. This resolution allows the city to expend certain funds on projects and get them reimbursed later by bonds (Certificates of Obligation). There was a general discussion. There was no one else to speak to the issue. Mayor Pro Tem Price moved to approve the resolution as presented. Councilwoman Glass seconded and the vote was unanimous.

The motion carried.

DISCUSSION/ACTION ON FIRST READING OF ORDINANCE NO. 2658 AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 2651 CREATING AN ENTERPRISE PROJECT ZONE FOR SAPUTO DAIRY FOODS USA, LLC

Economic Development Corporation Executive Director Roger Feagley presented the staff report. The consultant for Saputo, Grant-Thornton, drafted the original ordinance. When Grant-Thornton submitted Ordinance No. 2651 to the State of Texas in their application process, the State of Texas requested a few changes to the ordinance. This is the amended ordinance reflecting those requested changes. There was no one else to speak to the issue. Councilman Johnson moved to approve the ordinance on the first reading. Councilman Walker seconded and the vote was unanimous.

The motion carried.

DISCUSSION/ACTION ON PUBLIC HEARING AS REQUIRED BY CHAPTER 312 OF THE TEXAS TAX CODE TO ESTABLISH A REINVESTMENT ZONE FOR SAPUTO DAIRY FOODS USA, LLC, AND ON FIRST READING OF ORDINANCE NO. 2659 DESIGNATING A CERTAIN AREA AS AN INDUSTRIAL REINVESTMENT ZONE FOR SAPUTO DAIRY FOODS USA, LLC

Mayor Taylor opened the public hearing at 7:10 p.m.

There was no one to speak.

Mayor Taylor closed the public hearing at 7:10 p.m.

Economic Development Corporation Executive Director Roger Feagley presented the staff report. Saputo Dairy Foods is in the process of expanding its operation in Sulphur Springs. The current expansion is 10 million dollars and will add new equipment. This ordinance establishes a reinvestment zone which designates boundaries of an area where a taxing entity can offer a tax incentive. There was no one else to speak to the issue. Councilman Johnson moved to approve the ordinance on the first reading. Mayor Pro Tem Price seconded and the vote was unanimous.

The motion carried.

VISITORS/PUBLIC FORUM

Cristal Joslin, Royce City, Texas, expressed her dismay to the City Council for their consideration to move the Hopkins County Genealogical Society into the Sulphur Springs Public Library.

Gilda Cain, Commerce, Texas, is a former president of the Hopkins County Genealogical Society and very disappointed that the board has decided to go against its membership and move into the Sulphur Springs Public Library large meeting room.

ADJOURN

With all business complete the meeting was adjourned at 7:16 p.m.