

**CITY OF SULPHUR SPRINGS, TEXAS**

**SPECIAL MEETING OF THE  
CITY COUNCIL**

**SEPTEMBER 29, 2015**

**7:00 p.m.**

Mayor Kayla Price called the special meeting of the Sulphur Springs City Council to order at 7:00 p.m. The following council members and staff were present:

Mayor Kayla Price  
Mayor Pro Tem Emily Glass  
Councilman Craig Johnson  
Councilman Clay Walker  
Councilman John Sellers

Absent: Councilman Oscar Aguilar  
Councilman Freddie Taylor

Staff: Marc Maxwell, City Manager  
Gale Roberts, City Secretary  
Peter Karstens – Finance Director  
Gordon Frazier, Director Human Resources

**PLEDGE AND INVOCATION**

Mayor Price led in the pledge of allegiance to the United States Flag and the Pledge to the Texas Flag Councilman Johnson led in the invocation.

**DISCUSSION/ACTION ON PUBLIC HEARING FOR THE SECOND AND  
FINAL READING OF ORDINANCE NO. 2667 THE APPROPRIATIONS  
ORDINANCE FOR THE CITY OF SULPHUR SPRINGS FISCAL YEAR 2015 -  
2016**

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. Mayor Pro Tem Glass moved to adopt the ordinance on the second and final reading with the exception that \$100 be added to the Personnel Relations line item for a one-time payout to each employee in each department. There was no one else to speak to the issue. Councilman Sellers seconded and the vote was unanimous.

**The motion carried.**

**DISCUSSION/ACTION ON PUBLIC HEARING FOR THE SECOND AND FINAL READING OF ORDINANCE NO. 2668, SETTING THE TAX RATE FOR THE CITY OF SULPHUR SPRINGS**

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. Councilman Sellers moved that the property tax rate be increased by the adoption of a tax rate of \$0.44 per \$100 which is effectively a 1.35% increase in the tax rate. Mayor Pro Tem Glass seconded and the vote was unanimous.

**The motion carried.**

**DISCUSSION/ACTION ON PUBLIC HEARING FOR THE SECOND AND FINAL READING OF ORDINANCE NO. 2669, SETTING THE SEWER RATE FOR THE CITY OF SULPHUR SPRINGS**

Finance Director Peter Karstens presented the staff report and was available to answer any questions. Sewer rates, as noted in the budget workshops, will have an overall increase by 2.0%. As noted in the budget workshops, this increase will help to fund part of the engineering on the proposed \$14 million of the improvements to the Waste Water Treatment Plant but at a lesser rate than last year. There was no one else to speak to the issue. Mayor Price moved to adopt the ordinance on the second and final reading, noting that it was something we hate to do but must do for the betterment of the community. Councilman Johnson seconded and the vote was unanimous.

**The motion carried.**

**DISCUSSION/ACTION ON PUBLIC HEARING FOR THE SECOND AND FINAL READING OF ORDINANCE NO. 2670, AUTHORIZATION OF UPDATED SERVICE CREDITS**

Human Resources Director Gordon Frazier 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. Councilman Johnson moved to adopt the ordinance on the second and final reading. Mayor Pro Tem Glass seconded and the vote was unanimous.

**The motion carried.**

**DISCUSSION/ACTION ON THE 2016 PROPOSED HOPKINS COUNTY APPRAISAL DISTRICT BUDGET**

Once each year the Hopkins County Appraisal District (HCAD) presents its budget to the City Council for approval. Bill Watts is our representative on this board and this budget has already been by their board. The estimated financial impact is \$60,650.05. There was a brief discussion. There was no one else to speak to the issue. Councilman Johnson

moved to **postpone** the item until the next meeting. Councilman Sellers seconded and the vote to postpone was unanimous.

**The motion carried.**

**VISITORS/PUBLIC FORUM**

None.

**ADJOURN**

With all business complete the meeting was adjourned at 7:12 p.m.