

CITY OF SULPHUR SPRINGS, TEXAS

SPECIAL MEETING OF THE

CITY COUNCIL

SEPTEMBER 25, 2007

7:00 p.m.

Mayor Yolanda Williams called the special meeting of the Sulphur Springs City Council to order at 7:04 p.m. The following council members and staff were present:

Mayor Yolanda Williams
Councilman Freddie Taylor
Councilman Gary Spraggins
Councilman Chris Brown

Absent: Mayor Pro Tem Oscar Aguilar
Councilman Garry Jordan
Councilman Clay Walker

Staff: Marc Maxwell, City Manager
Gale Roberts, City Secretary
Jim McLeroy, City Attorney
Peter Karstens, Finance Director
Johnny Vance, Dir. Community Development
Gordon Frazier, Human Resources Director

PLEDGE AND INVOCATION

Mayor Williams led in the pledge of allegiance and Councilman Taylor led the invocation.

DISCUSSION/ACTION ON PUBLIC HEARING FOR SECOND AND FINAL READING OF ORDINANCE NO. 2523, THE APPROPRIATIONS ORDINANCE FOR THE CITY OF SULPHUR SPRINGS FISCAL YEAR 2007-2008

Finance Director Peter Karstens presented the staff report. This ordinance adopts the FY 2007-08 budget, appropriating certain funds and directing their expenditure. Mr. Karstens explained that the budget is the same exact budget presented at the workshops. He also stated that staff would like to recommend placing a contingency expenditure within the CIP budget for \$150,000 for use on the airport grant as previously discussed. There was no one else to speak to the issue. Councilman Taylor made a motion to

approve Ordinance No. 2523 on the second and final reading with the staff recommendation. Councilman Spraggins seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

The motion carried.

DISCUSSION/ACTION ON PUBLIC HEARING FOR THE SECOND AND FINAL READING OF ORDINANCE NO. 2524, SETTING THE TAX RATE FOR THE CITY OF SULPHUR SPRINGS FOR 2007

The property tax rate overall remains the same at 44 cents per \$100 of valuation. The taxes in the ordinance are actually assessed on property as of January 1, 2007 though they are due after the tax rate is set. Finance Director Peter Karstens presented the staff report. There was no one else to speak to the issue. Councilman Spraggins moved to approve that property taxes be increased by the adoption of a tax rate of \$0.44 per \$100 of valuation, precisely the same rate as last year and the year before. Councilman Taylor seconded and the vote was unanimous.

The motion carried.

DISCUSSION/ACTION ON PUBLIC HEARING FOR SECOND AND FINAL READING OF ORDINANCE NO. 2525 SETTING THE WATER RATE

Director of Finance Peter Karstens presented the staff report. This ordinance sets the water rate which increases by 3.2% due to a 3.2% increase in the Consumer Price Index (CPI). There was no one to speak to this issue. Councilman Brown moved to approve the ordinance on the second and final reading. Councilman Taylor seconded and the vote was unanimous.

The motion carried.

DISCUSSION/ACTION ON PUBLIC HEARING FOR SECOND AND FINAL READING OF ORDINANCE NO. 2526 SETTING THE SEWER RATE

Financial Director Peter Karstens presented the staff report. This ordinance sets the sewer rate which also increases by 3.2% due to the 3.2% increase in the Consumer Price Index (CPI). There was no one else to speak to the issue. Councilman Spraggins moved to approve the ordinance on the second and final reading. Councilman Brown seconded and the vote was unanimous.

The motion carried.

DISCUSSION/ACTION ON PUBLIC HEARING FOR SECOND AND FINAL READING OF ORDINANCE NO. 2527 SETTING THE SANITATION RATE

Financial Director Peter Karstens presented the staff report. This ordinance sets the sanitation rate which also increases by 3.2% due to the 3.2% increase in the Consumer Price Index (CPI). There was no one else to speak to the issue. Councilman Taylor moved to approve the ordinance on the second and final reading. Councilman Spraggins seconded and the vote was unanimous.

The motion carried.

DISCUSSION/ACTION ON PUBLIC HEARING FOR SECOND AND FINAL READING OF ORDINANCE NO. 2528 ALLOWING CURRENT AND FUTURE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION EMPLOYEES TO PARTICIPATE IN THE TEXAS MUNICIPAL RETIREMENT SYSTEM

The EDC has expressed the need to be an autonomous organization. Since the creation of the EDC, each employee has been an employee of the City of Sulphur Springs that is essentially on loan to the EDC which enabled employees to participate in TMRS. Adopting this ordinance will allow current and future employees of the EDC to participate in the TMRS on the same basis upon which employees of the City participate. There was no one else to speak to the issue. Councilman Brown moved to approve the ordinance on the second and final reading. Councilman Spraggins seconded and the vote was unanimous.

The motion carried.

DISCUSSION/ACTION ON RESOLUTION NO. 944 AUTHORIZING NOTICE TO THE TAXING AUTHORITIES HAVING JURISDICTION OVER CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY WITHIN THE CITY OF SULPHUR SPRINGS OF THE CITY'S INTENT TO CREATE A TAX INCREMENT FINANCING REINVESTMENT ZONE OVER SUCH REAL PROPERTY PURSUANT TO THE TAX INCREMENT FINANCE ACT (CHAPTER 311, TEXAS TAX CODE)

This resolution establishes the city's intention to establish a Tax Increment Reinvestment Zone. City Manager Marc Maxwell presented the staff report. It is only after the state mandated process of notification and public hearings is completed that the vote on the actual ordinance to set up the zone (or reject the idea) will be on a future agenda. This sets up a calendar of events starting with notice to each of the other taxing entities that we are considering creating such a zone. An amended resolution was distributed to the City Council giving the City Manager further direction as per the provisions of 311.003(f) of the Act to make formal presentations, provide appropriate notices, and to undertake other preliminary preparations and actions necessary to carry out the provisions and intent of Resolution No. 944. There was no one else to speak to the issue. Councilman Spraggins moved to approve the amended resolution as presented. Councilman Taylor seconded and the vote was unanimous.

The motion carried.

VISITORS AND PUBLIC FORUM

None.

ADJOURN

With all business complete the meeting was adjourned at 7:53 p.m.