



RED OAK, TEXAS

City of Red Oak

Minutes - Final City Council Special Called Meeting

Monday, August 24, 2020

6:30 PM

Red Oak Municipal Center
200 Lakeview Parkway

A Special Called Meeting of the Red Oak City Council was held via teleconference on Monday, August 24, 2020, at 6:30 p.m., with the following members present, to wit:

City Council (5): *(via teleconference)*

Mayor Mark L. Stanfill
Councilmember Michael Braly
Councilmember Williams Drake
Councilmember Ben Goodwyn
Mayor Pro Tem Gordon Toney
Councilmember Ron Wilson

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Stanfill called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m., declared a quorum and announced that notices were legally posted pursuant to the Open Meetings Act and in accordance with an Order of the Office of the Governor issued on March 16, 2020, and as amended on April 2, 2020, the City Council for the City of Red Oak, Texas, will conduct the regular meeting by telephone conference to advance the public health goal of limiting face-to-face meetings (also called "social distancing") in an effort to slow the spread of the Coronavirus (COVID-19). This is an open meeting conducted partially by telephone conference, however, there will be no public access to the physical location.

CITIZENS COMMENTS:

Zach Feemster, 109 Mabry, Red Oak, Texas, emailed a comment and City Manager Fuller read it into the record:

"with as many bonds the various councilpeople [sic] have voted on in the past 15 years with a majority of votes for, what deemed them a necessity and could they have been managed more efficiently without seemingly constant consecutive tax hikes which citizens are vehemently against? If so, how? If the potential could have been there, was the intent to collect more through property taxes? Were these later-date increases the mid-long term [sic] game reason for more bond issuances? Does this have anything to do with citizens noting a substantial increase in their property values seemingly for no reason?"

Is there any reason whatsoever todd fuller has been kept as city manager for 9 years if funds could have been allocated better, or, at the minimum, not allow for the excess tax increases in the amounts which they have been? If it could have been possible, what would a ballpark estimate of probability be and do you think thats [sic] an acceptable percentage to hold not only mister fuller but yourselves accountable for? Could there have been a way to slow the tax rate increases but the council, in any form the past 15 years, in one way or another, introduce legal jargon to prevent mister fuller and prior city managers from doing so?"

Mayor Stanfill spoke and stated that he rejects everything Mr. Feemster stated in his comments. Several councilmembers concurred.

COUNCIL BUSINESS – REGULAR SESSION:

1. Consider approval of Ordinance No. 20-026 of the City of Red Oak, Texas, approving and adopting a Budget for the Fiscal Year beginning October 1, 2020, and ending September 30, 2021; providing that expenditures for said Fiscal Year shall be made in accordance with said Budget; appropriating and setting aside the necessary funds out of the general and other revenues for said Fiscal Year for the maintenance and operation of the various departments and for various activities and improvements of the city; providing for the repeal of all ordinances in conflict; providing a severability clause; and providing an effective date.

Mayor Stanfill read Agenda Item No. 1 into the record. City Manager Fuller spoke and gave a detailed explanation of this agenda item.

Mayor Stanfill made the motion to approve Ordinance No. 20-026 as presented.

Councilmember Goodwyn moved the motion, seconded by Councilmember Drake. The motion carried unanimously.

Roll Call Vote: Councilmember Michael Braly – Aye
Councilmember William Drake – Aye
Councilmember Ben Goodwyn – Aye
Mayor Pro Tem Gordon Toney – Aye
Councilmember Ron Wilson – Aye

**Approved
Enactment No: ORD 20-026**

2. Conduct a Public Hearing for the proposed tax rate and consider approval of Ordinance No. 20-027 of the City of Red Oak, Texas, levying Ad Valorem Taxes for the Fiscal Year 2020-2021 (Tax Year 2020) at a rate of \$0.549873 for Maintenance and Operations and a rate of \$0.153772 for Debt Service (Interest and Sinking Fund) for a total rate of \$0.703645 per one hundred dollars (\$100.00) assessed valuation on all taxable property within the corporate city limits of the City of Red Oak as of January 1, 2020, to provide revenues for current expenses and interest and sinking fund requirements; providing for due and delinquent dates together with penalties and interest; and declaring an effective date.

Mayor Stanfill read Agenda Item No. 2 into the record. City Manager Fuller spoke and gave a detailed explanation of this agenda item. Assistant City Manager Phillips also spoke and gave a brief explanation of this agenda item.

Mayor Stanfill opened the Public Hearing at 7:20 p.m.

Martelle Edwards, 988 E. Ovilla Road, Red Oak, Texas, spoke against the proposed tax rate and the increase of the tax rate.

Mayor Stanfill spoke in response to Ms. Edwards' comment, explaining that the tax rate was not increasing. He gave more detailed information about this agenda item.

Anna Bazan-Barker, 103 N. Hillside, Red Oak, Texas, spoke regarding her property taxes going up and no street improvements on her side of town.

Mayor Stanfill spoke in response to Ms. Bazan-Barker's comment.

Felecia Warner, 425 Mara Lane, Red Oak, Texas, spoke wanting clarification about the proposed tax rate and the various rates posted on the public hearing notice. She also asked about street repairs for Mara Lane.

Mayor Stanfill spoke in response to Ms. Warner's comment. Finance Director also spoke in response to Ms. Warner's comment.

Per Police Chief Wolf, acting as bailiff, reported that no one else was present in person to speak at the public hearing.

Councilmember Wilson made the motion, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Toney, to close the Public Hearing at 7:15 p.m. The motion carried unanimously.

Roll Call Vote: Councilmember Michael Braly – Aye
Councilmember William Drake – Aye
Councilmember Ben Goodwyn – Aye
Mayor Pro Tem Gordon Toney – Aye
Councilmember Ron Wilson – Aye

City Manager Fuller read the following into the record:

Motion that the property tax rate be increased by adoption of a tax rate of \$0.703645, with a Maintenance and Operations rate of \$0.549873 and a debt rate of \$0.153772 per \$100 of assessed valuation, which is effectively a 6.07 percent increase in the tax rate, and approve Ordinance No. 20-027 as presented.

Councilmember Drake moved the motion, seconded by Councilmember Braly.

Roll Call Vote: Councilmember Michael Braly – Aye
Councilmember William Drake – Aye
Councilmember Ben Goodwyn – Aye
Mayor Pro Tem Gordon Toney – Aye
Councilmember Ron Wilson – Aye

All in favor, the motion carried 5-0. 5 Yeas; 0 Nays. The motion carried unanimously.

**Approved
Enactment No: ORD 20-027**

- 3. Consider approval of Ordinance No. 20-028 of the City of Red Oak, Texas, to ratify the property tax increase reflected in the Fiscal Year 2020-2021 Adopted Budget which raises more revenue from property taxes than the Fiscal Year 2019-2020 Adopted Budget.**

Mayor Stanfill read Agenda Item No. 3 into the record. Finance Director Platt spoke and gave a detailed explanation of this agenda item.

City Manager Fuller read the following into the record:

Motion that the Council ratify the property tax increase reflected in the City of Red Oak's Fiscal Year 2021 Budget, which raises more total property taxes than last year's budget by \$998,028, or a 13.69 percent increase, and approve Ordinance No. 20-028 as presented.

Councilmember Goodwyn moved the motion, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Toney.

Roll Call Vote: Councilmember Michael Braly – Aye
Councilmember William Drake – Aye
Councilmember Ben Goodwyn – Aye
Mayor Pro Tem Gordon Toney – Aye
Councilmember Ron Wilson – Aye

All in favor, the motion carried 5-0. 5 Yeas; 0 Nays. The motion carried unanimously.

Approved
Enactment No: ORD 20-028

4. Consider adoption of Resolution No. 20-042R of the City Council of the City of Red Oak, Texas, approving a purchase order from the 2019-2020 Budget for the purchase of seven (7) Chevy Tahoes in an amount not to exceed of \$385,605.00 subject to the adoption of the 2020-2021 Budget and issuance of appropriate purchase orders; and authorizing the City Manager or his designee to execute such purchase order and the necessary documentation; and providing an effective date.

Mayor Stanfill read Agenda Item No. 4 into the record. City Manager Fuller spoke and gave a detailed explanation of this agenda item. Assistant City Manager Phillips also spoke and gave a brief explanation of this agenda item.

Councilmember Wilson made the motion, seconded by Councilmember Drake, to adopt Resolution No. 20-042R as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

Roll Call Vote: Councilmember Michael Braly – Aye
Councilmember William Drake – Aye
Councilmember Ben Goodwyn – Aye
Mayor Pro Tem Gordon Toney – Aye
Councilmember Ron Wilson – Aye

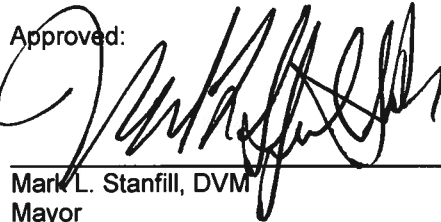
Adopted
Enactment No: RES 20-042R

ADJOURNMENT:

Councilmember Goodwyn made the motion, seconded by Councilmember Wilson, to adjourn the meeting at 7:24 p.m. The motion carried unanimously.

Roll Call Vote: Councilmember Michael Braly – Aye
Councilmember William Drake – Aye
Councilmember Ben Goodwyn – Aye
Mayor Pro Tem Gordon Toney – Aye
Councilmember Ron Wilson – Aye

PASSED AND APPROVED by the Red Oak City Council at a Regular Meeting held on September 14, 2020.

Approved:

Mark L. Stanfill, DVM
Mayor

Attest:


Dana Argumaniz
City Secretary

