

City of Newark
City Council Special Called Meeting Minutes
Thursday, August 24, 2017

- 1. Call to Order, Roll Call, and announce a Quorum is Present.** Mayor Gary Van Wagner called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m. on Thursday, August 24, 2017 in the Newark Community Center located at 209 Hudson Street in Newark, Texas and announced that a quorum was present. Those present were: Mayor Gary Van Wagner, Mayor Pro-Tem Mark Wondolowski, Councilmember Chris Raines, Councilmember Eric Fleischer, Councilmember Jenny Wilson (via phone skype), City Administrator Diane Rasor, City Library Director Linda Ortberg, Director of Public Works William Allen, Assistant City Secretary Jeanine Inman and Wise County Sheriff Deputy Cody Woods.
- 2. Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.** Mayor Van Wagner delivered the invocation and led the pledge to the Flag.
- 3. First public hearing on 2017 tax rate.** Mayor Van Wagner opened the public hearing on the 2017 tax rate at 6:05 p.m.

Darla Bethany asked why there is an increase proposed. Mayor Van Wagner explained that when the City Council increased the tax rate two years ago that they had promised to look at lowering it. Last year, the City Council had lowered the tax rate. He continued that they are now looking at the tax rate that is best to meet the City's needs. The City Council has not yet decided if it will raise the tax rate, lower it or keep it the same. Roger Knickerbocker asked what the City is doing to bring in businesses to help ease the tax burden on the residents. It was explained that the City is looking into different ways to attract businesses into the city.

Mayor Van Wagner closed the public hearing on the 2017 tax rate at 6:17 p.m.

4. Old Business

A. Consider and act on the fence permit and variance for 108 Cheyenne Trail South.

Andrew Edgar, 108 Cheyenne Trail, addressed the City Council concerning the variance for the addition of a fence on his property located within an easement. Mayor Van Wagner stated that there were some citizens that were concerned that the fence did not meet the (HOA) Homeowner's Convents. Mr. Edgar replied that he had received written approval from the HIOA allowing the fence to be built. He continued that a metal pipe fence was previously suggested as being built but now it will be made of wood. Mr. Edgar showed the City Council what the fence would look like. Councilmember Fleischer was concerned that the screen would cause debris to be trapped. Mr. Edgar responded that it would not be located in the debris path and that he would sign a document state at the first sign of failure (aka debris being trapped) he will remove it. Mr. Edgar continued that a portion of the back will not be fence as

there are trees. Mayor Pro-Tem Wondolowski asked about the accessibility to the easement for the City and Mr. Edgar responded that there will be sections that can be removed to gain access. Tori Stokes, 107 Chisholm Court, who owns the property that abuts the back of Mr. Edgar's property and who had spoken with the City previously about this, told the City Council that she was not aware that he had spoken to the HOA concerning this. She continued that she had a list of neighbors who are against the fence being built. She said that she was worried about how it would look, the potential damage it could cause and was opposed to it crossing the easement. Councilmember Raines asked how many other fences were located on the same side and the response was several. Ms. Stokes stated that the other residents do not understand why he was putting up the fence as it would not provide privacy and security if part of it is open.

Councilmember Fleischer moved to allow the variance request for allowing a fence to be placed in the drainage easement at 108 Cheyenne Trail and Councilmember Raines seconded the motion. All approved, the motion passed.

B. Further discussion and possible action on Republic Service's 5-year automatic renewal of the contract for garbage collection services.

Jerri Harwell, Republic Service, addressed the City Council regarding the contract renewal with them. It was asked about the dumpster hauls for the Public Works site and Ms. Harwell stated that they did 49 hauls at a normal cost of \$500 per haul but did not charge the City for them.

Mayor Pro-Tem Wondolowski moved to approve Republic Service's 5-year automatic renewal of the contract for garbage collection services and Councilmember Raines seconded the motion. All approved, the motion passed.

C. Consider and act on the contract for mowing between Matt Newby and the City of Newark.

No action taken on this item.

5. Consider and act on Resolution No. 314 relating to approving a financing by the Newark Cultural Education Facilities Finance Corporation for the Benefit of Goodwill Industries of Central Texas and Goodwill Temporary Services, Inc. and related matters.

Ted Christensen, Government Capital Securities Corporation, addressed the City Council regarding the request.

Councilmember Fleischer moved to approve Resolution No. 314 relating to approving a financing by the Newark Cultural Education Facilities Finance Corporation for the Benefit of Goodwill Industries of Central Texas and Goodwill Temporary Services, Inc. and Councilmember Raines seconded the motion. All approved, the motion passed.

6. Budget Workshop and Action Items – Discussion and possible action on the proposed revenues, expenditures, Capital Improvement Projects for the 2017-2018 fiscal year.

Mayor Van Wagner opened the workshop discussion.

Library Director Ortberg addressed the City Council regarding her proposed changes to the library budget. She explained that the proposed changes to the budget are for more hours to be open, more programs, replacing old equipment, books, movies, computers and a 3-D printer. She went on to say that the 3-D printer would be a possible revenue stream as the patrons could print off the projects at a cost. She said that they wish to add more programs to the Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, Mathematics (STEAM) program, story time, summer reading, coded mice and other new events. It was suggested that the library looks into possibly getting some computers donated. Library Director Ortberg explained that more students are using the library and the number of patrons overall has increased. She thought that the City might possibly consider expanding the library in the future. Mayor Pro-Tem Wondolowski stated that he would like to see them factor in being proactive of their expenses. Library Director Ortberg said that using the interlibrary loan program would allow patrons to borrow books all through the State of Texas. She would need to get with City Administrator Rasor to research it and work out the details. She went on to say that they did get their accreditation today.

Director of Public Works Allen explained that his proposed budget is basically the same as last year with a few increases. He explained the Street sign line has increased due to replacement costs. He continued that the revenue is down because we do not budget for tap fees. He explained that the clarifier, pump and Central Lift station were added to the budget because of necessity of the maintenance and repairs for them. Councilmember Fleischer asked if they could map the water that goes into the water system so that they could forecast what needs to be fixed or replaced and better track the equipment. City Administrator Rasor explained that they do that now and it helps with the contingency plan for repairs and replacement.

City Administrator Rasor went over the tax rates. Councilmember Fleischer stated that if we keep the same rate then we would have a surplus of \$3600. City Administrator Rasor went over the differences from the current budget and the proposed budget. Mayor Pro-Tem Wondolowski stated he would like to have another budget meeting and to look at each line item more deeply. He would also like to see at least one item off of the Capital Improvement Item Board included.

Mr. Brock, a citizen, asked if the water was safe to drink because he had received a letter. City Administrator Rasor replied yes, that it was safe. She explained that TCEQ requires that the letter be sent out and all other cities have to send them out as well. Director of Public Works Allen explained that the City uses well water and that they do sampling and testing. Mayor Van Wagner reminded everyone that this meeting was to discuss the budget.

City Administrator Rasor explained that the health insurance premiums have gone up and she is looking at other policies. She continued that the property insurance has gone up some as well. There was a brief discussion on the City and Public Works phone and internet costs. She explained that fuel, vehicles and equipment were about the same and that Code Enforcement, postage and legal were up but was working on lowering the legal fees. She talked about

conduit loans and Councilmember Fleischer asked if we can earmark the money to pay for Capital Improvement projects. The response is that it is hard to predict how many or when or if you will get any in the year. City Administrator Rasor explained they were looking into switching the RVS software to UDS. She explained that we have had issues with RVS and we currently use UDS for our court software. Mayor Pro-Tem Wondolowski would like to see the costs for the new software.

Director of Public Works Allen explained that he is looking into electronic meter reading. He stated that he could get a step grant to help pay for the meters and then the city would have to pay for the software and computers. He would report back on it.

There weren't any further budget discussions.

Mayor Van Wagner announced that the next budget meeting will be held on Saturday, September 16, 2017 at 8:00 a.m.

7. **Adjourn.** Mayor Van Wagner adjourned the meeting at 7:59 p.m.

APPROVED:

Gary Van Wagner, Mayor

Date

ATTEST:

Diane Rasor, City Administrator