

Minutes of Regular Meeting

The City Council of The City of Pearsall

A Special Meeting of the City Council of the City of Pearsall, Texas will be held on Wednesday, July 14, 2021, at 7:00 p.m., at the Pearsall City Hall, 214 S. Ash Street, Pearsall, Texas.

1. Call To Order

Mayor Ben T. Briscoe called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

2. Roll Call and Announcement of a Quorum

Council Members Present: Mayor Ben Briscoe, Mayor Pro Tem Julian Hernandez, Council Member Sonia Hernandez, Council Member Tiffany Talamantes, Council Member Lionel Gandara

Council Members Absent: Council Member James Leal, Council Member Brenda Trevino, Council Member Davina Rodriguez

Staff Present: City Manager Federico Reyes, City Clerk Krystal Garcia, Finance Director Santos Alarcon, Public Information Officer Bianca Ortiz, Chief of Police Humberto Torralba, City Attorney Bobby Maldonado, Parks and Recreation Director Ramiro Otero, Public Works Director Hector Gandara

3. Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance

Invocation led by Mayor Ben T. Briscoe. Pledge of Allegiance led by all.

4. Presentation

A. Budget Workshop - General Fund

Mayor Ben T. Briscoe asked for the Citizens to be Heard section to be placed on all future meetings. Mayor Ben T. Briscoe asked for the Citizens to be Heard section to be placed on all future meetings. Mayor Briscoe briefly reviewed the General and Utility Fund from 2020 and then reviewed the 2021 windfalls. He stated the city will need to borrow money in the future. Finance Director Santos Alarcon stated the projection by Mayor Briscoe was accurate as some areas the city continues to struggle, budget wise. He projected the cash balance to dwindle down and it did due to loss of revenues. He explained \$758,000 has been lost from the Utility Fund and added that 75% of city employees are paid out of the general fund and 25% are paid out of the utility fund. Chief of Police Humberto Torralba reviewed statistics to supports his request for additional staff. Mayor Pro Tem Julian Hernandez asked where the statistics came from. Chief Torralba explained the statistics are compiled in house using their software and are

reported to the FBI. Mayor Pro Tem Hernandez asked what happens to the cases that are reported but never cleared. Chief Torralba stated they stay pending in the system. He compared Frio County Sheriff's Office, Pleasanton PD, Dilley PD and Pearsall PD cases, population and total number of calls for 2020. He added that 2 out of 16 patrol officers are on each shift, split between 3 shifts with power shifts between each of them. Councilman Lionel Gandara asked if the officers being hired had experience. Chief Torralba responded that the most recent were rookies hired prior to his employment. He added that Pearsall went from being ranked number 58 to number 89 in the safest cities to live in the U.S. A total amount of \$22,550 is requested to be increased in the upcoming budget for the PD.

B. Budget Workshop - Utilities, Fire, ARP Funding and Hotel Occupancy Tax.

Public Works Director Hector Gandara reviewed the goals for the Streets Department and requested a total of \$600,000 for the department. He stated 12 employees are currently in the street department, but 4 operate as the right of way crew and 1 is being used the parks department due to shortage of staff. Mr. Jose Navarro, Streets Crew Leader, and Mr. Gandara explained there are 58 miles of road within the city limits and would cost over 8 million to be redone. Staff is requesting to attempt to fix some of the roads in house and not through a contractor in order to save money. Mr. Gandara stated the city would have to rent some equipment as the streets does not own everything needed to complete the task. Mayor Pro Tem Julian Hernandez asked if cross training is done. Mr. Gandara stated the last 30 minutes of the day are dedicated to training.

At 8:44 pm, Mayor Ben T. Briscoe called for brief recess and reconvened the meeting at 8:58 pm.

Parks and Rec. Director Ramiro Otero emphasized how badly his department needs another crew member as he is operating with 3 and 1 from the streets department. Mr. Otero reviewed his budget with the council. Mayor Pro Tem Julian Hernandez stated there was a big increase to the salary line item. Finance Director Santos Alarcon stated this is due to the salary study being included in the budget. City Manager Fred Reyes stated the cost of employee insurance increase by 20% and \$52,000 was still budgeted for incentives. City Manager Fred Reyes reviewed the administration budget. Finance Director Santos Alarcon stated there was an increase for software upgrade and STEC litigation is set at \$140,000. Librarian Jennifer Muniz stated she is asking for an increase to purchase books and magazines.

5. General Announcements

None

6. Adjournment

Councilwoman Sonia Hernandez motioned to adjourn the meeting at 9:54 pm. second by Councilman Lionel Gandara. The vote in favor of the motion was unanimous.

Approved this November 9, 2021.


Ben T. Briscoe, Mayor

ATTEST:


Krystal Garcia, City Clerk