

CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

A Special Meeting of the City Council of the City of Pearsall, Texas was held on Tuesday, September 3, 2024 at 6:00 PM at the Pearsall City Hall, 214 S. Ash Street, Pearsall, Texas.

"In accordance with TEX. GOV'T CODE § 551.127, please be advised that members of the governing body may participate in a meeting via video conference call. A quorum of the city governing body will be present at the posted physical location of the meeting."

Please use the link below to join the webinar:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89717680328>

Or One tap mobile :

+13462487799,,89717680328# US (Houston)

+16694449171,,89717680328# US

1. Call To Order

Mayor Ben T. Briscoe called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

2. Roll Call and Announcement of Quorum

Council Members Present: Mayor Ben T. Briscoe, Council Member Ramiro Trevino, Council Member Aurora Garza, Council Member Brenda Trevino arrived at 6:01 PM, Council Member Sonia Hernandez via Zoom at 6:11 PM, Council Member Tiffany Talamantes, Mayor Pro Tem James Leal

Council Members Absent: Council Member Racheal Garza

Staff Present: City Manager Federico Reyes, Assistant City Manager/Community Development Director Yolanda Moran, City Clerk Krystal Garcia, Chief of Police Daniel Flores, City Attorney Bobby Maldonado via Zoom, HR Manager Raquel Yanez, Public Works Director Hector Gandara, Public Information Officer Bianca Ramirez,

3. Invocation And Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Ben T. Briscoe led the invocation. Pledge of Allegiance led by all present.

4. Citizens To Be Heard

None

5. Mayor's Message

None

6. Public Hearing

6.A Open Public Hearing

Mayor Ben T. Briscoe opened the Public Hearing at 6:02 PM.

- 6.B On a proposed tax rate of \$0.866624 per \$100 valuation for the 2024 tax year. The proposed tax rate is greater than the no-new-revenue tax rate. This means that City of Pearsall is proposing to increase property taxes for the 2024 tax year

Mr. Reynaldo Treviño 820 South Roosevelt stated he is looking for the logic behind the revenues for the budget and added 7% increase to the tax levy as values have increased, not the rate. He diverted back to the revenues asking who comes up with the numbers as amounts are entered for PD fines and Parks and Recreation rentals. He added he did not see a summary as he had seen in the year's previous budget. City Manager Fred Reyes stated he did not get to complete it this year. Mayor Ben T. Briscoe stated the City Manager worked with department heads to come up with the budget and it's an educated guess. Mayor Briscoe then extended an invitation to sit down and answer specific questions Mr. Trevino may have. No other public comments were made.

6.C Close Public Hearing

Mayor Ben T. Briscoe closed the Public Hearing at 6:11 PM.

6.D Open Public Hearing

Mayor Ben T. Briscoe opened the Public Hearing at 6:12 PM.

- 6.E On the City of Pearsall's Proposed Annual Appropriations Budget for the Fiscal Year beginning October 1, 2024, and ending September 30, 2025

THIS BUDGET WILL RAISE MORE TOTAL PROPERTY TAXES THAN LAST YEAR'S BUDGET BY \$211,538 OR 7.24%, AND OF THAT AMOUNT, \$37,008 IS TAX REVENUE TO BE RAISED FROM NEW PROPERTY ADDED TO THE TAX ROLL THIS YEAR.

City Manager Fred Reyes stated due to a mistake by the Frio Nueces Current, the notice sent by city staff for publication was not printed causing an additional public hearing for the budget on September 10, 2024. No other public comment was made.

6.F Close Public Hearing

Mayor Ben T. Briscoe closed the Public Hearing at 6:13 PM.

7. New Business (All Items Below Are Action Items)

- 7.A CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL OF A PLAN OF FINANCE TO ISSUE ONE OR MORE SERIES OF CERTIFICATES OF OBLIGATIONS, AUTHORIZING CITY STAFF, BOND COUNSEL AND FINANCIAL ADVISOR TO PROCEED WITH SUCH FINANCING, AND APPROVING OTHER MATTERS INCIDENT AND RELATED THERETO – **Robert Tijerina, Financial Advisor**

Council Member Ramiro Treviño motioned to approve, seconded by Council Member Tiffany Talamantes. Mr. Robert Tijerina from Tijerina Financial Consulting, LLC informed the council the plan of finance is specific to TWDB financing. He reviewed the project scope and total cost and explained that the payments would be self-supporting. He also reviewed the timeline and working group for the series. Mayor Ben T. Briscoe inquired how long after the closing date of November 22, 2024, would it take for the project to start. City Manager Fred

Reyes stated including the bidding process the project should begin by the end of the calendar year. The vote in favor of the motion was unanimous.

7.B CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL OF A RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PEARSALL, TEXAS AUTHORIZING AND APPROVING PUBLICATION OF NOTICE OF INTENTION TO ISSUE ONE OR MORE SERIES OF CERTIFICATES OF OBLIGATION; AND PROVIDING FOR OTHER MATTERS IN CONNECTION THEREWITH – Robert Tijerina, Financial Advisor

Council Member Ramiro Trevino motioned to approve, seconded by Council Member Aurora Garza. Mr. Robert Tijerina from Tijerina Financial Consulting, LLC informed the council the resolution is an approval for the notice of intention to be posted as presented. The vote in favor of the motion was unanimous.

7.C Discuss and consider interlocal agreement between Frio County, Dilley ISD, Pearsall ISD, the City of Dilley and the City of Pearsall for Emergency Ambulance Services - Previously Tabled Item – Federico Reyes, City Manager

Council Member Ramiro Treviño motioned to untable the item, seconded by Council Member Tiffany Talamantes. City Manager Fred Reyes reminded the council the item was originally tabled at the May 14, 2024, meeting and referenced page 34 showing the cost of the contract is \$840,000. He acknowledged Frio County Attorney Joseph Sindon and Frio County Auditor Crystal Marquez present at the meeting in the event the Council had questions regarding the contract. He added the contribution to the contract is not included in the proposed budget but would “find it”, if needed. Mayor Pro Tem James Leal asked how many stations are in the county. Frio County Attorney Joseph Sindon stated there are 3 unites with paramedics – 1 in Pearsall, 1 in Dilley and 1 in the Bigfoot/Moore area. He added if a unit is out, the closest would respond to calls the help with coverage. Council Member Ramiro Treviño inquired if how long this contract has been in place. Mr. Reyes informed him it is not the same contract as it has a different dollar amount, but similar contracts have been in place in the past. Mr. Sindon informed the council previous agreements called for a city contribution in the amount of \$87,000. Mr. Reyes some payments had been waived, in the past after being requested by the council and administration at the time. Mayor Ben T. Briscoe stated he and Council Member Brenda Trevino were part of the council when the waiver had been requested and granted. He added the city had requested a monetary contribution from Frio County for the recent 4th of July event and ASIM event. Mayor Pro Tem James Leal asked if the city had received payment for those events. City Manager Fred Reyes stated payment had not been received from Frio County. Frio County Auditor Crystal Marquez stated they County had not received invoices for the events mentioned. Council Member Tiffany Talamantes inquired why haven’t invoices been sent to the County for payment. City Manager Fred Reyes stated he was unaware the city had to send invoices for the contributions but would get them done in the morning. Council Member Brenda Trevino asked how the amount of \$25,000 was determined. Mr. Sindon stated it was originally based on the volume of calls but ultimately Judge Rochelle Camacho settled on a flat rate of \$25,000. Frio County Commissioner Mario Martinez stated they do not foresee the cost of services going down. Mayor Pro Tem James Leal inquired if the County truly needs assistance because the city has issues to be worked on. Mr. Leal followed up with the example of the city requesting assistance with street construction in the past and being given “unfriendly” numbers. Commissioner Martinez stated 44% of the calls come from within the city limits of Pearsall and added he and Commissioner Raul Carrizales were allocating funds to assist with city projects within their precincts (number allocated was not disclosed). Council Member Aurora Garza asked Commissioner Martinez if it’s fair to double tax the citizens of Pearsall for them to receive EMS services. Commissioner Martinez stated he understood the concern regarding double taxation, but the cost of services is high, and the

county would like help. Auditor Crystal Marquez stated the rates included in the interlocal agreement are FEMA rates. She reaffirmed the County's new budget does have money allocated of projects within the city limits of Pearsall and Dilley they just hadn't communicated it with either entity. City Manager Fred Reyes directed his comments towards County staff stating they just witnessed the city is financing \$11 Million - \$12 Million dollars for utilities and wants the county to recognize the city not trying to be difficult when expressing concern over the request for contribution. He added the County has, historically, provided EMS services. Mr. Sindon stated there isn't a legal requirement for any entity to provide EMS services. Mayor Pro Tem James Leal inquired if the County could refuse EMS Services to the City of Pearsall if Council refuses to pay. Mr. Sindon stated that would be a question for the City Attorney Bobby Maldonado. After some technical difficulty, Bobby Maldonado was contacted by cellphone and was asked by Mayor Pro Tem James Leal if the County could refuse EMS services if the council decided not to pay. Mr. Maldonado stated Section 774 of the Texas Health and Safety Code covers mutual assistance between the county and city but does not speak to monetary contributions. He added the city, and county must enter into an agreement for the county to provide the services to the city. He stated it would be interesting if the county denied the services to the city as the citizenry pays taxes to Frio County and would like to see if County staff would go on record stating they will refuse services if council does not vote to approve payment. Council Member Brenda Trevino stated she doesn't want to come off as not wanting to help the county but the public needs to know where their tax dollars are going. Council Member Aurora Garza stated a citizen was present and asked Mr. Reynaldo Trevino for his input on the matter. Mr. Reynaldo Trevino stated this was a numbers game and if the bulk of calls are coming from Pearsall, then the units should all be housed in Pearsall. Mayor Ben T. Briscoe asked for Council's input. Council Member Aurora Garza stated she agreed with Council Member Brenda Trevino and doesn't want to sound spiteful, but her responses are based off feedback from citizens. Council Member Tiffany Talamantes stated at the end of the day all the opinions expressed make sense, but the safety of the citizens is of the utmost importance and asked the city manager to come up with a reasonable amount to contribute. Council Member Ramiro Trevino announced his motion to allow the City Manager to negotiate a contribution amount, not to exceed \$25,000, Seconded by Council Member Tiffany Talamantes. The council voted four (4) in favor and two (2) against. Council Member Tiffany Talamantes, Council Member Ramiro Trevino, Council Member Aurora Garza and Council Member Brenda Trevino voted in favor. Mayor Pro Tem James Leal and Council Member Sonia Hernandez voted against. Motion passes.

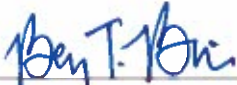
8. General Announcements

City Manager Fred Reyes announced The Chamber of Pearsall will be hosting a grand opening soon and an invite would be sent out soon.

9. Adjournment

There being no further business before the council and upon a motion made by Mayor Pro Tem James Leal the meeting adjourned at 7:04 PM.

Approved this September 10, 2024


Ben T. Briscoe, Mayor

ATTEST:


Krystal Garcia, City Clerk