

CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

A Special Meeting of the City Council of the City of Pearsall, Texas will be held on Tuesday, July 30, 2024, at 6:00 PM at the Pearsall City Hall, 214 South 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/88186173833>

Or One tap mobile :

+13462487799,,88186173833# US (Houston)

+16694449171,,88186173833# US

Webinar ID: 881 8617 3833

International numbers available: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88186173833>

COUNCIL MEMBERS

**BEN T BRISCOE
RACHEAL GARZA
TIFFANY TALAMANTES
BRENDA TREVINO**

**JAMES LEAL
SONIA HERNANDEZ
RAMIRO TREVINO
AURORA GARZA**

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, Council Member Sonia Hernandez, Council Member Racheal Garza, Council Member Tiffany Talamantes, Mayor Pro Tem James Leal

Council Members Absent: None

Staff Present: City Manager Federico Reyes, Assistant City Manager/Community Development Director Yolanda Moran, City Clerk Krystal Garcia, Finance Director Monica Yanez, Chief of Police Daniel Flores, Parks and Recreation/Facilities Director Ramiro Otero, City Attorney Bobby Maldonado, Raquel Yanez, Public Works Director Hector Gandara, Public Information Officer Bianca Ramirez, Utilities Manager Alex Izarraras, Interim Finance Director Melissa Morales

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

6. Budget Workshop

6.A General/Utility Fund and other budget related items

Parks and Recreation/Facilities Director Ramiro Otero reviewed his requested budget amounts for Parks, Right of Ways, and Facilities. Assistant City Manager/Community Development Director Yolanda Moran reviewed the budgets for Community Development and Library. She informed the council the bulk of her request for Community Development was for personnel. She provided a comparison of 2022, 2023 and 2024 revenues from building permits. City Manager Fred Reyes reviewed the City Pool budget as provided by Public Works Office Manager Yomeida Carrizales. The city's Service Center houses the Public Works Dept., Facilities and Maintenance Dept., City Fleet and a PD substation. He added not included in the presentation is a detailed description of the city's fleet. He informed the Council they service the city's tires, and other fleet maintenance needs. City Manager Fred Reyes reviewed the Utility Budget in Public Works Director Hector Gandara's absence. The presentation reflected changes in the Water, Wastewater, Gas and Collection Station's budget(s) as well as the equipment requested for the departments. City Manager Fred Reyes reviewed his presentation regarding the proposed budget which included property values, sales projections for the past 5 years, HOT Funds, TIRZ, franchise fees, utility rates, accomplishments, grant/loan forgiveness. He went on to review items not included in the budget – July 4th event, bond payments for additional debt to be issued, summer recreation program, COLA, equipment with payments to be made the next fiscal year and added there was a reduction to the meetings and travel line item for Administration and Council.

7. New Business

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

Mayor Ben T. Briscoe called for a motion to move the item before Item 6A. Council Member Ramiro Trevino motioned to approve the move, seconded by Council Member Aurora Garza. The vote in favor was unanimous.

Council Member Sonia Hernandez motioned to approve, seconded by Council Member Tiffany Talamantes. Mr. Robert Tijerina from Tijerina Financial Consulting LLC reviewed the plan of finance and informed the council the series would be self-supporting. He stated approval would allow counsel to proceed working on financing and added the September 24, 2024, Council Meeting would be to present financing with final rate and payments to be made by the city. October 24, 2024, is set to be the closing date. He reviewed the participants for the series. Mr. Juan Aguilera from Escamilla and Poneck, LLP reviewed the notice with the council needing to be published twice in the local paper as well as posted on the city website. He stated he included #2 – purchase of materials, supplies, equipment, land, and rights-of-ways for authorized needs and purposes relating to the City's Water and Wastewater System improvements; and #3 – The construction and improvements of streets, curbs and sidewalk, together with utility relocation, drainage improvements, land acquisition, and expenses, incidental to improvements to the City's Water and Wastewater System. 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

Mayor Pro Tem James Leal motioned to approve, seconded by Council Member Racheal Garza. The vote in favor of the motion was unanimous.

7.C CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL OF A RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PEARSALL, TEXAS ESTABLISHING THE CITY'S INTENTION TO REIMBURSE ITSELF FOR THE PRIOR LAWFUL EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FROM THE PROCEEDS OF OBLIGATIONS TO BE ISSUED ON BEHALF OF THE CITY FOR AUTHORIZED PURPOSES, AND OTHER MATTERS IN CONNECTION THEREWITH

Mayor Pro Tem James Leal motioned to approve, seconded by Council Member Brenda Treviño. The vote in favor of the motion was unanimously approved.

7.D Discuss and consider acceptance of the 2024 certified tax roll for the City of Pearsall

Council Member Aurora Garza motioned to approve, seconded by Council Member Sonia Hernandez. The vote in favor of the motion was unanimous.

7.E Discuss and consider appointing the City Manager Federico Reyes, to calculate the ad valorem tax rates for the 2024-25 fiscal year

Mayor Pro Tem James Leal motioned to approve, seconded by Council Member Racheal Garza. The vote in favor of the motion was unanimous.

7.F Discuss and consider Resolution No. 2024-07-08, a resolution authorizing the filing of the City of Pearsall's proposed Annual Appropriations Budget for the Fiscal Year beginning October 1, 2024

Mayor Pro Tem Jamea Leal inquired when final cuts would be made. City Manager Fred Reyes stated the cuts could be made during the item. As an additional \$85,000 in cuts needed to be made. Council Member Ramiro Trevino inquired if the city's wages were based the wage study. Mr. Reyes stated the most current is from FY 2022-2023. Mr. Trevino inquired if it completed every 2 years and if there were "merit increases". HR Manager Raquel Yanez stated it was updated every 2 years and the city does not use "merit increases for its wages". Mr. Trevino asked if evaluations are done. Mrs. Yanez stated they are to be completed annually. Mr. Trevino inquired if the 4 employees to receive increase mandated by the Department of Labor were, in fact, exempt employees. Mr. Reyes informed him all were exempt employees. Council Member Ramiro Trevino stated per the Final Rule, the city "can go back and reaudit the position" as it pertains to administrators and executive positions and asked if these employees all met the requirements because the city is not obligated to give the increase automatically. Mrs. Yanez stated an audit was completed. City Manager Fred Reyes stated the employees are his and feels as though they deserve the increase. Mayor Ben T. Briscoe stated to look at efficiency and compare to other communities – doing a lot with a little. Mr. Trevino stated staff is good but the public needs to see productivity. City Manager stated if more staff is hired, more benefits would have to be paid out. He added he'd rather have less staff with education and training and education than more staff with less training. He added his staff is taking on more responsibilities Council Member Racheal Garza inquired what is the minimum raise amount as the school district uses a percentage. She inquired what is the minimum and what is the maximum amount. She added the police officers put their lives on the line when on duty and should get a raise. City Manager Fred Reyes stated the police department has a \$2 million dollar budget and what is the benefit of hiring more staff for the department if there are still gaps in the local judicial system – at no disrespect to the Chief, stated Mr. Reyes. Mayor Briscoe stated he met with the DA to get data regarding cases. Mayor Pro Tem inquired if an ordinance could be passed to prohibit the waiver of city related fees. Council Member Sonia Hernandez motioned to approve, seconded by Council Member Aurora Garza. The vote in favor of the motion was unanimous.

7.G Discuss and consider the approval of Task Order #3 with YPR Engineering for design of traffic control improvements at the intersection of Louise and Lindsey Lane

Council Member Racheal Garza motioned to approve, seconded by Council Member Aurora Garza. City Manager Fred Reyes stated the council previously approved a plat for the Lindsey Lane Retail Project. The item would allow the firm to move forward with designing traffic control improvements for the area before the project is completed. The vote in favor of the motion was unanimous.

- 7.H Discuss and consider the approval of an emergency repair at the East Comal Water Plant and authorizing the city manager to negotiate and enter into an agreement with Solansky Welding and Pump Inc.

Mayor Pro Tem James Leal motioned to approve, seconded by Council Member Racheal Garza. City Manager Fred Reyes stated the equipment broke down a few weeks back and need to be repaired to help keep up with the water demand and reduce stress on the wells. The vote in favor of the motion was unanimous.

- 7.I Submission of the 2024 no new revenue and voter approval tax rates for the City of Pearsall

City Manager Fred Reyes, no action is needed on the item as it is just for submission.

- 7.J Discuss and consider a Chapter 380 Economic Development Agreement between the City of Pearsall and PTX Retail LLC

Mayor Pro Tem James Leal motioned to approve, seconded by Council Member Racheal Garza. City Manager Fred stated the item was discussed in previous Executive Sessions is ready for action. The vote in favor of the motion was unanimous.

8. **General Announcements**

None

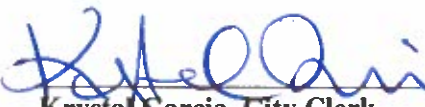
9. **Adjournment**

Mayor Pro Tem James Leal motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:40 PM, seconded by Council Member Sonia Hernandez. The vote in favor of the motion was unanimous.

Approved this August 13, 2024


Ben T. Briscoe, Mayor

ATTEST:


Krystal Garcia, City Clerk