

**LOCKHART CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING**

JANUARY 7, 2020

6:30 P.M.

**CLARK LIBRARY ANNEX-COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 217 SOUTH MAIN STREET, 3rd FLOOR,
LOCKHART, TEXAS**

Council present:

Mayor Pro-Tem Angie Gonzales-Sanchez
Councilmember Juan Mendoza
Councilmember Jeffry Michelson

Mayor Lew White
Councilmember Derrick David Bryant
Councilmember Kara McGregor
Councilmember Brad Westmoreland

Staff present:

Steven Lewis, City Manager
Monte Akers, City Attorney
Pam Larison, Finance Director

Connie Constancio, City Secretary
Miles Smith, Public Information Officer
Julie Bowermon, Civil Service/HR Director

Citizens/Visitors Addressing the Council: None.

Work Session 6:30 p.m.

Mayor White opened the work session and advised the Council, staff and the audience that staff would provide information and explanations about the following items:

DISCUSSION ONLY

A. DISCUSS DECEMBER 3, 2019 AND DECEMBER 17, 2019 COUNCIL MINUTES.

Mayor White requested corrections. There were none.

B. DISCUSS SELECTION OF EVERGREEN SOLUTIONS, LLC OF TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA TO CONDUCT A CLASSIFICATION AND COMPENSATION STUDY, AND APPOINTING THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE THE AGREEMENT.

Ms. Bowermon stated that in the Fiscal Year 2019-2020 budget, the Council approved a one-time expenditure for a classification and compensation study (CCS). The CCS reviews internal equity (pay relationships between positions) and external competitiveness (pay relationships with labor market competitors). A system creates a transparent and methodical approach that the City can continue to use to ensure that current and future employees are placed in the appropriate job classification and pay grade. Request for proposals were sought and eight proposals were received with a not-to-exceed cost range of \$23,956 to \$52,000. After reviewing the proposals, staff recommended the selection of Evergreen Solutions, LLC with a not-to-exceed cost of \$24,000. Evergreen Solutions has conducted studies for numerous municipal governments in Texas. Previous clients include the City of Buda, City of Lakeway, and City of Fredericksburg of which all provided positive feedback regarding the study process and results received from Evergreen. If approved by Council, Evergreen will return to the City Council and provide an in-depth presentation of the study process and address any questions or requests for additional information at that time. The project is anticipated to begin January 14, 2020 and take approximately three months to complete. Ms. Bowermon recommended approval. There was discussion.

C. DISCUSS RESOLUTION 2020-01 SUSPENDING THE FEBRUARY 6, 2020 EFFECTIVE DATE OF TEXAS GAS SERVICE COMPANY'S REQUESTED INCREASE TO PERMIT THE CITY TIME TO STUDY THE REQUEST AND TO ESTABLISH REASONABLE RATES; APPROVING COOPERATION WITH OTHER CITIES IN THE TEXAS GAS SERVICE COMPANY'S CENTRAL TEXAS AND GULF COAST SERVICE AREAS; HIRING LEGAL AND CONSULTING SERVICES TO NEGOTIATE WITH THE COMPANY AND DIRECT ANY NECESSARY LITIGATION AND APPEALS; AUTHORIZING INTERVENTION IN GUD NO. 10928 AT THE RAILROAD COMMISSION; REQUIRING REIMBURSEMENT OF CITIES' RATE CASE EXPENSES; FINDING THAT THE MEETING AT WHICH THIS RESOLUTION IS PASSED IS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC AS REQUIRED BY LAW; REQUIRING NOTICE OF THIS RESOLUTION TO THE COMPANY AND LEGAL COUNSEL.

Mr. Akers provided a history about how the Texas Gas Service rates are amended and monitored by the Public Utility Commission. Texas Gas Service (TGS) filed its Statement of Intent to increase gas rates at the Railroad Commission of Texas and in all municipalities exercising original jurisdiction within the City of Beaumont and the incorporated areas of the Central Texas Service Area and Gulf Coast Service Area, effective February 6, 2020. TGS is seeking to increase its gas rates on a system-wide basis by \$17 million per year, which is an increase of 9.43% including gas costs, or 15.64% excluding gas costs.

The resolution suspends the February 6, 2020 effective date of the TGS rate increase for the maximum period permitted by law to allow the City to evaluate the filing, to determine whether the filing complies with the law, and if lawful, to determine what further strategy, including settlement, to pursue. The law provides that a rate request cannot become effective until at least 35 days following the filing of the application to change rates. The law permits the City to suspend the rate change for 90 days after the date the rate change would otherwise be effective. If the City fails to take some action regarding the filing before the effective date, TGS's rate request is deemed approved. There was discussion.

D. DISCUSS HOTEL OCCUPANCY TAX (HOT) ADVISORY BOARD APPOINTMENTS.

Mr. Lewis stated that on December 3, 2019, the Council appointed the following individuals to the HOT Advisory Board: Acting Members: Ray Sanders, Alfredo Munoz, Archana "Archie" Gandhi, Janet Grigar, Steve Lewis and/or Pam Larison and, Alternate Members: Sally Daniel and Roxanne Rix. The HOT Advisory Board held their initial meeting on December 18, 2019. During the meeting, Janet Grigar requested to be an Alternate member instead of an Acting member. Roxanne Rix thereafter agreed to serve as an Acting member instead of an Alternate. It was the consensus of the HOT Board to recommend that Janet Grigar serve as an Alternate member and Roxanne Rix as an Acting member. Staff concurs with the member transition. There was discussion.

RECESS: Mayor White announced that the Council would recess for a break at 6:55 p.m.

REGULAR MEETING

ITEM 1. CALL TO ORDER.

Mayor Lew White called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

ITEM 2. INVOCATION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.

Mayor White gave the Invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States and Texas flags.

ITEM 3. PUBLIC COMMENT.

Mayor White requested citizens to address the Council regarding items that are not on the agenda. There were none.

ITEM 4-A. DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION TO CONSIDER DECEMBER 3, 2019 AND DECEMBER 17, 2019 COUNCIL MINUTES.

Mayor Pro-Tem Sanchez made a motion to approve the minutes. Councilmember McGregor seconded. The motion passed by a vote of 7-0.

ITEM 4-B. DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION REGARDING SELECTION OF EVERGREEN SOLUTIONS, LLC OF TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA TO CONDUCT A CLASSIFICATION AND COMPENSATION STUDY, AND APPOINTING THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE THE AGREEMENT.

Councilmember Michelson made a motion to approve the selection of Evergreen Solution, LLC, as presented. Councilmember Westmoreland seconded. The motion passed by a vote of 7-0.

ITEM 4-C. DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION TO CONSIDER RESOLUTION 2020-01 SUSPENDING THE FEBRUARY 6, 2020 EFFECTIVE DATE OF TEXAS GAS SERVICE COMPANY'S REQUESTED INCREASE TO PERMIT THE CITY TIME TO STUDY THE REQUEST AND TO ESTABLISH REASONABLE RATES; APPROVING COOPERATION WITH OTHER CITIES IN THE TEXAS GAS SERVICE COMPANY'S CENTRAL TEXAS AND GULF COAST SERVICE AREAS; HIRING LEGAL AND CONSULTING SERVICES TO NEGOTIATE WITH THE COMPANY AND DIRECT ANY NECESSARY LITIGATION AND APPEALS; AUTHORIZING INTERVENTION IN GUD NO. 10928 AT THE RAILROAD COMMISSION; REQUIRING REIMBURSEMENT OF CITIES' RATE CASE EXPENSES; FINDING THAT THE MEETING AT WHICH THIS RESOLUTION IS PASSED IS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC AS REQUIRED BY LAW; REQUIRING NOTICE OF THIS RESOLUTION TO THE COMPANY AND LEGAL COUNSEL.

Councilmember McGregor made a motion to approve Resolution 2020-01, as presented. Councilmember Michelson seconded. The motion passed by a vote of 7-0.

ITEM 4-D. DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION REGARDING HOTEL OCCUPANCY TAX (HOT) ADVISORY BOARD APPOINTMENTS.

Mayor Pro-Tem Sanchez made a motion to appoint Roxanne Rix as an Acting member and Janet Grigar as an Alternate member. Councilmember McGregor seconded. The motion passed by a vote of 7-0.

ITEM 4-E. DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION REGARDING APPOINTMENTS TO VARIOUS BOARDS, COMMISSIONS OR COMMITTEES.

Mayor White requested appointments to boards and commissions.

Mayor Pro-Tem Sanchez made a motion to reappoint the following members. Councilmember Mendoza seconded. The motion passed by a vote of 7-0.

Re-appointments by Mayor Pro-Tem Sanchez:

Andrew Reyes – Airport Advisory Board
 Laura Cline – Board of Adjustment
 Paul Martinez – Construction Board
 Irene Yanez – Economic Development Revolving Loan Committee

Alfredo Munoz – Lockhart Economic Development Corporation (LEDC)
Jodi King – Library Board
Philip Ruiz – Planning and Zoning Commission

Councilmember Westmoreland stated that he received a verbal resignation from Christina Black as a member of the Planning and Zoning Commission. He stated that he will replace the position soon.

ITEM 5. CITY MANAGER'S REPORT, PRESENTATION AND POSSIBLE DISCUSSION.

- Norman Alston Architects is preparing a maintenance Master Plan for the Clark Library complex.
- Mr. Scott Joslove with the Texas Hotel & Lodging Association will present a workshop regarding the distribution and uses of Municipal Hotel/Motel taxes on January 23, 2020 from 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers. Those invited to the workshop are the HOT Advisory Board, City Council, and organizations that receive HOT funds. The workshop is open to the public.
- On December 18, 2019, GBRA issued the City of Lockhart a refund in the amount of \$312,122. Approximately two-thirds of this amount resulted from the wastewater treatment septic tank hauler fees coming in over budget, and the remainder was due to the water well rehabilitation being postponed and lower than anticipated power and utilities, chemical and laboratory costs.
- Update on the Caldwell County Complete Count activities related to the 2020 Census.
- Update concerning the trail project in City Park and other city wide playscapes and shade structure projects.
- The City Council will conduct its annual Strategic Priorities Retreat the afternoon of January 17th and the morning of January 18th.
- Library Updates:
 - TAX Aide in February – AARP volunteers will be at the library assisting with filing tax forms on Mondays from 9 a.m. to 12(noon) and on Thursdays from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. This service is free and registration will be required. Tax forms will also be available at the library soon.
 - Amnesty Month at the Library – Library past dues fees will be waived in January. The library encourages patrons to take advantage of amnesty month.

ITEM 6. COUNCIL AND STAFF COMMENTS – ITEMS OF COMMUNITY INTEREST.

Councilmember Westmoreland thanked all involved with the festive holiday decorations in Lockhart. He wished everyone the best in 2020.

Councilmember Mendoza announced events during the MLK March on January 20.

Mayor Pro-Tem Sanchez expressed condolences to the families of Dorothy Buckner, Robert Martinez, Leo Reyes, Roger Haug, Santos Ramirez and to the citizens and family of Councilmember Gerald Jimenez in Floresville for their loss.

Councilmember McGregor expressed condolences to the families of Mark Holm and Rich Harney.

Councilmember Bryant wished everyone a Happy New Year. He invited everyone to the MLK March on January 20th. He congratulated the Lockhart ISD teachers for participating in a spending spree and he welcomed all ISD teachers and students back to school.

Councilmember Michelson wished everyone a Happy New Year and looked forward to good things in the city for 2020.

Mayor White wished everyone a Happy New Year. He expressed condolences to those that have recently lost a loved one.

ITEM 7. ADJOURNMENT.

Mayor Pro-Tem Sanchez made a motion to adjourn. Councilmember Mendoza seconded. The motion passed by a vote of 7-0. The meeting was adjourned at 7:58 p.m.

PASSED and APPROVED this the 4th day of February 2020.

CITY OF LOCKHART



Lew White, Mayor

ATTEST:



Connie Constancio, TRMC
City Secretary

