

THE STATE OF TEXAS §
 COUNTY OF ANDERSON §
 CITY OF PALESTINE §

The City Council of the City of Palestine, Texas convened in a Regular Meeting on Monday, January 9, 2017, at 3:45 p.m. for the Work Session in the City Hall Conference Room, and at 5:30 p.m. for the Regular Meeting in the Council Chambers at City Hall, 504 N. Queen Street, Palestine, Texas, with the following people present:

Mayor Bob Herrington; Mayor Pro Tem Joseph Thompson; Councilmembers Will Brule, Mitchell Jordan, Vickey L. Chivers, Doug Smith, and Steve Presley; City Manager Mike Alexander, Assistant City Manager Michael Hornes, City Secretary Teresa Herrera, and City Attorney Ronald Stutes.

Other staff present: Development Services Director Jeffrey Lyons, Community Services Director Patsy Smith, Communications Officer Nate Smith, Finance Director Steve Groom, and Public Works Director Tim Perry.

Mayor Herrington was absent for the work session.

WORK SESSION

Mayor Pro Tem Thompson called the work session to order at 3:48 p.m.

Hot Pepper Festival Recap.

Project Manager Danielle Shultz stated that the Hot Pepper Festival took place on October 22, 2016, the Executive Hot Pepper Festival Committee began meeting in April 2016. There were 12 members on the committee and many volunteers the day of the event. She added that they experienced its highest attendance of vendors and participants. There were a total of 118 vendors. The Kidz Zone included: Amazon zip line, log slammer, gun smoke shooting gallery, zorb ball racing, face painting, bounce houses, mechanical bull, and Barc (Humane Society). Day-time entertainment: Eastgate and The Blind Pursuit and night-time entertainment included: Hunter Hutchinson, The Randall King Band, and Jack Ingram. Overall the festival was a huge success. Finance Director Steve Groom informed that there was a \$21,632 loss for the event.

Review and discuss City Boards, Commissions, and Committees.

Councilmember Chivers expressed her disappointment with Council for re-appointing Edwina Miller to the Planning and Zoning Commission after what she did during the 2016 General Election. She added that applications should be discussed prior to appoint and individuals without the qualifications should not be appointed to any City Boards, Commissions, or Committees.

Discuss illegal dump sites within the City of Palestine.

Councilmember Jordan stated that illegal dumping is a huge problem within District 2. He added that the City needs to focus a little more on this issue. Taxpayer dollars are being spent in clean-up. The City needs to invest in a few cameras to reduce illegal dumping. There are many risks associated with illegal dumping: creates breeding ground for rodents, mosquitoes and other insects that can carry and transmit diseases, impacts proper drainage of runoff, making it more susceptible to flooding, or can contaminate wells and surface water that may be used as sources of drinking water, and serves as a magnet for other criminal activity, decreases property value and poses various hazards for the public. FlashCam-880SX cost about \$6,000 each. Council directed Staff to inquire about less expensive alternatives.

Procedures for the sale of city-owned properties.

Development Services Director Jeffrey Lyons stated that he spoke with an individual who expressed interest in purchasing property owned by the City for the purpose of constructing professional offices. He added that to date, the City has never formally established procedures for selling city-owned properties. Council's consensus is to dispose of as many city-owned properties to those who are interested in development and to get them back on the tax roll. Staff is seeking direction on how to proceed with the sale of city-owned properties. Council directed Staff to obtain bids to sale city-owned properties.

Discuss Concession Stand Renovations Project by Palestine Youth Athletic Association (PYAA) at Palestine Athletic Complex.

Community Services Director Patsy Smith stated that the PYAA has developed a plan for proposed renovations of the concession stands at the Palestine Athletic Complex. The plans include upgrades and repairs to both concession stands. Licensed contractors will do all plumbing and electrical repairs/upgrades and permits will be obtained as required by the city at their expense. PYAA is not requesting money for repairs/upgrades; they only want approval by Council. PYAA members were present and they expressed that if Council designated the complex for baseball/softball only, they would qualify for grant money for upgrades. Council thanked PYAA members for the repairs and upgrades to the complex.

Discuss a resolution relating to the giving of Notice of Intention to issue City of Palestine, Texas Combination Tax and Revenue Certificates of Obligation, Series 2017 and providing an effective date.

Discussion was held. Finance Director Groom stated that right now is a good time to borrow money because interest rates and construction costs are low. FirstSouthwest Financial Advisor Boyd London was present and addressed questions Council had.

CALL TO ORDER - REGULAR MEETING

Mayor Herrington called the Regular Meeting to order at 5:34 p.m.

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The invocation was given by Councilmember Jordan, and was followed by Pledge of Allegiance.

PROPOSED CHANGES OF AGENDA ITEMS

No action taken.

PUBLIC COMMENTS, PUBLIC RECOGNITION, AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

James Smith addressed Council regarding City government relating to MLK Jr. Day.

Edwina Miller addressed Council regarding general City business.

Asst. PEDC Director Greg Laudadio presented certificates to the following Palestine ISD Culinary Arts Program students for their involvement in the 2016 Main Street Wine Swirl: Travell Bryant, Cynthia Campa, Olivia Cone, Jaila Cook, Melaine Flores, Juan Guerrero, Rosario Guzman, Kristi Klauser, Clara Moellers, Waylon Nickerson, Jack Sharples, Daniel Tadlock, and Erica Thompson; Culinary Arts Teacher Michelle Mason and PISD College and Career Readiness Director Chris Kiser were recognized. Also, Wine Swirl Committee members were recognized.

New Risk Manager Mike Phillips was recognized; this is a new position with the City and Mike Phillips has been with the Fire Department for 23 years.

Nikki Farrell was recognized for passing the Code Enforcement State Exam.

Officers Perkins and Nicholson were recognized for their exemplary service and presentation of Palestine Police Department Lifesaving Award. On October 7, 2016, the officers were dispatched to a call of service that was outside the norm. Officers Perkins and Nicholson went above and beyond and were able to save a life by administering medical aid to the man.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST DISCLOSURES

No action was taken.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Herrington expressed that he is looking forward to a wonderful 2017 for the City of Palestine under the leadership of new City Manager Mike Alexander, real progress is being made and with great leadership at the top. He added that he is looking forward to great things for 2017, and hopeful of economy rebound. Also, he added that Code Enforcement is doing their job and street numbers need to be on houses and on curbs,