

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, February 27, 2017, at 3:30 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: Public Works Director Tim Perry, Finance Director Steve Groom, Community Services Director Patsy Smith, PEDC Director Tom Manskey, Communications Officer Nate Smith, and Deputy Public Works Director Felipe Garcia.

All Councilmembers were present for the Work Session and Regular Meeting. Councilmember Chivers arrived at 3:53 p.m.

WORK SESSION

Mayor Herrington called the work session to order at 3:31 p.m.

The following were discussed during the work session: 1) the adoption/rededication of a local sales and use tax rate of 0.125 or 0.25 percent to provide capital funding for maintenance and repair of municipal streets; 2) update regarding illegal dumping and drainage systems; 3) revised cost of a second signal and cross arm at Magnolia and Spring Street Railroad crossing in the amount of \$39,635.50; and 4) new guidelines for Farmers Market.

Discuss new guidelines for Special Events/Parades.

No discussion was held.

With no other business to come before the Council, the work session was adjourned at 5:06 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER – REGULAR MEETING

Mayor Herrington called the Regular Meeting to order at 5:32 p.m.

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The invocation was given by Asst. City Manager Michael Hornes, and was followed by Pledge of Allegiance.

PROPOSED CHANGES OF AGENDA ITEMS

Items 3, 6, & 7 from the Regular Agenda were pulled.

PUBLIC COMMENTS, PUBLIC RECOGNITION, AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dan Bochsler addressed Council regarding recognition of work by Charter Review Committee members.

Molly Connell addressed Council regarding allowing homemade crafts and arts at the Farmer's Market.

James Smith addressed Council regarding City Government.

Firefighters Kelly Hughes was recognized for his promotion from Captain to Battalion Chief, Edward Clayton was recognized for his promotion from Lieutenant to Captain, Eric Gartman was recognized for his promotion from Driver to Captain, and David Trawick for his promotion to Driver. Pinning ceremony was held.

Interim Fire Chief Davis informed that a Civil Service exam for Entry Level Firefighters is scheduled for Saturday, April 29, 2017. Fire Department is down two Firefighters.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST DISCLOSURES

No action taken.

ITEMS FROM COUNCIL

Councilmember Presley reported that Texas State Railroad will be operating this weekend. Texas State Railroad Authority is still negotiating with operator.

Councilmember Jordan thanked everyone that participated in the Black History Program that took place on Thursday, February 23 in Palestine High School Auditorium.

Mayor Pro Tem Thompson provided an update on bike trails and extended an invitation to anyone wishing to volunteer time on Saturday, March 4 at Davey Dogwood Park at 9 a.m.

Councilmember Presley informed that the YMCA opened their Soccer Complex on Saturday, February 25. YMCA is still looking for donations.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

City Manager Alexander informed that Department Directors were present to address Council's questions regarding reports that were provided.

Finance (Utility Billing, Check Register, & Financial Summary), Public Works, Utilities, and Community Services reports were provided.

CONSENT AGENDA

- 1) Consider approval of minutes of the Work Session and Regular Meeting of November 28, 2016.
- 2) Consider awarding Bid#: B2017-PW-02 Town Creek Wastewater Treatment Grit Removal Improvements to Duplichain Contractors, LLC in the amount of \$734,500. Public Works Director Tim Perry
- 3) Consider awarding Bid Water Treatment Plant Gravity Filter Rehabilitation project to Lamar Inc., in the amount of \$726,364. Public Works Director Tim Perry

Mayor Pro Tem Thompson made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Chivers, to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Upon vote, motion carried unanimously 7-0.

REGULAR AGENDA

Consider an ordinance providing for Notice of Special Election on May 6, 2017, for the adoption/rededication of a local sales and use tax rate of 0.125 or 0.25 percent to provide capital funding for maintenance and repair of municipal streets.

Mayor Bob Herrington gave a brief explanation on property tax. In Palestine we have 8.25 percent sales tax. The state receives 6.25 percent, Anderson County receives .5 percent and the City receives 1.5 percent. Currently, the City uses its 1.5 percent in three ways, operations, economic development, and property tax relief. City operations uses 1.25 percent, which includes .25 percent for property tax relief. Economic development uses the remaining .25 percent. The .125 percent would generate approximately \$500,000 per year for rededication to provide funding for maintenance and repair of existing municipal streets. If the voters approve the rededication, it would only last four years and then, the voters would have to vote on it again. Council agreed that Town Hall meetings would need to be scheduled to provide facts and inform the voters. Also, \$500,000 will not repair all City streets. Ballot language needs to be kept simple.

Mayor Pro Tem Thompson made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Brule, to approve **Ordinance No. O-09-17** adopting Proposition 1 as follows: "A proposition to redirect 0.125% (1/8%) of the current local sales and use tax, currently used to reduce the property tax rate to a dedicated local sales tax used for maintenance and repair of municipal streets, as follows: The adoption of an additional local sales and use tax within the City of Palestine at the rate of 0.125% (1/8%) to be used to reduce the property tax rate, combined with the

adoption of an local sales and use tax within the City of Palestine at the rate of 0.125% (1/8) to provide revenue for maintenance and repair of municipal streets." Upon vote, motion carried unanimously 7-0.

Consider Hotel Occupancy Tax Funding Application in the amount of \$10,000 to Palestine Youth Athletic Association for the Dixie State Baseball Tournament.

Marketing Manager Mary Raum provided a summary. The application requested funding towards the bid for the Dixie Youth Baseball Tournament (12u Division I & II south region tournament and 11u Tight Base Tournament). This will be a three day event in July 2017. The project does meet the two part test.

Mayor Pro Tem Thompson made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Jordan, to approve Hotel Occupancy Tax Funding Application in the amount of \$10,000 to Palestine Youth Athletic Association for the Dixie State Baseball Tournament. Upon vote, motion carried unanimously 6-0, Councilmember Chivers not present for the vote.

Consider approval of revised cost of a second signal and cross arm at Magnolia and Spring Street Railroad crossing in the amount of \$39,635.50. Public Works Director Tim Perry

No action taken.

Consider authorizing expenditure in the amount of \$51,808.10 for two Ford ¾ Ton Crew Cab Pickups.

Deputy Public Works Director Rob Thames provided a summary. Mayor Pro Tem Thompson made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Smith, approve the expenditure in the amount of \$51,808.10 for two Ford ¾ Ton Crew Cab Pickups. Upon vote, motion carried unanimously 7-0.

Consider authorizing expenditure in the amount of \$70,817.16 for one Case 580N 2WD T4 Final. Backhoe.

Deputy Public Works Director Rob Thames provided a summary. Councilmember Brule made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Smith, to approve the expenditure in the amount of \$70,817.16 for one Case 580N 2WD T4 Final, Backhoe. Upon vote, motion carried unanimously 7-0.

Consider an ordinance approving rules and regulations for operation of the Farmers' Market. Community Services Director Patsy Smith

No action taken.

Consider an ordinance adopting Article VII, Special Events, of Chapter 86, Streets, Sidewalks, and other Public Places, of the Palestine City Code: adopting a permit requirement for Special Events that make special use of City-owned facilities or property, or City streets: approving processes and procedures for issuing Special Events Permits. Community Services Director Patsy Smith

No action taken.

Consider a resolution granting approval for Grant #3256401 submission in the amount of \$40,453.28 for the purchase of a Keyless Entry/CTTV Camera System.

Lt. Gabriel Green informed that this was all grant money. Councilmember Smith made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Jordan, to approve **Resolution No. R-07-17** as presented. Upon vote, motion carried unanimously 7-0.

Consider a resolution granting approval for Grant #3242901 submission in the amount of \$218,836.98 for the purchase of an Interoperable Communications Mobile Command Unit and accessories.

Lt. Gabriel Green informed that this was all grant money. Councilmember Smith made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Chivers, to approve **Resolution No. R-08-17** as presented. Upon vote, motion carried unanimously 7-0.

CLOSED SESSION

Mayor Herrington announced that Council will go into Closed Session pursuant to Section 551.074 regarding personnel matters. The time was 6:58 p.m.

- 1) Discuss the appointment, employment, evaluation, reassignment, duties, discipline, or dismissal of Interim Fire Chief.

RECONVENE IN REGULAR SESSION

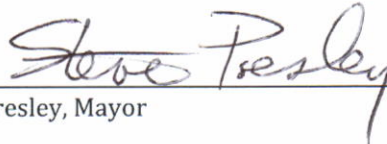
Mayor Herrington reconvened Council in open session at 7:16 p.m.

City Manager Alexander recommends that Council confirm the appointment of Shannon Davis as Fire Chief. Councilmember Smith made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Jordan, to confirm the recommendation by the City Manager to appoint Shannon Davis as Fire Chief. Upon vote, motion carried unanimously 7-0.

ADJOURN

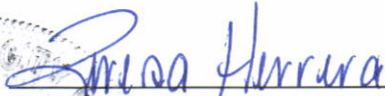
With no other business to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 7:16 p.m.

PASSED AND APPROVED THIS 22ND DAY OF MAY, 2017.



Steve Presley, Mayor

ATTEST:



Teresa Herrera, City Secretary

