

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

The City Council of the City of Palestine, Texas convened in a Work Session and Special Meeting on Tuesday, September 5, 2017 at 5:00 p.m. for the Work Session in the City Hall Conference Room, and at 5:30 p.m. for the Special Meeting in the Council Chambers at City Hall, 504 N. Queen Street, Palestine, Texas, with the following people present:

Mayor Steve Presley
Mayor Pro Tem Doug Smith
Councilmember Will Brule
Councilmember Vickey L. Chivers
Councilmember Joe Baxter
Councilmember Ann Connor

City Manager Mike Alexander
Assistant City Manager Michael Hornes
City Secretary Teresa Herrera

Others present: Communication Officer Nate Smith, PEDC Director Tom Manskey, Public Works Director Tim Perry, Development Services Director Jeffrey Lyons, and other interested citizens;

with the following member absent: Councilmember Mitchell Jordan.

WORK SESSION

With a quorum present, Mayor Presley called the work session to order at 5:00 p.m.

Discuss Old Memorial Hospital at 900 S. Sycamore.

PEDC Director Manskey led the discussion. He informed that PEDC board asked him to look into what it would cost to tear the building down. He informed that the project fits USDA criteria for urban blight. Council will need to approve a resolution to shift funds to tear down the building. The City does not have a clear title to the property and that needs to be the first step towards this project, to obtain a clear title. The property needs to be put in trust and the deeding needs to be done to PEDC.

With no other business to come before the Council, the work session was adjourned at 5:21 p.m.

SPECIAL MEETING

Call to Order

With a quorum present, Mayor Presley called the meeting to order at 5:32 p.m.

Public Hearing regarding the proposed Tax Rate of \$0.798741 per \$100 valuation by the governing body of the City of Palestine.

Finance Director Steve Groom gave a PowerPoint Presentation regarding the proposed tax rate.

Mayor Presley opened the public hearing. He asked for anyone wanting to speak to do so.

The following spoke: Jack Coleman informed that he does not support the tax increase. Dick Seale thanked the finance director for the information and the long-term planning process but he does not support the tax increase. Karlynn Holland does not support the tax increase; property taxes are already high. Dan Davis expressed that debt service is too high and does not support the proposed tax increase. Jim Wood asked that the City put off buying equipment; City needs tax increase. Dan Manuel expressed his concerns with the budget and hopes and prays that we can work together.

With no one else speaking, Mayor Presley closed the public hearing.

Discuss and take possible action regarding Old Memorial Hospital at 900 S. Sycamore.

Mayor Pro Tem Smith made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Chivers, recommended that 900 S. Sycamore be put in trust. Upon vote, motion carried unanimously 6-0.

Mayor Pro Tem Smith made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Chivers, to deed the City's portion to Palestine Economic Development Corporation. Discussion was held. Mayor Pro Tem Smith withdrew his motion and Councilmember Chivers withdrew her second to the motion.

CLOSED SESSION

Mayor Presley announced that Council would go into Closed Session pursuant to Section 551.074 regarding personnel matters. The time was 6:43 p.m.

- 1) Discuss the appointment, employment, evaluation, reassignment, duties, discipline, or dismissal of Municipal Court Judge.

RECONVENE IN OPEN SESSION

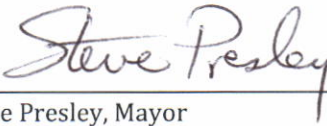
Mayor Presley reconvened Council into open session at 8:13 p.m.

Councilmember Joe Baxter made a motion, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Smith to appoint Alex Nemer II as Municipal Court Judge. Upon vote, motion carried 5-1 with Mayor Presley voting nay.

ADJOURN

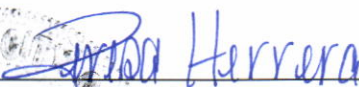
With no other business to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 8:14 p.m.

PASSED AND APPROVED THIS 26TH DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2018.



Steve Presley, Mayor

ATTEST:



Teresa Herrera, City Secretary

