

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, September 11, 2017 at 4:30 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:

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

Mike Alexander, City Manager  
Michael Hornes, Assistant City Manager  
Teresa D. Herrera, City Secretary  
Ronald D. Stutes, City Attorney

Others present: Development Services Director Jeffrey Lyons, Public Works Director Tim Perry, Finance Director Steve Groom, Communications Officer Nate Smith, HR Director Susie Streb, Deputy Public Works Director Rob Thames, Deputy Public Works Director Felipe Garcia, and other interested citizens;

with the following member absent: none.

**WORK SESSION**

With a quorum present, Mayor Presley called the work session to order at 4:30 p.m.

Discuss proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2017-2018. Asst. City Manager Michael Hornes

Finance Director Steve Groom gave a PowerPoint Presentation. He informed that the management team is working in the background to lower the proposed tax increase as much as possible. Several options were discussed for the proposed budget.

With no other business to come before the Council, the work session was adjourned at 5:23 p.m.

**CALL TO ORDER - REGULAR MEETING**

Mayor Presley called the Regular Meeting to order at 5:33 p.m.

**INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

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

**PROPOSED CHANGES OF AGENDA ITEMS**

No action was taken.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS, PUBLIC RECOGNITION, AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Mayor Presley led a moment of silence and asked that we take a moment to remember those who were affected by the 9/11 attacks.

Jack Coleman addressed Council regarding support for the creation of an Audit Committee and requested a status report on Water Meter Task Force.

James Smith addressed Council regarding City Government.

Isaac Wynn addressed Council regarding the Old Memorial Hospital and the Charter Review Committee.

John Christon addressed Council regarding the Palestine Mall.

Mayor Presley read aloud Hispanic Heritage Month Proclamation, accepted by Police Chief Harvey, City Secretary Herrera, and Deputy Public Works Director Garcia.

Police Chief Andy Harvey recognized Richard Johnson and John Herod for stepping up in the gap during the transition of the Police Department.

**OATH OF OFFICE FOR NEW MUNICIPAL COURT JUDGE ALEX NEMER II**

Alex Nemer II recited the Oath of Office, given by given by Associate Municipal Court Judge James Todd.

**CONFLICT OF INTEREST DISCLOSURES**

No action was taken.

**PUBLIC HEARING**

Second 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

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

Mayor Presley opened the public hearing at 6:38 p.m. He asked for anyone wanting to speak to do so.

Larry Coker and Jack Coleman spoke in opposition of the proposed tax rate. With no one else speaking, Mayor Presley closed the public hearing at 6:42 p.m.

Public Hearing regarding the proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2017-2018. Asst. City Manager Michael Hornes  
Assistant City Manager Hornes provided a summary of the proposed budget.

Mayor Presley opened the public hearing at 6:47 p.m., and asked for anyone speaking for or against the request to do so. With no one speaking, Mayor Presley closed the public hearing at 6:47 p.m.

**MAYOR'S REPORT**

Mayor Presley assured the public that Council is listening to their comments regarding the proposed tax rate for the proposed budget. Also, he informed of events he attended in the past week.

**ITEMS FROM COUNCIL**

Mayor Pro Tem Smith recognized Serena Coker and Chenoa Logan-Mason for volunteering in the community by raising over \$30,000 for swim lessons for the less fortunate.

Mayor Pro Tem Smith informed that Coffee with a Cop at Taqueria San Luis will be on Wednesday, September 13<sup>th</sup>.

**CITY MANAGER'S REPORT**

City Manager Alexander informed that Progressive Waste is present to address complaints on trash pickup. Todd Gibbs with Progressive Waste (Waste Solutions) spoke of how they will address complaints. He added that additional drivers have been hired to help. Council asked that Waste Solutions do a better job and have better communication with the City.

City Manager Alexander informed Council that department directors were present to address questions regarding reports.

Public Works, Fire, and Development Services reports were provided.