

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, October 23, 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

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

Others present: Police Chief Andy Harvey, Development Services Director Jeffrey Lyons, PEDC Director Tom Manskey, Communications Officer Nate Smith, and other interested citizens;

with the following member absent: none. Councilmember Chivers arrived at 4:40 p.m.

WORK SESSION

With a quorum present, Mayor Presley called the work session to order at 4:34 p.m.

Discuss implementing a specified Art District and a specified Entertainment District.

Councilmember Brule led the discussed regarding the implementation of a specified Art District and Entertainment District. The successes of other small towns were discussed and how the City could implement some of those ideas in Palestine. Cultural districts are special zones that harness the power of cultural resources to stimulate economic development and community revitalization. These districts can become focal points for generating businesses, attracting tourists, and stimulating cultural development.

With no other business to come before the Council, the work session was adjourned at 5:16 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER - REGULAR MEETING

Mayor Presley called the Regular Meeting to order at 5:31 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

A.D. Ethridge addressed Council regarding potholes and other things the City fails to clean-up. He added that the City needs to be proactive not reactive.

James Ashley addressed Council regarding the cost of new water taps and meters in the City of Palestine.

Tom Ashely addressed Council regarding the cost of new water taps and meters in the City of Palestine.

James Smith addressed Council regarding City Government.

Jack Coleman addressed Council regarding gambling.

Jeffrey Watson addressed Council regarding TVCC annexation of PISD area.

Mayor Presley recognized Palestine High School students Alyson Alvarez and Jesus Garcia-Castillo, who received the honor of National Hispanic Recognition by the College Board for their performance on the PSAT.

City Manager Hornes recognized New City Marshal Gary Grimes.

Public Works Director Tim Perry recognized Rick Jones for obtaining his Class B Wastewater License.

City Manager Michael Hornes recognized Citywide Hurricane Harvey Responders.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST DISCLOSURES

No action was taken.

PUBLIC HEARING

Public hearing regarding the submission of an application to the Texas Department of Agriculture for a Texas Community Development Block Grant Program (TxCDBG) grant. The purpose of this meeting is to allow citizens an opportunity to discuss the closeout of the Revolving Loan Fund, the development of local housing and community development needs, the amount of TxCDBG funding available, all eligible TxCDBG activities, and the use of past TxCDBG funds.

City Manager Mike Hornes provided a summary.

Mayor Presley opened the public hearing. He asked for anyone wanting to speak to do so. Jack Coleman and Barbara Jordan spoke in favor of the request. With no one else speaking, Mayor Presley closed the public hearing.

Public hearing regarding the area proposed to be designated as a reinvestment zone is described as follows: ALL that certain tract or parcel of land, being a part of the EDLEY EWING SURVEY, ABSTRACT NO. 20, in the City of Palestine, Anderson County, Texas, also being all of that certain called 23.609 acre tract to be used as a sales, service, maintenance and repair facility for Erickson Trucks N Parts Inc.

PEDC Director Tom Manskey provided a summary.

Mayor Presley opened the public hearing and asked for anyone speaking for or against the request to do so. With no one speaking, Mayor Presley closed the public hearing.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Presley informed that he is a strong supporter of PEDC. He reported on the following activities he attended: Texas State Railroad Authority meeting, Frank and Tracy Torma's block party, WE CARE Palestine Group trip to Louisiana, Dogwood Jamboree, and met with new CEO from Palestine Regional Medical Center.

ITEMS FROM COUNCIL

Councilmember Chivers recognized Kaitlyn Kimbrough, Tamara Deckard, Kailynn Hall, Nevaeh Hall, and Amaria Bearvers for their participation, as Hostesses, at the Concerned Citizens Action Group of Anderson County annual banquet. She thanked Mayor Pro Tem Smith for reading the proclamation at the banquet.

Councilmember Baxter expressed that he enjoyed the Hot Pepper Festival and thanked Bacon Chevrolet for loaning the vehicles for the parade. Also, he provided information on Palestine Firefighter's "Fright Night" haunted house.

Councilmember Chivers thanked Hot Pepper Festival Committee.

Councilmember Jordan expressed that Hot Pepper Festival was a huge success. Also, informed all the Mall-O-Ween event was not budgeted for and therefore would not take place.