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KENNEDALE CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING | AUGUST 17, 2021 AT 4:30 PM
CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 405 MUNICIPAL DRIVE

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Linda Rhodes called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m., noting that there was a quorum present, but that Councilmember Mitchell was absent; and that Place 4 was vacant. The Council recessed to Executive (Closed) Session from 4:31 p.m. to 5:54 p.m.

II. EXECUTIVE SESSION

The City Council reserves the right to adjoum into executive session at any time during the course of this meeting to discuss any agenda item as authorized by Texas Government Code Sections 551.071 (Consultation with Attomey).

A. **PURSUANT TO §551.074** — Deliberate the appointment, employment, evaluation, reassignment, duties, discipline or dismissal of a public officer or employee: or to hear a complaint or charge against an officer or employee; and the following:

1. City Council Place 4

2. City Manager

III. TAKE ACTION NECESSARY PURSUANT TO EXECUTIVE SESSION, IF NEEDED

Following Executive Session, the Council took a brief recess before Mayor Rhodes reconvened the open meeting at 6:00 p.m.

Motion Approve. **Action** Approve the appointment of Austin Degenhart to City Council Place 4, **Moved By** Joplin, **Seconded By** Jacobson. **Motion passed unanimously with a vote of 3-0**.

City Secretary Leslie Galloway administered the Statement of Official and the Oath of Office to Councilmember Degenhart, after which he took his place on the dais.

IV. WORK SESSION

A. <u>WORK SESSION REPORTS</u>

1. Recognition of Police Captain Mike Holguin

Police Chief Darrell Hull introduced Captain Mike Holguin and his family before administering the Honor Pledge to Holguin.

2. Fire Department Badge Pinning Ceremony

Mayor Linda Rhodes administered the Firefighter's Oath to Creed Coston and Cliff Clark.

3. Discussion of the FY2021-22 Proposed Budget

Interim City Manager Leslie Galloway noted that a printed copy of the Proposed Budget had been delivered to the Council the previous day. Finance Director Lakeita Sutton then gave a presentation that included an overview of the budget process, a review of the end of year projections for funds, assumptions and highlights used in the budget development process, new program requests, tax rate impact, and next steps in the budget adoption process.

There was some discussion of proposed fund transfers, the staff proposal to move to purchasing (versus leasing vehicles), staff's proposal to delay hiring of certain positions, an increase in ambulance revenue, and the option to decrease the number of breathing apparatus units from 4 to 2. Sutton noted that each one-cent reduction in the property tax rate equated to about $90,000 less revenue.

There was also some discussion regarding other financing options for the police vehicles requested, the status of the public safety step plan implementation, the increase in stormwater expenditures, the use of various administrative transfers between funds, the current bond rating status, number of days in reserve based on ending fund balance, and the potential delay of hiring certain positions.

City Manager Leslie Galloway noted that staff appreciated Council input regarding the inclusion or omission of new program requests.

V. REGULAR SESSION

Mayor Rhodes convened the Regular Session at 7:05 p.m.

There was some discussion of the Council's adopted policy that requires that speaker forms be received before the beginning of the meeting. Mayor Rhodes added that if a person wishes to speak, but cannot arrive in time, requests to speak can be emailed to the City Secretary.

A. ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Mayor Pro Tem Jan Joplin, Place 1; Julie Jacobson, Place 3; Austin Degenhart, Place 4; James Connor, Place 5; **ABSENT:** Gary Mitchell, Place 2; ***STAFF:*** *Interim City Manager Leslie E. Galloway, Director of Finance and Information Technology Lakeita Sutton, Library Director Amanda King, Interim Public Works Director Stan Rountree, Fire Chief James Brown, Police Chief Darrell Hull, City Attorney Drew Larkin, Accounting Technician Debby Scott;* ***CONSULTANTS:*** *Dawn Brinson of Brinson Benefits*

B. INVOCATION AND PLEDGES OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE U.S. AND TEXAS FLAGS

Councilmember Joplin offered the invocation.

C. VISITOR AND CITIZEN FORUM

- Sara Cotton, *700 Crestview Drive*, stated her desire to see the Senior Citizen Center re-opened.

D. REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Updates from the City Council
   - **Councilmember James Connor, *Place 5*,** had no updates at this time.
   - **Councilmember Austin Degenhart, *Place 4*,** had no updates at this time.
   - **Councilmember Julie Jacobson, *Place 3*,** had no updates at this time.
   - **Councilmember Gary Mitchell, *Place 2*,** was absent.
   - **Councilmember Jan Joplin, *Place 1*,** announced that she attended National Night Out (NNO) presented by KPD and thanked the staff for their work on the event and the first budget meeting; that the deadline for the first Kennedale Citizen Police Academy was Friday; and that the world's biggest steam train traveled through Kennedale over the past weekend; and closed by thanking all citizens who were supporting the staff during this time of transition.

2. Updates from the Mayor

Mayor Linda Rhodes announced that she attended National Night Out (NNO) presented by KPD, the Tarrant County Mayors Council (noting that attendance at these meetings influences CDBG funding allocations), and a meeting with KISD Superintendent Chad Gee (noting that there were plans to establish regular meetings with the Mayor, Superintendent, KISD Board President, and City Manager). Mayor Rhodes then proclaimed September 11, 2021 as a "Day of Remembrance" in the City of Kennedale and announced the ceremony that would be presented at the TownCenter Memorial at 8:46 a.m. on that date.

3. Updates from the Interim City Manager

Interim City Manager Leslie Galloway announced the recent upswing in COVID-19 case counts and urged mask wearing; that the Senior Center was expected to re-open on September 8, that a Community Development consultant had been engaged for the purpose of resuming P&Z and BOA meetings; that interviews for director positions were being scheduled; that open enrollment for employees was next week; gave brief updates on Hammack Creek and the CDBG project on Third Street; announced the top reader from the Summer Reading Club program; and announced upcoming events.

4. Financial Reports for the City

Finance Director Lakeita Sutton noted a correction to page three of the previous month's financials (a cable franchise fee was coded as one for electricity).

E. <u>CONSENT AGENDA</u>

Mayor Linda Rhodes requested the following corrections to the minutes that were included in the packet: on the June 15 minutes (page 2), correct the word 'none' under Visitor's Forum; on the July 20 minutes (page 3) Councilmember Connor's place number should be 5 under Reports and Announcements; and on the July 20 minutes (page 5), the motion for item 3 is listed twice.

At the request of Council, Interim City Manager Leslie Galloway discussed item E.6.

Motion Approve. **Action** Approve Consent Agenda, with amendments to the minutes as requested. **Moved By** Joplin, **Seconded By** Jacobson. **Motion passed unanimously**.

1. Approval of the minutes from the June 15, 2021 special meeting at 5:00 p.m.
2. Approval of the minutes from the June 15, 2021 regular meeting at 5:30 p.m.
3. Approval of the minutes from the June 22, 2021 special meeting at 5:30 p.m.
4. Approval of the minutes from the July 13, 2021 special meeting
5. Approval of the minutes from the July 20, 2021 regular meeting
6. Consider approval of a Resolution, approving a negotiated settlement between the Atmos Cities Steering Committee ("ACSC") and Atmos Energy Corp., Mid-Tex Division regarding the company's 2021 rate review mechanism (RRM) filing
7. Approval of a Sourcewell negotiated contract for the purchase of a fire engine from Metro Fire Apparatus Specialists, Inc. in the amount of $788,823

F. ITEMS FOR INDIVIDUAL CONSIDERATION

1. Consider an appointment to City Council Place 4
   THIS ACTION WAS TAKEN UNDER ITEM III. – IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING EXECUTIVE SESSION BUT BEFORE THE WORK SESSION DISCUSSIONS.

2. Consider appointment of Mayor Pro Tem
   Motion Approve. **Action** Approve appointment of Julie Jacobson as Mayor Pro Tem. **Moved By** Joplin, **Motion died for lack of a second**.

   Motion Approve. **Action** Approve appointment of Jan Joplin as Mayor Pro Tem. **Moved By** Jacobson, **Seconded By** Connor. **Motion passed 3-0-1**, with Joplin abstaining.

3. Discuss and consider approval of bid award for health, dental, life and accidental death and dismemberment (AD&D), and voluntary life insurances and authorize the Interim City Manager to sign the agreements

Dawn Brinson, owner of Brinson Benefits, offered a presentation including a history of rates, current health insurance plans offered, the required move from an HMO to a PPO plan, the original bid from the current provider coming in at a 28% increase, the option to increase the max out of pocket amounts to reduce cost, the current self-insurance plan to reduce max out of pocket to $2,800 by paying the back half of the health reimbursement plan, the proposal from United Health Care, the deductible level, the HRA, pharmacy options and provider networks. Other than health insurance, all other benefits (including dental, telemedicine, supplemental and voluntary coverage, etc.) are being recommended for renewal under the existing rates and plans. The recommendation of staff was to approve Alternate 1 – Negotiated (Blue Cross Blue Shield (BCBS) of Texas).

There was some discussion regarding deductibles, self-insurance, and other costs.

Motion Approve. **Action** Approve bid award for health, dental, life and accidental death and dismemberment (AD&D), and voluntary life insurances and authorize the Interim City Manager to sign the agreements for all coverages including health insurance option "Alternate 1 – Negotiated", **Moved By** Jacobson, **Seconded By** Mayor Pro Tem Joplin. **Motion passed unanimously**.

THE COUNCIL TOOK A BRIEF RECESS FROM 7:55 TO 8:02 P.M.

4. Consider approval of a renewal and amendment of an interlocal agreement (ILA) with the City of Fort Worth for rabies control services

Police Chief Darrell Hull noted that he was currently negotiating a similar ILA with the City of Everman and that staff would utilize that ILA primarily or solely, with this agreement with the City of Fort Worth serving as a second option when the Everman shelter is at capacity. There was some discussion of locations of shelters and that both Everman and Fort Worth had "no-kill" policies.

Motion Approve. **Action** Approve a renewal and amendment of an interlocal agreement (ILA) with the City of Fort Worth for rabies control services, **Moved By** Jacobson, **Seconded By** Connor. **Motion passed unanimously**.

5. Discuss and consider approval of a Resolution of the City Council of the City of

Kennedale, Texas, approving the placement of a proposal on the September 21, 2021 City Council Public Meeting agenda to adopt a 2021 tax rate that may exceed the lower of the voter-approval rate or the no-new-revenue tax rate; recording a City Council vote for a proposed tax rate; and calling a public hearing for September 15, 2021

Finance Director Lakeita Sutton noted that adoption of this Resolution was a statutory requirement if the rate to be adopted was, effectively, a tax increase. There was a brief discussion of Senate Bill 2. City Attorney Drew Larkin noted that adoption of this Resolution would set the public hearing date, place an item on the September 21 agenda to consider the tax rate, and that the voter approval tax rate (VATR) had been placed in the Resolution because that was the highest possible rate but that it did not commit the Council to that rate. Finance Director Lakeita Sutton proposed amending the Resolution to reflect the rate in the Proposed Budget ($0.774085 per $100.00 of valuation) rather than the VATR.

Motion Amend. **Action** Amend the Resolution to reflect the tax rate in the City Manager's Proposed Budget ($0.774085 per $100.00 of valuation), **Moved By** Jacobson, **Seconded By** Degenhart. **Motion passed unanimously**.

Motion Approve. **Action** Approve a record vote setting a maximum proposed ad valorem tax rate of $0.774085 per $100.00 of valuation, **Moved By** Jacobson, **Seconded By** Connor. **Motion passed unanimously**, with Mayor Pro Tem Joplin, Jacobson, Degenhart, and Connor voting in favor, none voting against, and Mitchell being absent.

Motion Approve. **Action** Approve the Resolution, as amended, reflecting the tax rate in the City Manager's Proposed Budget ($0.774085 per $100.00 of valuation), **Moved By** Jacobson, **Seconded By** Degenhart. **Motion passed unanimously**.

Mayor Rhodes and the Council recessed to Executive Session from 8:18 to 8:48 p.m.

G. PUBLIC HEARINGS

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Linda Rhodes reconvened the open meeting at 8:48 p.m.

Motion Adjourn. **Action** Adjourn, **Moved By** Mayor Pro Tem Joplin, **Seconded By** Jacobson. **Motion passed unanimously**.

Mayor Rhodes adjourned the meeting at 8:49 p.m.

APPROVED:

Linda Rhodes

LINDA RHODES, MAYOR

ATTEST:

Leslie E. Galloway

LESLIE E. GALLOWAY, CITY SECRETARY

CITY OF KENNEDALE SEAL TARRANT COUNTY, TEXAS