

**SPECIAL BUDGET WORKSHOP MEETING**  
**LONE STAR CITY COUNCIL**  
**FIRE HALL – 201 WEST INDUSTRIAL**  
**August 11, 2022 at 5:30 PM**

*We reserve the right to enter into Executive Session on any Agenda item pertaining to  
TEX. GOV'T CODE ANN. Sections 551.071-551.078, 551.087-551.089*

In compliance with the Texas Open Meetings Act, Chapter 551, of the Texas Government Code, the City of Lone Star issues this public notice. If, during the course of the meeting, any discussion of any item on the agenda should be held in executive or closed session, the board will convene in such executive or closed session in accordance with Section 551 of the Texas Government Code, Et Seq. The City Council will consider and act on the following items:

The subjects to be discussed or considered or upon which any formal action may be taken are listed below. Items do not have to be taken in the same order as shown on the meeting notice.

**MINUTES**

Present were - Mayor Randy Hodges, Mayor Pro-Tem Jerri Chism, Aldermen Rudy Dudley, Mona Brown and City Secretary Tina Love. Alderman Tony Johnson arrived at 6:40 PM. Absent was Aldermen Cody Wommack.

**1. CALL TO ORDER – Randy Hodges at 5:42 P.M.**

**2. CITIZENS COMMENTS**

**Citizen Chrissandria Beltran asked if the city was going to hire an additional police officer. She referenced recent events that occurred and feels the hiring of an additional officer would be beneficial to the city.**

**Citizen Travis Pool expressed his support of the police and our volunteer fire department. He supports the city in hiring of an additional police officer.**

**3. ACTION ITEMS:**

3.1 Review, discussion, and possible action of the 2022-2023 General Fund and Water & Sewer Fund Budgets and proposed property tax rate for 2023.

**Mayor Randy Hodges discussed at last week's budget workshop meeting (8/3/22) a motion to consider a proposed tax rate of 0.473 per \$100 valuation was voted on. This proposal was to provide Morris County Appraisal District the necessary information to proceed with preparation of the notice of publication and resolution for adoption. This proposal was not to adopt the tax rate.**

**To ensure compliance with the Texas Open Meetings Act, the proposed tax rate voted on 8/3/22 is rescinded. The discussion and possible action for a proposed tax rate is on the agenda tonight and will be discussed as a proposed rate and not a voted rate.**

**The proposed tax rate options of 0.471, 0.472, and 0.473 per \$100 valuation were discussed and compared to our current tax rate of 0.511 per \$100 valuation. The no new revenue rate of 0.457294 will raise approximately the same property tax revenue as the previous year (calculates to \$376.00 less than the last year). If the voter approval rate of 0.473846 is exceeded, in most cases, automatically prompts an election for voters to approve the tax increase. The proposed tax rates and election cost were discussed.**

**Rudy Dudley commented on two Texas cities that were previously discussed as not having to pay property taxes. He contacted management at the cities of Stafford and Diana, Texas to see how these municipalities were modeled to where property taxes were not required. He was interested in the model to see if it was one that Lone Star should evaluate. The general manager of Diana, Tx. indicated there were property taxes paid in Diana. When Stafford, Tx. was contacted, management explained that 70-80% of Stafford's taxes previously came from heavy industrial businesses; however, the heavy industrial business had dropped 40-45%. Stafford is currently tax free; however, due to the loss of revenue from the heavy industrial businesses the city is expected to implement property taxes within the next year.**

**A motion to propose a tax rate of .473 was made by Rudy Dudley with a second from Mona Brown. All present voted AYE.**

**Police Department budget items for consideration are:**

- **Reduce the General Fund prisoner meals from \$800.00 to \$400.00.**
- **Consider hiring a fourth police officer to work the night shift with a proposed rate of \$16.00 per hour**

**Public Works budget items for consideration are:**

- **Budget \$1300.00 for the purchase of rock asphalt for year around usage for pothole repairs in comparison to cold mix which can only be used during summer months.**
- **Consider increasing part time public works employee hourly rate from \$12.00 to \$12.50 per hour based upon a 32-hr. work week in warm months (7) and 24 hr. work week in colder months at a total estimated 1,376 hrs. per year**
- **Repair the public works ford tractor hydraulic and fuel pump estimated cost of \$4,000**

**Water & Sewer budget items for consideration are:**

- **Consider increasing Operator in training, Paul Dorrough's hourly rate from \$14.18 per hour to \$15.00 per hour. Consider an additional increase of 3% when he becomes a Class C Wastewater Operator. If accomplished, this would move him to \$15.45 per hr.**
- **Consider increasing Utility Foreman, Gatlin Moore's hourly rate from \$20.00 to \$20.60 per hour (3%) when he becomes a Class C Wastewater Operator. Two classes are needed for his Class C Wastewater Operator's license and will most likely be offered next summer.**
- **Consider WWTP Effluent Permit Renewal Quote from AWWWS Labs at \$6,205 or KSA quote at \$8,500**
- **Consider utilizing one of the unused police trucks. Currently, have 3 trucks in the W & S department with 200K+ miles. W & S will pay half of the bill since it is used by Public Works and Water & Sewer**

**The next budget workshop meeting is scheduled for Monday, August 15<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m.**

### 3. ADJOURN

A motion to adjourn was made by Jerri Chism with a second from Mona Brown. All voted Aye.

/s/ Randy Hodges  
Mayor

/s/ Tina Love  
Secretary