

STATE OF TEXAS
COUNTIES OF POTTER
AND RANDALL
CITY OF AMARILLO

On the 15th day of September 2020, the Amarillo City Council met at 12:00 p.m. for a special meeting held in the Amarillo Civic Center Complex, Grand Plaza, 401 South Buchanan Street, with the following members present:

GINGER NELSON
ELAINE HAYS
FREDA POWELL
EDDY SAUER
HOWARD SMITH

MAYOR
COUNCILMEMBER NO. 1
MAYOR PRO TEM/COUNCILMEMBER NO. 2
COUNCILMEMBER NO. 3
COUNCILMEMBER NO. 4

Absent were none. Also in attendance were the following administrative officials:

JARED MILLER
KEVIN STARBUCK
FLOYD HARTMAN
LAURA STORRS
BRYAN MCWILLIAMS
STEPHANIE COGGINS
FRANCES HIBBS

CITY MANAGER
DEPUTY CITY MANAGER
ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER
ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER
CITY ATTORNEY
ASSISTANT TO THE CITY MANAGER
CITY SECRETARY

The invocation was given by Bob Schroeder, Hillside Christian Church.

A proclamation was presented for "National Cleanup Day."

Mayor Nelson established a quorum, called the meeting to order, welcomed those in attendance and the following items of business were conducted:

PUBLIC ADDRESS

Mike Fisher, 4410 Van Kriston Drive, inquired what was included in the 'effective public services.' He inquired about the funds not used during COVID-19; where the extra funds were going from the Thompson Park Pool; the costs and funding for the new buses; and how much the City pays the Embassy Suites. He also inquired about the \$10 million of the CARES Act Fund that has been set aside for the Airport. He further stated this Council has also cut the City's parks budget. Claudette Smith, 7606 Cervin Drive, stated more spending has occurred since the pandemic began, buildings and warehouses were purchased based on the Civic Center election passing. She stated this Council ran on being fiscally conservative, and now they want to extend their terms to four-years. She stated businesses are suffering and the nation is suffering. A tax increase will only cripple businesses further. She further stated a tax increase is unacceptable. Gabe Irving, stated people are trying to see the wisdom with the continued increases. He was concerned that businesses are struggling and shutting their doors. He encouraged Council to consider not increasing the tax rate. He stated citizens were already kicked down. Treva Harper, spoke on the other costs being raised: trash, water, and property taxes. She stated minimum wage earners cannot afford the increases. A lot of people in Amarillo make low wages and are struggling. She stated Council was blind to the difficulties with the cost increases for utilities, groceries, and health insurance. There were no further comments.

NON-CONSENT ITEMS

ITEM 1A: Mayor Nelson presented the second and final reading of an ordinance considering an ordinance adopting the City of Amarillo budget for the 2020/2021 fiscal year. This budget allows for the City to continue providing effective public services, programs and assistance to Amarillo residents in the upcoming year. Motion was made to adopt Ordinance No. 7883 on second and final reading, to adopt the proposed budget which reflects an increase in revenue derived from property tax revenues over

last year's budget for fiscal year October 1, 2020 through September 30, 2021 for the City of Amarillo by Councilmember Powell, seconded by Councilmember Smith:

ORDINANCE NO. 7883

AN ORDINANCE AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AMARILLO, ADOPTING THE BUDGET FOR THE FISCAL YEAR OCTOBER 1, 2020, THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30, 2021, FOR THE CITY OF AMARILLO; APPROPRIATING MONEY FOR THE VARIOUS FUNDS AND PURPOSES OF SUCH BUDGET; AMENDING VARIOUS TERMS AND PROVISIONS OF THE AMARILLO MUNICIPAL CODE TO ADD, MODIFY, INCREASE, OR DELETE VARIOUS FEES AND RATES; PROVIDING A SAVINGS AND SEVERABILITY CLAUSE; REPEALING ALL ORDINANCES AND APPROPRIATIONS IN CONFLICT; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Councilmember Hays stated the budgets are projections as well as the expenses. COVID-19 dollars are being used to help our local businesses. Councilmember Sauer stated they are currently working with two grant programs, PPE equipment reimbursement and a Coronavirus grant to help small businesses. They have awarded approximately \$515,000 thus far. He further stated there is also a Community Block Grant available. Councilmember Powell stated AEDC is also reaching out to businesses. Mayor Nelson stated the CARES act funds are for specific projects which the federal government identifies for uses. Councilmember Smith stated City Council spent two days reviewing the budget. Mr. Miller explained the construction of the pool was \$6.2 million. The excess funds will be used for the design and demolition. Once the projects are completed they will be approved by City Council. Councilmember Hays explained Council has been trying to reach costs recovery for the departments.

Voting AYE were Mayor Nelson, Councilmembers Hays, Powell, Sauer and Smith; voting NO were none; the motion carried by a 5:0 vote of the Council.

ITEM 1B: Mayor Nelson presented the second and final reading of an ordinance considering approving the City of Amarillo tax roll, setting an ad valorem property tax rate and levying a tax on all property subject to taxation within the City for the 2020 tax year. This ordinance establishes an ad valorem tax rate of \$0.34448 per \$100.00 property valuation for City maintenance and operations expenses and \$0.05233 per \$100.00 property valuation for existing debt expenses resulting in a total ad valorem rate of \$0.39681 per \$100.00 property valuation. This tax rate will raise more taxes for maintenance and operations than last year's tax rate. The tax rate will effectively be raised by 4.23 percent and will raise taxes for maintenance and operations on a \$100,000 home by approximately \$0.00. Motion was made by Councilmember Powell to adopt Ordinance No. 7884 on second and final reading, that the property tax rate be increased by the adoption of a tax rate of \$0.39681, which is effectively a 4.23 percent increase in the tax rate for fiscal year October 1, 2020 through September 30, 2021 for the City of Amarillo, seconded by Councilmember Sauer:

ORDINANCE NO. 7884

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AMARILLO, TEXAS: APPROVING TAX ROLL; SETTING THE TAX RATE AND LEVYING A TAX UPON ALL PROPERTY SUBJECT TO TAXATION WITHIN THE CITY OF AMARILLO FOR THE TAX YEAR 2020; ESTABLISHING AN EFFECTIVE DATE; REPEALING CONFLICTING ORDINANCES.

Councilmember Hays explained that the prior tax increases were from voter approved Propositions 1 and 2 (November 2016). The increase last year was for additional staffing. There is no increase in this budget. The increases in this budget includes Thompson Park Pool and property purchased downtown. The Thompson Park Pool has been closed for two years, it would be a third year if not approved. Councilmember Sauer stated the City has taken advantage of savings by moving the 2016 bonds forward and taking advantage of the interests rates available. The City has the advantage of lower interest rates with their Triple A rating saving a significant amount of

money. Councilmember Hays spoke on the items on the upcoming November ballot. She stated the land acquisitions were needed. The strategy to purchase the land if the election is approved has pros and cons. If the bond is not successful, the land acquisitions will be needed in the future.

Voting AYE were Mayor Nelson, Councilmembers Hays, Powell, Sauer and Smith; voting NO were none; the motion carried by a 5:0 vote of the Council.

ITEM 1C: Mayor Nelson stated that pursuant to the terms of Tex. Loc. Gov. Code, Sec. 102.007(c), the City Council is required to take a separate ratification vote on the tax rate when the adopted budget requires more property tax revenue than did the previous year's budget. This item was presented by Jared Miller, City Manager. Councilmember Powell stated that pursuant Texas Local Government Code, Section 102.007(c), she moved that the City Council ratify the budget and tax rate, as adopted, recognizing such budget will require more revenue from property taxes than did the budget adopted last year, motion was seconded by Councilmember Sauer.

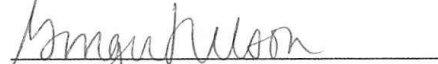
Voting AYE were Mayor Nelson, Councilmembers Hays, Powell, Sauer and Smith; voting NO were none; the motion carried by a 5:0 vote of the Council.

Mayor Nelson advised that the meeting was adjourned.

ATTEST:



Frances Hibbs, City Secretary



Ginger Nelson, Mayor