

STATE OF TEXAS §
COUNTY OF RUNNELS §
CITY OF BALLINGER §

On the 28th day of September, 2023, the Ballinger City Council meet in regular session at 5:30 p.m., in the Council Chamber of City Hall located at 700 Railroad Avenue with the following members present:

Dawni Seymore
Richard "Rick" Morrish
Ken Manley
Ryan Lange
Steve Gray

Mayor
Mayor Pro-Tem
Councilmember Place #1
Councilmember Place #3 - Absent
Councilmember Place #4

Staff Present:

Blaine Ross
Lindsey Byler
Sharon Hicks
Cord Bowman
Ray Cornutt
Doug Martella – via phone

City Secretary/Interim City Manager
Assistant City Secretary
City Attorney
Public Works Director
Police Chief
Financial Advisor

1. **Call meeting to Order:** Mayor Seymore called the meeting to order at 5:35 p.m.
2. **Prayer and Pledges:** Mayor Seymore gave the invocation and lead the pledges.
3. **Regular Agenda Items for Discussion, Consideration and/or Action:**
 - a. **5:30 Public Hearing,** Mayor opened public hearing at 5:35 p.m.
 - i. For the proposed Fiscal year 2023-2024 Budget. Several citizens voiced opinions concerning the budget. Public Hearing closed at 5:48 p.m. Mayor Seymore moved to agenda item c.
 - b. **6:00 Public Hearing,** Mayor opened the public hearing at 6:00 p.m.
 - i. On the proposed Tax Rate of \$0.552052 per \$100 valuation for the Tax Year 2023-2024. Several citizens voiced concerns about the proposed tax rate. Public Hearing closed at 6:24 p.m. Mayor Seymore moved to agenda item c, ii.
 - c. Discussion, consideration and possible action regarding:
 - i. **Ordinance 2023-09-001** of the City of Ballinger, Texas to adopt the FY 2023-2024 Budget. Councilmember Manley made a motion to adopt FY 2023-2024 Budget Ordinance 2023-09-001. Councilmember Morrish seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously. City Secretary Ross called for a record vote of councilmembers.

Mayor Seymore	For
Councilmember Manley	For
Councilmember Morris	For
Councilmember Lange	Absent
Councilmember Gray	For

Mayor Seymore moved to agenda item b.

- ii. **Resolution 2023-009-001** acknowledging and ratifying the adoption of the FY 2023-2024 budget will require raising more revenue from taxes than the previous year. Councilmember Morris made a motion to acknowledge and ratify the adoption of Resolution 2023-009-001 FY 2023-2024 budget. Councilmember Manley seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously. City Secretary Ross Called for a record vote ratifying Resolution 2023-09-001 FY 2023-2024 budget.

Mayor Seymore	For
Councilmember Manley	Against
Councilmember Morrish	For
Councilmember Lange	Absent
Councilmember Gray	For

- d. Discussion, consideration and possible action regarding Ordinance 2023-09-002 of the City of Ballinger, Texas, to adopt the 2023-2024 Property Tax Rate of \$0.55052 per \$100 valuation. No motion was made to adopt Ordinance 2023-09-002. At 6:29 p.m. Council adjourned into Executive Session. Council reconvened into open session at 8:04 p.m. Mayor Seymore announced no votes or actions were taken. Mayor Seymore stated that council listened to citizens and therefore Council was recommending lowering the proposed tax rate of \$0.55052 to \$0.52000 per \$100 valuation. The difference would be reduced from the Interest and Sinking rate.

Councilmember Gray made a motion to approve Ordinance 2023-09-002 adopting the 2023-2024 Property Tax Rate of \$0.52000 per \$100 valuation and modifying the previously approved budget in c above, with the difference being reduced from the Interest and Sinking Rate and not the General Fund Budget. Councilmember Manley seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously. City Secretary Ross called for a record vote.

Mayor Seymore	For
Councilmember Manley	For
Councilmember Morrish	For
Councilmember Lange	Absent
Councilmember Gray	For

- e. **REMOVE FROM THE TABLE:** Councilmember Manley made a motion to remove from the table consideration of Water and Garbage Rates. Councilmember Morrish seconded. The motion carried unanimously.
- i. Staff presented a proposal on water rates as recommended by NewGen Strategies.
Water Rates. Councilmember Gray moved to adopt Ordinance 2023-09-003 water rate proposal #1 as set forth in Exhibit A. Councilmember Manley seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.
- ii. Staff presented a proposal to better align with Republic Rates and cease City subsidizing rates.
Garbage Rates. Councilmember Morrish moved to adopt Ordinance 2023-09-003 setting the garbage rates set by forth in Exhibit A. Councilmember Gray seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

4. **Citizens Presentations for Items Not on the Agenda:** Citizen Elaine Paske asked about the equipment that has been setting in the road at 8th and Park Ave., inquired if the City has a Realtor and suggested rearranging council chamber desks back to center and then properly display the United States and Texas Flag.

5. Public Comments on Agenda Items other than a Public Hearing: None

6. Adjourn: Councilmember Manley Made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Councilmember Morrish seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 8:12 p.m.


Dawni Seymore
Mayor

ATTEST:


Blaine A. Ross
City Secretary