

STATE OF TEXAS)()(
COUNTY OF RUNNELS)()(
CITY OF BALLINGER)()(

On this the 16th day of August 2021 the Ballinger City Council met 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 Mayor
Ken Manley Council Member # 1
Richard "Rick" Morrish Mayor Pro-tem
Ryan Lange Council Member #3
Steven Gray, Jr. Council Member # 4

City Staff:

Bonita Shields City Secretary
Brian Frieda City Manager
Sharon Hicks City Attorney
Chad Mercer Code Enforcement
John Pierik III Finance Director
Absent Public Works Director

Others present: Chad Hardy-Citizens

CALL TO ORDER:

Mayor Dawni Seymore called the meeting to order at 5:32 p.m.

PRAYER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Council Member Rick Morrish lead the group in a word of prayer and the pledge of allegiance and pledge to the Texas flag.

PUBLIC HEARINGS & PUBLIC COMMENTS:

None

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS:

City Council may consider approval of the minutes of the meeting.

Council Member Ken Manley made the motion to approve the minutes of the August 2,2021 meeting. Second by Council Member Ryan Lange and was unanimously approved.

BUSINESS:

DISCUSS AND CONSIDER THE REQUEST FROM THE BALLINGER POLICE DEPARTMENT TO HOLD THEIR ANNUAL BALLINGER NIGHT OUT ON OCTOBER 5,2021 AT THE BALLINGER FIRE DEPARTMENT FROM 6:30-9:00 P.M.

Council Member Ryan Lange made the motion to approve the request of the Police department to hold the Ballinger Night Out at the fire department on October 5,2021. Second by Council Member Rick Morrish and was unanimously approved.

DISCUSS AND CONSIDER THE REQUEST FROM THE BALLINGER POLICE DEPARTMENT TO HOLD THEIR ANNUAL HALLOW FEST AT THE COMMUNITY CENTER ON OCTOBER 30-31,2021 FROM 6:00-9:00 P.M, WITH TRUNK OR TREAT BEING OCTOBER 31ST:

Chad Hardy discussed with the Council that several downtown merchants have voiced their opinions about moving the Trunk or Treat back to 8th Street between Hutchings and Railroad Avenues. Brian Frieda told the Council that he would talk to the Chamber of Commerce to get clarification.

Council Member Steven Gray, Jr. made the motion to table any action on this item at this time. Second by Council Member Rick Morrish and was unanimously approved.

DISCUSS AND CONSIDER AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AND ALLOWING, UNDER THE ACT GOVERNING THE TEXAS MUNICIPAL RETIREMENT SYSTEM, UPDATE SERVICE CREDITS, INCREASE CONTRIBUTION PRECENTAGE, AND REPEAL PREVIOUS MAXIMUM RATE LIMITATIONS TO CONFORM WITH CURRENT PRACTICES:

Brian Frieda explained to the Council that this ordinance was brought up at the last Council meeting. He and city staff have reviewed the numbers again and feel that the city should update the employee's contribution rate to 7% and the city match would be 2:1. Employees would still be vested after five years of employment, could retire after 20 years of employment at any age. This change would take off the statuary limitations that was set when the city joined TMRS system back in 1974. As of to date the city is one of six cities that still have this limitation. It will allow for Updated Service Credit to be offered to employees that which to take advantage of it. This change would also help in recruiting future employees. After further discussion, **Council Member Steve Gray, Jr.** made the motion to approve an ordinance authorizing and allowing under the act governing the Texas municipal retirement system, update service credits, increase contribution percentage, and repeal previous maximum rate limitation to conform with current practices. **Second by Council Member Rick Morrish** and was unanimously approved.

OPEN A PUBLIC HEARING CONCERNING THE PROPOSED FY 2022 CITY TAX RATE OF \$.532006/100 VALUATION

The public hearing was opened at 6:00 p.m. Brian Freida told the Council that he was proposing the 2021 city tax rate of \$.532006/100 valuation. This rate is slightly down from the 2020 tax rate of \$.5400000. The property valuations were increased, and the new tax rate would generate approximately \$40,000 more in revenue. No citizens were present at the public hearing.

CLOSE A PUBLIC HEARING CONCERNING THE PROPOSED FY 2022 CITY TAX RATE OF \$.532006/100 VALUATION:

Mayor Dawni Seymore closed the public hearing at 6:01 p.m.

DISCUSS AND CONSIDER RATIFYING THE ACTION TO CALL THE CITY OFFICER'S ELECTION FOR NOVEMBER 2, 2021. UPDATE COUNCIL ON PERSONS FILING TO RUN FOR OFFICE:

Sharon Hicks explained that since the order to call the city officer election listed on the agenda for July 19,2021 listed the election date as November 3,2021 and the minutes listed it as November 2,2021, she felt that the Council should ratify the motion to clear up any discrepancy.

Council Member Steven Gray, Jr. made the motion to ratify the order to call the city officer's election for November 2,2021.**Second by Council Member Rick Morrish** and was unanimously approved.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT:

- Monthly police department activity report
- Report from the TMRS retirement counseling for city employees
- Update on the swimming pool operation for the season, the cost for chemicals and future plans for improvement to the pool
- There will be a public hearing on August 19,2021 at 5:05 p.m. to close out the 2019 Street improvement grant with Texas Community Development Block grant program
- Discuss setting August 30,2021 for the budget workshop

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:

None

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

The City Council reserves the right to adjourn into executive session at any time during the meeting to discuss any matters listed as authorized by Texas Government Code.

a. Section 551.071 Consultation with City Attorney (To seek the advice of its attorney about pending or contemplated litigation, settlement offers, or any matter in which the duty of the attorney to the City Council under the Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct of the State Bar of Texas clearly conflict with the Texas Open Meetings Act).

b. Section 551.072 Deliberations about real property (The Council may consider the purchase, exchange, lease, or value of real property).

c. Section 551.074 Personnel Matters. The City Council may consider appointment, employment, evaluation, compensation, reassignment, duties, discipline or dismissal of public officers or employees and Board and Commission Members.

The Council went into executive session at 6:10 p.m. as authorized by Section 551.071 Consultation with City Attorney. The executive session was closed at 6:38 p.m.

RECONVENE:

The Council reconvene back into regular session at 6:38 p.m.
No votes or actions from the executive session.

ADJOURN:

Council Member Steven Gray, Jr. made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:39 p.m. **Second by Council Member Rick Morrish** and was unanimously approved.

Dawni Seymore
Mayor

ATTEST:

Bonita F. Shields
City Secretary