

**STATE OF TEXAS**

**COUNTY OF BRAZORIA**

**CITY OF BRAZORIA**

The City of Brazoria convened in a Special Meeting, Public Hearing on Budget and Tax Rate and Budget Workshop on September 7, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. with the following to-witt:

Roger Shugart	Mayor
Bill Lott	Councilman Position #1
Gail Logsdon	Councilwoman Position #2
Frank Quinty Jr.	Councilman Position #4
Susan Parker	Councilwoman Position #5

City Personnel Present:

Mike Collard	City Manager
Sheila Williams	City Secretary
Neal Longbotham	Police Chief
Bill James	City Judge

Others Present:

Marcus Rabren	Citizen
Jesse Knight	Citizen
BobbyJo Newell	Citizen

A. Call to order Special Meeting.

Mayor Shugart called to order the Special Meeting at 6:01 p.m.

B. Invocation and Pledge to American and State flag.

Mayor Shugart gave the invocation and Councilwoman Parker led the pledges to the American and State flags.

C. Consideration/Action to accept 2020/2021 audit with Curtis Craig CPA.

Curtis Craig presented the 2019/2020 audit. Mr. Craig explained the Statement of Net Position, Revenue and Expense, General Fund and Utility Fund. Councilwoman Logsdon asked why the delay in the audit. Mr. Craig explained the capital assets list was 95% completed but lacked the 5%. That should be completed by the next audit that begins shortly. Mr. Craig explained the reason for the Utility fund being in the red was due to the meters not reading correctly. Mr. Craig explained with having Ginny Gratzner doing the accounting for the city and monitoring the General Ledger the audit for next year should go smoothly and be done by February.

BobbyJo Newell explained the city needs accountability and things have needed to be fixed for years. She said it is frustrating to hear year after year. Council needs to have the citizen that has the leaks pay for their leaks. She appreciates everything council does but you just need to listen. She would rather see the council raise the water rates and use the money to fix the pipes.

Mr. Craig said to expect to see adjustment with depreciation on the next year audit. Motion was made by Councilman Lott to accept the 2019/2020 audit with Curtis Craig CPA. A second was made by Councilwoman Logsdon. Motion carried unanimously.

- D. Consideration/Action to approve the auction sale of Public Works and Police Dept. vehicles with Rene Bates Auctioneers.

Motion was made by Councilwoman Logsdon to authorize City Manager to move forward to liquidate assets in accordance with state law as listed in Exhibit A. A second was made by Councilman Quinty. Motion carried unanimously.

- E. Consideration/Action to approve an Ad for RFP for Depository and Banking Services.

Motion was made by Councilwoman Parker to approve ad for RFP for depository and banking services. A second was made by Councilman Quinty. Motion carried unanimously.

- F. Adjourn Special Meeting and Call to Order Public Hearing on Tax Rate and Budget.

Mayor Shugart adjourned Special Meeting and called to order Public Hearing on Tax Rate and Budget at 6:50 p.m.

- G. 2021 Tax Rate and 2021/2022 Budget.

#### TAX RATE:

BobbyJo Newell explained it is frustrating with appraisal going up. People are complaining but they don't want to come to council meetings. She explained her property taxes and insurance are more than her mortgage. She is talking as a citizen and would like council to give the people a break after this year being so horrible. She said does understand because she has been on the council side. Think about the gas ordeal. She explained she is here as a gripping tax payer. She is confused living here for 14 years that we are in the same rut. People don't want their property tax raised. She asks my city to take it easy on us this year. She thanked council for their time.

Councilwoman Logsdon said she has been told by citizens that they feel like they have been beaten up. She has heard this more and more.

City Judge James said with taxes going up each year he can't fix his roof that has been leaking. We opened the snow come stand just to pay for our taxes.

Councilman Quinty said if people would have nicer roads and culverts then they might not mind.

City Manager Collard explained he agrees there are things that need to be corrected. We don't have enough money to fix all the things on the list. We have fallen behind in the revenue stream for the work load. If you ever want to get there you need to look at the revenue stream. Fees need to be raised and get the staff behind the game plan. He explained the Ad valorem tax is a model and it represents new money. We need to have a zoning and building official to get the city cleaned up. It is going to take grit to get there.

City Manager Collard showed the paper with the value of the homestead and comparison on tax levy with the M & O rate. He said it hurts to hear the frustration but please just hang in there with us. He has been told when he hired in that Brazoria doesn't like change. He now knows that for a fact after his first year.

Councilwoman Logsdon said it was a horrible year and people are getting hit at every turn. She feels confident that he is turning things around. Tax payers are paying their taxes.

Mayor Shugart adjourned the tax rate Public Hearing at 7:36 p.m. and gave a break.

#### BUDGET:

Mayor Shugart called to order the Budget Public Hearing at 7:47 p.m. Mayor Shugart asked if anyone had a comment. No comments were made.

#### H. Adjourn Public Hearing on Tax Rate and Budget and call to order Budget Workshop.

Mayor Shugart adjourned Tax Rate and Budget Public Hearing and called to order Budget Workshop at 7:50 p.m.

#### I. Discussion on 2020/2021 and 2021/2022 Budget.

City Manager Collard handed out information on employees pay rates and the salary ranges. He also gave council a sheet on the COLA percentages. He explained the COLA numbers had changed moderately. COLA is 5.4%. He explained last year budget fell short of hiring a Business Manager. To get certified folks we need to have higher pay that he has put into this budget. We have also been hit by TCEQ for a CSI certification. We don't have that and we got hit with that. Councilwoman Parker asked if this budget is based on the tax increase. City Manager Collard said yes but it won't hurt the budget but the overage we would have this year was going to be spent on capital items that the Public Works need. That was going to be shown at the next meeting. He also showed in the budget where he put into having some renovations done at City Hall. It would be a better way to store documents. He is confident the budget can support wages with what's there. We could pay for an entire employee through fees and fines. Mayor Shugart said the city can make a difference with money in tax rate to complete projects.

Councilwoman Parker asked if they can take the budget home and then have questions for the next meeting. City Manager Collard asked if they could submit the questions earlier so the questions could already be answered before the meeting. He could also meet with two council at a time if they wanted.

#### J. Adjourn Budget Workshop and reconvene into Special Meeting.

Mayor Shugart adjourned Budget Workshop and reconvened into Special Meeting at 8:20 p.m. Mayor Shugart called Council into Executive Session at 8:21 p.m.

#### K. **CLOSED EXECUTIVE SESSION: IN ACCORDANCE WITH TEXAS GOVERNMENT CODE SUBCHAPTER D, SECTION 551-071.**

**1. Discussion on Potential Litigation.**

L. Consideration/Action to take any action needed from the executive session.

Mayor Shugart called council back into Special Meeting at 8:35 p.m. No action was taken.

M. Adjourn Special Meeting.

Mayor Shugart adjourned Special Meeting at 8:36 p.m.

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Roger Shugart, Mayor

A T T E S T:

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Sheila Williams, City Secretary