

STATE OF TEXAS

COUNTY OF BRAZORIA

CITY OF BRAZORIA

The City of Brazoria convened in a Special Meeting and Public Hearing on Tax Rate on September 29, 2021 at 12:00 p.m. with the following to-witt:

Roger Shugart	Mayor
Bill Lott	Councilman Position #1
Gary Kersh	Mayor Pro-Tem
Frank Quinty Jr.	Councilman Position #4
Susan Parker	Councilwoman Position #5

City Personnel Present:

Sheila Williams	City Secretary
Neal Longbotham	Police Chief

Others Present:

Marcus Rabren	Citizen
Jesse Knight	Citizen
Raven Wuebker	Brazosport Facts

A. Call to order Special Meeting.

Mayor Shugart called to order the Special Meeting at 12:00 noon.

B. Adjourn Special Meeting and call to order Public Hearing on Tax Rate.

Mayor Shugart adjourned Special Meeting at 12:01 p.m. and called to order Public Hearing on Tax Rate.

C. Public Hearing on Tax Rate.

No comments from the Public.

D. Adjourn Public Hearing on Tax Rate and Reconvene into Special Meeting.

Mayor Shugart adjourned the Public Hearing on tax rate at 12:03 p.m. and reconvened Special Meeting.

E. Consideration/Action to approve Ordinance #21-008 amending the 2020/21 budget.

Ordinance #21-008 was approved at September 22, 2021 meeting.

F. Consideration/Action to approve Ordinance #21-009 approving the 2021/22 budget.

Mayor Pro-Tem Kersh said we have to pass this in a timely matter. He said it can be done in a Workshop later but in Code Enforcement we have showing in 2021 we went from \$17,900 to \$156,000. Which is an 800% increase. In Parks we went from \$20,822 to \$82,461. In #12 the Total General Fund Expenses went from \$2,227,758 to \$3,147,964. This is a 40% increase in our total budget. In #24 Net Fund Balance General Fund we went from \$671,062 to \$44,250. He thinks these are all things that can be answered. He is not trying to start a war. He is just bringing them out. He wants it to be noted we are increasing our total budget by 40%. Mayor Shugart explained that is some of the increase that is carried over from this year. He said we can put this on the agenda in October and get these questions answered. Mayor Pro-Tem Kersh said he doesn't want to go wild spending money until we get all these questions answered. He said he had talked to Gary Gratzner and he would be glad to come have a workshop with us on the budget at no expense. He can sit down and explain to all of us where we get the numbers and an idea of what the numbers mean. He thinks we need to have at least three months of operating capital. Mayor Shugart explained we have \$200,000 in our Contingency Fund and that is considered our three months of operating capital. Mayor Shugart asked if they want to have the workshop before the next council meeting. Mayor Pro-Tem Kersh said you tell me and he will schedule with Mr. Gratzner. Councilwoman Parker asked who is getting an additional car allowance now. City Secretary Williams said that she was getting \$100.00 per month for all the running to bank and other items she does for the city. Councilwoman Parker asked about giving across the board raises. Councilwoman Parker said she doesn't believe they ever did a final evaluation of the City Manager. She thinks that should be done prior to raises at some point. Mayor Shugart said we can do that before the end of this year. Councilwoman Parker asked if we agreed on an amount for the raises. Mayor Shugart said 3.5% was agreed upon. She said she has a lot of questions about the salaries and wages as well. She also has questions on the capital outlay also. Mayor Shugart said the Capital Outlay was the sheet he had at last meeting and we can go over that again if you like. Councilwoman Parker said this was stuff that was already in the budget. It had to do with computer equipment and maintenance. It was a \$50,000 increase there. Mayor Shugart said that was for the Police Dept. There was a \$50,000 request for repairs and upgrade for the dispatch center. Police Chief Longbotham explained he got #'s for the mold, repairs and dispatch upgrade. Mayor Pro-Tem Kersh said there was also two Police Cars for \$65,000. Councilwoman Parker said her only apprehension is that she doesn't fully understand how this money is being allocated and not comfortable that we have it to allocate. Mayor Shugart feels comfortable that we have it. He wishes he could explain everything in detail but it is above his pay grade. Mayor Shugart said the City Manager can do that in a workshop or regular meeting.

Councilwoman Parker said with having a \$100,000 increase in salaries and not knowing what that is going to be. Are we hiring new people or giving raises are the kinds of questions. It would be nice having that kind of detail. Mayor Shugart explained it is a combination of both. City Secretary Williams said the City Manager gave everyone a sheet at the last council meeting of all the salaries. Councilman Lott said he took them back up. City Manager Collard was on the phone and explained nothing has changed on the form he handed out regarding salaries. He asked if anyone has any questions to contact him and he received none. Councilwoman Parker said that the City Manager gives all the information and expects us to comprehend it all at a hour meeting and that is difficult for her to figure it out and then be done with it. City Manager Collard explained that is what the workshops are for. The only change in the salaries is where council instructed for him to add the 3.5% raise in the salaries. If we have the option to amend the budget later then Councilwoman Parker can approve this budget. Mayor Pro-Tem Kersh said as long as we can amend and not go crazy spending money he is okay with approving the budget. Mayor Shugart said you have to understand this money is not available October 1st. City Secretary explained the taxes don't come in until November usually.

City Manager Collard said he set a good example in the last fourteen months of being employed here that he doesn't get carried away sending money. In fact it is quite the opposite. That is the reason we are coming in so far under budget from last year's budget. There is quite a substantial under budget number there that we achieved. That is his work habits and not anything other.

Mayor Pro-Tem Kersh said some of that is from being so shorthanded. That is his opinion. City Manager Collard explained at the end of the day he is not frivolous spending money. He stands on the example he set over the year with his employment in Brazoria.

Motion was made by Councilwoman Parker to approve Ordinance #21-009 approving the 2021-22 budget with understanding that it can be amended at any time. A second was made by Mayor Pro-Tem Kersh. Motion carried unanimously.

G. Consideration/Action to approve Ordinance #21-010 adopting the proposed 2021 tax rate of .680476/\$100.

Motion was made by Mayor Pro-Tem Kersh to approve Ordinance #21-010 adopting the proposed 2021 tax rate of .680476/\$100. A second was made by Councilman Quinty. Motion carried unanimously.

H. Consideration/Action to ratify the adoption of the tax rate .680476/\$100 that raises more property taxes for maintenance and operations than the previous year for the 2021/2022 budget.

Motion was made by Councilman Lott to approve Ordinance #21-011 to ratify the adoption of the tax rate .680476/\$100 that raises more property taxes for maintenance and operations than the previous year for the 2021/2022 budget. A second was made by Mayor Pro-Tem Kersh. Motion carried unanimously. A roll call was done. Lott – aye, Kersh – aye, Quinty – aye, Parker – aye.

I. Consideration/Action to approve Resolution #21-004 nominating the Brazoria County Appraisal District board of directors.

Motion was made by Councilman Lott to approve Resolution #21-004 nominating BobbyJo Newell for the Brazoria County Appraisal District Board of Directors. A second was made by Mayor Pro-Tem Kersh. Motion carried unanimously.

J. Consideration/Action for Mayor to declare a local state of disaster for Hurricane Nicholas.

Mayor Shugart explained we need to do this to help our citizens. We might not meet the threshold needed but it will help the small businesses. Motion was made by Mayor Pro-Tem Kersh to declare a local state of disaster from Hurricane Nicholas. A second was made by Councilman Lott. Motion carried unanimously.

K. Adjourn Special Meeting

Mayor Shugart adjourned the Special Meeting at 12:35 p.m.

Roger Shugart, Mayor

ATTEST:

Sheila Williams, City Secretary