

STATE OF TEXAS
COUNTIES OF POTTER
AND RANDALL
CITY OF AMARILLO

On the 8th day of September 2020, the Amarillo City Council met at 4:00 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
FREDA POWELL
EDDY SAUER
HOWARD SMITH

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

Absent was Elaine Hays, Councilmember No. 1. 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

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

PUBLIC ADDRESS

James Schenck, 6216 Gainsborough Street, did not appear and did not come to the podium. Noah Dawson, stated he was going to beat the propositions at the upcoming election and tax increase. Thomas Warren, III, read campaign statements from Mayor Nelson and Councilmember Sauer. He stated this was a unique economic and troubled economy. He questioned Council raising taxes in the middle of a recession. He further questioned when they were going to be held accountable to their campaign promises. He suggested ending the current contracts with lobbyist on the payroll. He further stated TML should not consider citizens the money tree. There were no further comments.

NON-CONSENT ITEMS

ITEM 1A: Mayor Nelson opened a public hearing on the City's fiscal year 2020/2021 budget. This Budget will raise more revenue from property taxes than last year's budget by \$1,931,428 which is a 3.89% increase from last year's budget. The property tax revenue to be raised from new property added to the tax roll this year is \$528,990. This item was presented by Laura Storrs, Assistant City Manager. Ms. Storrs stated the budget will be less because of Municipal Court fees (\$750,000) and franchise fees being down (\$700,000). The City has addressed the revenue challenges created by COVID-19. The City has reestablished funding for street repairs, and increased Solid Waste funding for dumpster replacement and repairs. The proposed budget is less than the current budget by \$8.9 million. There is no decrease in funding for police or fire. The revenues will decrease slightly by \$2.9 million. The proposed 2020/2021 proposed budget would be \$386.6 million. The second and final reading on the budget will be held on September 15. Mayor Nelson opened a public hearing. James Schenck, 6216 Gainsborough Road, he inquired about the tax increase. He stated the upcoming bonds will increase taxes by 3.6 cents, and the Civic Center bonds would increase taxes by 15 cents. He stated he is concerned that people will not be able to do things with the higher taxes. There were no further comments. Mayor Nelson closed the public hearing.

ITEM 1B: Mayor Nelson opened a public hearing on the tax rate being considered in the amount of \$0.39681, which is greater than the current rate. This proposed 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. This item was presented by Laura Storrs, Assistant City Manager. Ms. Storrs stated a new tax law went into effect (Senate Bill 2). There has been several changes incorporated, wording changes, such as effective tax rate is now the no-new revenue tax rate, and the rollback rate is voter-approval tax rate. Senate Bill 2 requests a mandatory election if adoption of the tax rate exceeds voter-approval tax rate. There is now only one-public hearing, and there are new public notices. She compared the 2019 and 2020 tax rates. Ms. Storrs stated there would be no increase in the operations and maintenance. They are asking for an increase in the interest and sinking fund for the voter-approval bonds for Thompson Park Pool and the Johnson Street property recently purchased. She gave an example on a \$100,000 home the increase would be \$8.30. The City of Amarillo's proposed 2020 tax rate is lower than all but one other comparable city. She stated the second and final reading on the tax rate would be Tuesday, September 15 at noon at the Amarillo Civic Center Complex, Grand Plaza. Mayor Nelson opened a public hearing. There were no comments. Mayor Nelson closed the public hearing.

ITEM 1C: Mayor Nelson presented the first 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 first 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.

Voting AYE were Mayor Nelson, Councilmembers Powell, Sauer and Smith; voting NO were none; the motion carried by a 4:0 vote of the Council.

ITEM 1D: Mayor Nelson presented the first 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 first reading Motion was made to adopt Ordinance No. 7883 on first 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.

Voting AYE were Mayor Nelson, Councilmembers Powell, Sauer and Smith; voting NO were none; the motion carried by a 4:0 vote of the Council.

Mayor Nelson advised that the meeting was adjourned.

ATTEST:



Frances Hibbs, City Secretary

Ginger Nelson, Mayor