

STATE OF TEXAS  
COUNTIES OF POTTER  
AND RANDALL  
CITY OF AMARILLO

On the 15th day of September 2020, the Amarillo City Council met at 12:00 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	MAYOR
ELAINE HAYS	COUNCILMEMBER NO. 1
FREDA POWELL	MAYOR PRO TEM/COUNCILMEMBER NO. 2
EDDY SAUER	COUNCILMEMBER NO. 3
HOWARD SMITH	COUNCILMEMBER NO. 4

Absent were none. Also in attendance were the following administrative officials:

JARED MILLER	CITY MANAGER
KEVIN STARBUCK	DEPUTY CITY MANAGER
FLOYD HARTMAN	ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER
LAURA STORRS	ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER
BRYAN MCWILLIAMS	CITY ATTORNEY
STEPHANIE COGGINS	ASSISTANT TO THE CITY MANAGER
FRANCES HIBBS	CITY SECRETARY

The invocation was given by Bob Schroeder, Hillside Christian Church.

A proclamation was presented for "National Cleanup Day."

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

**PUBLIC ADDRESS**

Mike Fisher, 4410 Van Kriston Drive, inquired what was included in the 'effective public services.' He inquired about the funds not used during COVID-19; where the extra funds were going from the Thompson Park Pool; the costs and funding for the new buses; and how much the City pays the Embassy Suites. He also inquired about the \$10 million of the CARES Act Fund that has been set aside for the Airport. He further stated this Council has also cut the City's parks budget. Claudette Smith, 7606 Cervin Drive, stated more spending has occurred since the pandemic began, buildings and warehouses were purchased based on the Civic Center election passing. She stated this Council ran on being fiscally conservative, and now they want to extend their terms to four-years. She stated businesses are suffering and the nation is suffering. A tax increase will only cripple businesses further. She further stated a tax increase is unacceptable. Gabe Irving, stated people are trying to see the wisdom with the continued increases. He was concerned that businesses are struggling and shutting their doors. He encouraged Council to consider not increasing the tax rate. He stated citizens were already kicked down. Treva Harper, spoke on the other costs being raised: trash, water, and property taxes. She stated minimum wage earners cannot afford the increases. A lot of people in Amarillo make low wages and are struggling. She stated Council was blind to the difficulties with the cost increases for utilities, groceries, and health insurance. There were no further comments.

**NON-CONSENT ITEMS**

**ITEM 1A:** Mayor Nelson presented the second and final 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 second and final reading, to adopt the proposed budget which reflects an increase in revenue derived from property tax revenues over

money. Councilmember Hays spoke on the items on the upcoming November ballot. She stated the land acquisitions were needed. The strategy to purchase the land if the election is approved has pros and cons. If the bond is not successful, the land acquisitions will be needed in the future.


Voting AYE were Mayor Nelson, Councilmembers Hays, Powell, Sauer and Smith; voting NO were none; the motion carried by a 5:0 vote of the Council.


**ITEM 1C:** Mayor Nelson stated that pursuant to the terms of Tex. Loc. Gov. Code, Sec. 102.007(c), the City Council is required to take a separate ratification vote on the tax rate when the adopted budget requires more property tax revenue than did the previous year's budget. This item was presented by Jared Miller, City Manager. Councilmember Powell stated that pursuant Texas Local Government Code, Section 102.007(c), she moved that the City Council ratify the budget and tax rate, as adopted, recognizing such budget will require more revenue from property taxes than did the budget adopted last year, motion was seconded by Councilmember Sauer.

Voting AYE were Mayor Nelson, Councilmembers Hays, Powell, Sauer and Smith; voting NO were none; the motion carried by a 5:0 vote of the Council.

Mayor Nelson advised that the meeting was adjourned.

ATTEST:

  
 Frances Hibbs, City Secretary

  
 Ginger Nelson, Mayor