

**VERNON CITY COMMISSION
SPECIAL MEETING
AUGUST 14, 2014**

Mayor Joe Rogers called the Special Meeting of the Vernon City Commission to order at 5:30 p.m. in the Commission Chambers, and a quorum was declared present.

Present: Mayor Joe Rogers

Commissioners: Danny McMahan, Ruben Hinojosa, Travis Taylor and Pat Bryant.

Staff Present: City Manager Mitch Grant, Police Chief Tom Wilson, Fire Chief Kent Smead, Community Development Director Monica Wilkinson, Finance Director Anne Garmon, Main Street Director Dan Kelleher, and City Secretary Linda Byers.

Commissioner McMahan led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance to the U.S. and Texas flags, followed by the invocation.

**PUBLIC HEARING
PROPOSAL TO INCREASE TAX RATE**

Mayor Rogers opened the public hearing.

Vic Oleson asked the Commission to consider smaller budget cuts.

Linda Shivers ask the Commission to be as frugal as possible with increases.

Bubba Edwards asked that increases and cuts be spread out over more than one year.

Clinton Nava stated that he cannot afford to raise rents on his rental property to pay taxes.

Danita Logsdon was concerned about cuts and tax increases as a citizen, taxpayer and employee.

Commissioner Taylor noted that we need to balance the tax increases with budget cuts.

Commissioner Hinojosa voiced concern about water issues and the need to fund those.

Commissioner McMahan noted that the decisions we make now will affect future citizens.

Mayor Rogers will work on budget to do the best we can for employees and citizens.

With no further comments, Mayor Rogers closed the public hearing.

BUDGET WORK SESSION

City Manager Grant outlined five scenarios for considered budget cuts:

Scenario 1: Move Stree cleaning costs to the utility fund and raise water and sewer rates an additional 5%. Expected reduction 1.9%.

Scenario 2: Items in Scenario 1 plus not filling the open positions in Fire and EMS Departments, and reduced revenue in EMS budget. Expected reduction 3.2%.

Scenario 3: Items in Scenario 2 plus reducing two additional public safety positions. Expected reduction 4.7%.

Scenario 4: Items in Scenario 3 plus reducing two additional staff. Expected reduction 6.1%.

Scenario 5: Take the Tourism operation in house which would increase revenue by the \$72,000 that is currently being sent to the Chamber, plus adjust the Utility Fund transfer to General Fund to \$320,000.

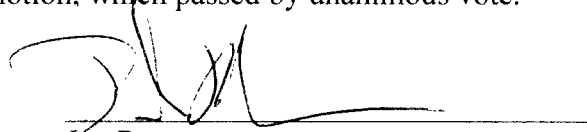
Mr. Grant praised the directors in making cuts that would minimally affect service to citizens. He suggested a hiring freeze and reorganization within departments.

Following discussion, Commissioners requested for the August 19 budget workshop that the City Manager calculate the savings with possible six month attrition without the layoffs in Scenario 4 but with the Utility fund transfer in Scenario 5.

ADJOURN

Commissioner Taylor made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:41 p.m.

Commissioner Hinojosa seconded the motion, which passed by unanimous vote.



Joe Rogers
Mayor

ATTEST:


Linda Byers
City Secretary