

**NOTICE AND AGENDA FOR A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE  
CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF VERNON  
1725 WILBARGER STREET  
SEPTEMBER 5, 2023 AT 6:30 PM**

1. Call to Order:
  - A. Declaration of Quorum
  - B. Invocation
  - C. Pledge of Allegiance
2. Public Hearing – 2023-2024 City of Vernon Budget
3. Discuss, Consider and Take Possible Action on Ordinance Number 1802 adopting the City of Vernon 2023-2024 Annual Budget
4. Public Hearing – 2023 Ad Valorem Tax Rate
5. Discuss, Consider and Take Possible Action on the approval of Ordinance Number 1803 Adopting the City of Vernon 2023-2024 Maintenance and Operations Tax Rate and Interest and Sinking Fund Tax Rate
6. Discuss, Consider and Take Possible Action on the reappointment of two board members to the Vernon Housing Authority Board of Directors
7. Hear a report from the Wilbarger County Appraisal District on the Tyson Abatement
8. Executive Session  
**Pursuant to Texas Government Code Chapter § 551.071 – Consult with Council’s Attorney to seek or receive legal advice concerning pending or contemplated litigation**
9. Discuss, Consider and Take Possible Action on the filing of an insurance claim against Waste Connections
10. Adjourn

The City Commission may convene a public meeting and then recess into Closed Executive Session, to discuss any of the items listed on this agenda, if necessary, and if authorized under chapter 551 of the Texas Government Code. A Closed Executive Session may be authorized by law to include, but not limited to: (1) consulting with the Council’s Attorney to seek or receive legal advice concerning pending or contemplated litigation, a settlement offer, or any other matter in which the ethical duty of the attorney to the Commission clearly conflicts with the general requirement that all meetings be open, § 551.071; (2) discussing the purchase, exchange, lease, or value of real property, § 551.072; (3) discussing a prospective gift or donation, § 551.073; (4) discussing certain personnel matters, § 551.074; and (5) discussing security personnel or devices, § 551.076.

Vernon City Hall is accessible to individuals with disabilities through its main entry on the north side (1725 Wilbarger Street) of the building. An access ramp leading to the sidewalk serving City Hall is located at the northwest corner of the building. Parking space for an individual with disabilities is available in the west parking lot. Request for accommodations or interpretive services must be made 48 hours prior to this meeting. Please contact the City Secretary's office at (940) 552-2581 or FAX (940) 552-0569 for further information.

CERTIFICATE

I, Marsha Jo Stone, City Secretary, do hereby certify that a copy of the September 5, 2023 Special Meeting of the Vernon City Commission

Agenda was posted on: September 1, 2023 at 10:00 am

Marsha Jo Stone TRMC, City Secretary

Removed on: \_\_\_\_\_ By: \_\_\_\_\_

# Public Hearing

2023-2024 City of Vernon Budget



**CITY OF VERNON**  
**COMMISSIONER MEETING**

**MEETING DATE:** 9/5/2023

**DEPARTMENT:** Administration

**AUTHOR:** Darell Kennon, City Manager

**AGENDA ITEM:** Discuss, Consider and Take Possible Action on Ordinance Number 1802 Adopting the City of Vernon 2023-2024 Annual Budget

**BACKGROUND:** The Annual Budget shows revenues and inter-fund transfer of \$24,403,704 and expenditures of \$25,632,449 with a budget deficit of \$1,226,745. This deficit comes from the Economic Development Administration Grant required matching funds of \$1,057,007 and purchases such as five police cars costing \$260,000 and a wastewater lift station costing \$350,000.

This budget will raise more total property taxes than last year's budget by \$214,908 or 8.90% and of that amount, \$5,326 is tax revenue to be raised from new property added to the tax roll this year.

**ATTACHMENT(S):** Ordinance 1802

**MOTION:** I move to approve the City of Vernon 2023-2024 Annual Budget as filed with the City Secretary this day, September 5th, 2023

A roll call vote is required.

**ORDINANCE NO 1802**

**AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING THE BUDGET FOR THE FISCAL YEAR OCTOBER 1, 2023, AND THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30, 2024, FOR THE CITY OF VERNON; APPROPRIATING MONEY FOR THE VARIOUS FUNDS AND PURPOSES OF SUCH BUDGETS; ESTABLISHING AND ADOPTING AN OFFICIAL CLASSIFICATION PLAN FOR ALL POSITIONS AND ABOLISHING ALL POSITIONS NOT LISTED IN SAID BUDGETS; PROVIDING A SAVINGS AND SEVERABILITY CLAUSE; REPEALING ALL ORDINANCES AND APPROPRIATIONS IN CONFLICT; DECLARING AN EMERGENCY AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**

**WHEREAS**, on the 5<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2023, the budget as prepared by the City Manager of the City of Vernon for the fiscal year beginning October 1, 2023, through September 30, 2024, was duly filed with the City Secretary; and

**WHEREAS**, the City Commission set the said budget for public hearing on the 5<sup>th</sup> day of September 2023 at 6:30 p.m., at City Hall of the City of Vernon, Texas. The said date for the public hearing, being not less than 15 days subsequent to the day of filing of said budget with the City Secretary, and the City Manager caused to be published a notice of said hearing, all as provided by law; and

**WHEREAS**, Mayor Pam Gosline of the City of Vernon on the 5<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2023, in City Hall of the City of Vernon, Texas, with the following members of said Commission present: Pam Gosline, Don Aydelott, Early Williams, Jim Parmer and Dustin Fraticelli, declared the public hearing on the said budget duly opened; and

**WHEREAS**, the City Commission at the public hearing duly considered the financial condition, comparative expenditures, and public comments.

**WHEREAS**, in order to meet state guidelines, there is a necessity for approval of this ordinance on the first reading.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF VERNON, TEXAS:**

**SECTION 1. That the budget as filed with the City Secretary of the City of Vernon for the fiscal year beginning October 1, 2023, through September 30, 2024 together with any amendments made in public hearings, is hereby approved, adopted and ratified as the Annual Budget of the City of Vernon, Texas, for the fiscal year October 1, 2023, through September 30, 2024. Total of all expenditures of \$25,632,449 including debt service requirements, inter-fund transfers, special revenues' transfers, and operational expenditures.**

**SECTION 2.** Should any portion or part of this ordinance or the budget it adopts, be declared inoperative or void for any reason by a court of competent jurisdiction, such decision, opinion, or judgment shall in no way affect the remaining portions, parts, sections of this ordinance or the budget, which provisions shall be and remain in full force and effect.

**SECTION 4.** All ordinances, resolutions and appropriations for which provisions have heretofore been made are expressly repealed to the extent of any conflict with the provisions of this ordinance.

**SECTION 5.** This ordinance shall not be recorded in length in the minutes of the City Commission, but shall be filed for permanent record in the office of the City Secretary.

**SECTION 7.** This ordinance shall become and be effective on and after its adoption provided, however, that the Annual Budget adopted herein shall have an effective date of October 1, 2023.

***PASSED and APPROVED*** on first reading this the 5<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2023.

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Pamela Gosline, Mayor

***ATTEST:***

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Marsha Jo Stone, TRMC  
City Secretary





# Public Hearing

2023 Ad Valorem Tax Rate



**CITY OF VERNON**  
**COMMISSIONER MEETING**

**MEETING DATE:** 9/5/2023

**DEPARTMENT:** Administration

**AUTHOR:** Darell Kennon, City Manager

**AGENDA ITEM:** Discuss, Consider and Take Possible Action on Ordinance Number 1803 Adopting the City of Vernon 2023-2024 Maintenance and Operations Tax Rate and Interest and Sinking Fund Tax Rate

**BACKGROUND:** We have planned to set our tax rates as follows: Maintenance and Operations at .37031/\$100 evaluation and Interest and Sinking Fund at .14969/\$100 valuation. This is an effective 8.95% increase

**ATTACHMENT(S):** Budget

**Language Required in the Motion Setting This Year's Tax Rate:**

This year's proposed tax rate exceeds the no-new-revenue tax rate. The vote on the ordinance, resolution, or order setting the tax rate must be a record vote and 60% of the governing body must vote in favor of the adoption of the tax rate. A motion to adopt the ordinance, resolution, or order must be made in the following form:

**MOTION:** I move that the property tax rate be increased by the adoption of a tax rate of 0.52000, which is effectively a 8.95 percent increase in the tax rate.

A roll call vote is required

**ORDINANCE NO.  
1803**

**AN ORDINANCE APPROVING THE 2023 TAX ROLL;  
LEVYING AD VALOREM TAXES ON ALL TAXABLE  
PROPERTY IN THE CITY OF VERNON, TEXAS, FOR  
THE YEAR 2023; PROVIDING FOR THE MAILING OF  
TAX STATEMENTS; FIXING THE DUE DATE AND  
TIME OF PAYMENT THEREOF, AND PROVIDING  
FOR THE COLLECTION OF TAXES, A SAVINGS  
CLAUSE, A REPEALING CLAUSE, RECORDING,  
DECLARING AN EMERGENCY, AND EFFECTIVE  
DATE.**

*WHEREAS*, the Vernon City Commission has, after being duly elected and sworn in the manner and form prescribed by statute and the oath taken by members of the said Commission received the tax roll as equalized and approved by the Board of Review of the Wilbarger County Appraisal District, which appraisals were delivered to the said Board of Review by Sandy Burkett, Chief Appraiser for the District; and

*WHEREAS*, the Board of Review has ascertained as nearly as possible that all surveys and parts of surveys of land in the City of Vernon and all personal property have been placed upon the tax roll and has ordered corrections made where needed; and

*WHEREAS*, the Board of Review has satisfied itself that all properties have been appraised in a uniform and equal fashion and has approved the tax roll of the City of Vernon for the year 2023, such roll containing real estate and personal property at the value of **\$505,662,673**; and

*WHEREAS*. The Wilbarger County Tax Collector is hereby advised of the adoption of a tax rate for 2023-2024, and should proceed to apply said rate to the individual property values contained on the 2023 tax roll of the City, after allowing proper credit for all exemptions claimed as provided by law, to compute the 2023 tax levies. A recapitulation of values, exemptions, and levies as provided by the Appraisal District are attached.

*WHEREAS*, in order to meet state guidelines, there is a necessity for approval of this ordinance on the first reading.

**WHEREAS, 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 1.85%  
PERCENT AND WILL RAISE TAXES FOR MAINTENANCE AND  
OPERATIONS ON A \$100,000 HOME BY -\$32.32 PER YEAR.**

***NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY  
OF VERNON, TEXAS:***

**SECTION 1.** The City Commission has reviewed the summary recap of the 2023 tax roll of the City of Vernon and found it to be in order, approves the said tax roll and orders the Wilbarger County Tax Collector to prepare and mail tax statements for all taxes due according to said tax roll.

**SECTION 2.** There is hereby assessed and levied and shall be collected as provided by law, an Ad Valorem Tax for the year 2023, on all property situated within the corporate limits of Vernon, Texas, on such property shall be **\$0.52000** per \$100.00 assessed valuation, unless exempt by the Constitution of the State of Texas, or by law applicable to said City of Vernon.

Said tax rate of **\$0.52000** shall be assessed at **\$0.37031** per \$100.00 assessed valuation for Maintenance and Operations and **\$0.14969** per \$100.00 assessed valuation for Interest and Sinking Fund.

The taxes are to be used for general purposes as set out in the Annual Budget for the fiscal year beginning the 1<sup>st</sup> day of October 2023 and ending with the 30<sup>th</sup> day of September 2024.

**SECTION 3.** The taxes, penalty, and interest, if any, shall constitute a first and prior lien against the property that the tax is assessed.

**SECTION 4.** All rights and powers available to towns and cities as provided in the Constitution and Laws of the State of Texas, for penalties in cases of delinquent taxes, are and shall be available to the City of Vernon and its officers to enforce collection of said taxes.

**SECTION 5.** All delinquent taxes collected after the passage of this Ordinance shall be deposited to the funds for which they were assessed.

**SECTION 6.** Should any portion or part of this Ordinance be held for any reason invalid or unenforceable, the same shall not be construed to affect any other valid portion hereof, but all valid portions hereof shall remain in full force and effect.

**SECTION 7.** All ordinances and resolutions and parts thereof in conflict herewith are expressly repealed to the extent in conflict herewith.

**SECTION 8.** This Ordinance shall not be recorded in length in the minutes of the City Commission, but shall be filed for permanent record in the office of the City Secretary.

**SECTION 9.** This Ordinance shall be in full force immediately upon passage by the City Commission.

***PASSED and APPROVED*** on first reading this the 5<sup>th</sup> day of September 2023

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Pamela Gosline, Mayor

***ATTEST:***

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Marsha Jo Stone, TRMC  
City Secretary

**CITY OF VERNON  
COMMISSIONER MEETING**

**MEETING DATE:** September 5, 2023

**DEPARTMENT:** City Manager

**AUTHOR:** Darell Kennon

**AGENDA ITEM:** Discussion, Consideration and Take Possible Action on the reappointment of two board members to the Vernon Housing Authority Board of Directors

**BACKGROUND:** We have two board members whose terms will expire on September 30, 2023. They are Rita Martin and Jennifer Baldwin. Both are willing to be reappointed for another two year term. Administration at the Housing Authority has no problem with the same people being reappointed. The City Commission, of course, may elect to apply some new board members, if they so desire.

**ATTACHMENTS:** Board Application – Rita Martin  
Board Application – Jennifer Baldwin

**MOTION:** I move to appoint \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ to the Vernon Housing Authority Board of Directors for a two year term ending September 30, 2025

**CITY OF VERNON**  
**BOARD APPOINTMENT APPLICATION**

<u>Board Appointment Sought:</u>	<i>Housing Authority Commission</i>	
<u>Nominee Full Name:</u>		
<u>Permanent Address:</u>		
<u>Mailing Address:</u>		
<u>Telephone Number:</u>	Home:	Cell:
<u>Email Address:</u>		
<u>Occupation:</u>		
<u>Education:</u>		
<u>Interest in Serving:</u> (What do you wish to accomplish?)	<i>Experience as current Board member -</i>	
<u>Qualifications:</u>	<i>serve to oversee all rules and policies are transparent and necessary for Housing Authority operations</i>	

I hereby swear that the statements included in my application are true and correct:

*Rita Martin*

Signature of Applicant

*8/30/2023*

Date of Application

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Nominating City Commission Member



**CITY OF VERNON**  
**BOARD APPOINTMENT APPLICATION**

Board Appointment Sought: \_\_\_\_\_

Nominee Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Permanent Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation: \_\_\_\_\_

Education: \_\_\_\_\_

Interest in Serving:  
(What do you wish to accomplish?)

Qualifications: \_\_\_\_\_

Housing Authority Resident	
Commissioner	
Home:	Cell:
Current Resident Commissioner -	
with experience/knowledge of	
Rules and policies necessary to	
insure transparency in decisions	
made in regards to Housing	
Authority operations	

I hereby swear that the statements included in my application are true and correct:

Jennifer Baldwin  
Signature of Applicant

8/30/2023  
Date of Application

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Nominating City Commission Member

*Note: Vernon PHA must have a resident commissioner*



**CITY OF VERNON**  
**COMMISSIONER MEETING**

**MEETING DATE:** 9/5/2023

**DEPARTMENT:** Administration

**AUTHOR:** Darell Kennon, City Manager

**AGENDA ITEM:** Hear a report from the Wilbarger County Appraisal District on the Tyson Abatement

**BACKGROUND:** Sandy Burkett, RPA, Chief Appraiser, will address the City Commission concerning the Tyson Tax Abatement.

**ATTACHMENT(S):** None



# Executive Session

Pursuant to Texas Government Code Chapter  
551.071 – Consult with Council’s Attorney to seek or  
receive legal advise concerning pending or  
contemplated litigation



**CITY OF VERNON  
COMMISSIONER MEETING**

**MEETING DATE:** September 5, 2023

**DEPARTMENT:** City Manager

**AUTHOR:** Darell Kennon

**AGENDA ITEM:** Discuss, Consider and Take Possible Action on the filing of an insurance claim against Waste Connections

**BACKGROUND:** The City of Vernon Transfer Station was damaged while under the management of Waste Connections

**ATTACHMENTS:**

**FINANCIAL IMPACT:**

**RECOMMENDATION:** Staff defers to the Commission

**MOTION:** I move to file an insurance claim against Waste Connections for the damage sustained to the City of Vernon Transfer Station





**Adjourn**

