

The Early City Council met in regular session on Tuesday, July 25, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. with the following members present:

Mayor Mangrum

Council members:

Benny Allcorn

Leland Acker

Garry Forisha

Charles Matlock

City Administrator Tony Aaron

Economic Development Director Larry McConn

City Secretary Brenda Kilgo

Council member Travis Eoff and City Attorney Mark Bessent was absent.

Establishing a quorum present, Mayor Mangrum called the meeting to order. Mr. Allcorn gave the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

#### **Consideration of the minutes for regular meeting held on July 18, 2023.**

Mr. Matlock made motion, seconded by Mr. Forisha, to approve the minutes as written. All members present voted "aye".

#### **Citizen's comments**

There were no citizen comments.

#### **Quarterly Department Reports**

A copy of the reports were sent out with the Council packets for each Council member.

City Secretary provided a financial report noting that all Funds are operating in line with the budgeted amounts; notes of interest were the significant increase of sales tax revenue as compared to budgeted amounts and that sales tax revenue is approximately two times the amount of property tax collected for this fiscal year.

#### **Administrator's Report**

No report was given.

#### **Consideration to approve Resolution 2023-R13, finding that Oncor Electric Delivery Company LLC's application to amend distribution cost recovery factor and increase distribution rates within the City should be denied.**

Attorney's representing the Oncor Steering Committee provided the information regarding the application to amend the distribution cost recovery factor and increase to the distribution rates and recommends that the City should approve the resolution of denial for the application.

Mr. Matlock made motion, seconded by Mr. Forisha, to approve Resolution 2023-R13 in denial of Oncor's application as recommended. All members present voted "aye".

**Consideration of Resolution 2023-R14, approving an application for the License Plate Reader project through the Operation Lone Star Grant Program.**

Chief Mercer explained that this grant project is for a camera system that attaches to patrol cars and scans license plates. The scans are sent through a national database and alerts are sent/received such as stolen vehicles, amber or silver alerts, and warrants issued. It is 100% grant funding, no match required from the City, in the amount of \$36,000 if awarded.

Mr. Forisha made motion to approve Resolution 2023-R14, in support of an application for the License Plate Reader grant. Mr. Matlock seconded the motion and all members present voted "aye".

**Discuss and consider proposed tax rate for 2023/2024 fiscal year. (Take a record vote and schedule public hearing)**

Mr. Aaron presented a worksheet provided on the smart monitor and printed copy to the Council showing the Certified Property Tax Values for 2022 and 2023 along with the approved 2022 tax rate, No New Revenue Rate, Voter Approval Rate, De Minimis Rate and proposed 2023 Tax Rate as follows:

2022 Certified Values	\$582,983,836
2022 Tax Rate	0.36238
2023 Certified Values	\$600,718,026
2023 No New Revenue Rate	0.20317
2023 Voter Approval Rate	0.31755
2023 De Minimis Rate	0.39924
2023 Proposed Tax Rate	0.39924

Due to a large contested value awaiting Court of Appeals decision, a collection rate of 56% is estimated for 2023. The proposed rate is approximately a 3.5 cent increase that calculates to about \$55/per \$100,000 house value.

With a proposed rate at or below the De Minimis Rate there is not an automatic election or petition by the voters allowed.

Mr. Acker made motion, seconded by Mr. Matlock, to set the proposed 2023 tax rate at 0.39924. The motion passed as a result of the following record vote: Mr. Acker "aye"; Mr. Allcorn "aye"; Mr. Forisha "aye"; Mr. Matlock "aye"; Mr. Eoff was absent.

## Budget Workshop

A Budget Summary was provided showing all funds; the budget is balanced currently with the proposed tax rate of 0.39924.

Utility Base Rates show an increase for all monthly service base rates (Water/Sewer/Sanitation) to pass along increases by entity sources:

Water – BCWID increase of 6%; Early base rate proposed at 6.35% (\$33.50 from \$31.50)

Sewer – Early base rate proposed increase of 11%; no increase last budget year (\$30 from \$27)

Sanitation – City of Brownwood increase of 6%; Early base rate proposed at 8.7% (Residential \$25 from \$23; Commercial \$65 from \$61)

Total \$7.00/month on Base Rates

Proposed budget includes subsidy requests for requested amounts with exception of animal center with a couple increases over last year noted for animal center, senior citizens and CFLR.

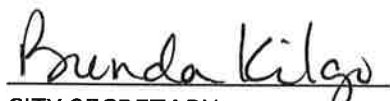
Overall budget includes 26% increase in employee benefits; part-time to full-time positions in Administration (Janitorial), Streets/ROW and Parks; addition of 1 officer due to the SRO position split with Early ISD. Town Center Department within General Fund is more operational cost for 2023/2024 FY; Construction budget moved into Capital Project Fund.


## Announcements

Changes to Budget planning calendar to include a special called meeting for the Public Hearing on Proposed Tax Rate on August 15<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m.

## Adjourn

Mr. Matlock made motion, seconded by Mr. Acker, to adjourn the meeting. All members present voted “aye” adjourning the meeting at 7:08 p.m.

  
CITY SECRETARY

08-08-2023  
DATE  
  
MAYOR