

The Early City Council met in special called session on Tuesday, July 30, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. with the following members present:

Mayor Mangrum
Council members:
Benny Allcorn
Travis Eoff
Leland Acker
Garry Forisha

City Administrator Tony Aaron
City Secretary Brenda Kilgo

Absent: Charles Matlock, Economic Development Director Larry McConn, and City Attorney Mark Bessent

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

Citizen's comments

There were no citizen comments.

Consideration of approval to enter into a contract agreement for information technology services.

Mr. Aaron explained that staff has reviewed proposals for IT services and support and are presenting an agreement for a company that we feel meets our current and future needs. VC3 has provided a proposal for support services to include desktop users, back up storage remediation, network mapping and CJIS compliance requirements. VC3 provides remotes support with availability for onsite support whenever needed. The agreement will begin with the new fiscal budget year and billing to occur October 1st. All services will be provided on a per user / server monthly fee totaling \$56,086 based on current user information and includes a one-time set-up fee.

Mr. Acker made motion, seconded by Mr. Forisha, to approve entering into a contract agreement as presented. All members present voted "aye".

Discuss and consider proposed tax rate for 2024/2025 fiscal year. (Take a record vote and schedule public hearing)

A comparison table was provided for the purpose of this discussion showing the No New Revenue Rate, Voter Approval Rate, De Minimis Rate, and the proposed rate calculating the property tax revenue for debt service and maintenance & operation.

No New Revenue Rate	0.71395
Voter Approval Rate	0.62224
De Minimis Rate	0.76021
Proposed Rate	0.59924

Mr. Aaron noted that the budget is calculated on the proposed rate which includes a 3% cost of living increase for all employees and preparation for the purchase of a fire truck, up to a \$2 Million cost estimate. Explaining that we would not be able to provide notice and issued debt for the intent to order/purchase a fire truck before the timeline to adopt the tax rate so the budget planning is to set up reserve funds with the collection of the property tax revenues at the proposed rate to help with the purchase of a fire truck or trucks either by paying down the debt issued or applying toward the purchase price and borrowing less.

Mr. Aaron also stated that the Police and Fire budgets total approximately \$2.4 Million and the estimated collection of property tax revenue at the proposed rate is \$2.1 Million; the difference will have to be covered by other revenue sources.

While it is not ideal to increase the tax rate at any time, the decrease in the total property values due to the tax law suit results the City does not really have any other option even just to maintain the current operations. However, with the lower rates over the last few years there has still been tremendous improvements throughout the city for the benefit of the community and citizens of Early and Brown County. One specific example given was the growth and improvements to the Fire Department over the last 8 to 10 years – expansion from volunteer only to a combination and addition of now 6 full time firefighters as well as the purchase of apparatus and equipment for firefighters and trucks.

Concluding the discussion Mayor Mangrum opened the floor for a motion. Mr. Allcorn made motion, seconded by Mr. Eoff, to approve the proposed tax for 2024 at 0.59924. Mayor Mangrum called for a record vote and the motion carried based on the following: Mr. Acker “aye”, Mr. Allcorn “aye”, Mr. Forisha “aye” and Mr. Eoff “aye”.

Executive Session in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 551, Texas Government Code Sections 551.071-Consult with Attorney, 551.072-Real Property, and 551.087-Economic Development.

Executive Session was not necessary.

Administrator's Report

- Boardwalk – 1st part of September to begin construction; must drop water level in the lake at least two feet in order to pour the piers; contractor to start mobilization within the next 30 days
- Crescent Drive – approximately 30-feet remaining for contractor to complete line replacement and patching of cuts in the street; once complete city will resurface both Crescent and Grandview Drives
- Autumn Drive – to have materials Monday and Tuesday of next week with the completion anticipated by the end of the week
- McDonald Park – having to cut across the park to lay sewer line for Longhorn subdivision project; will be complete and cleaned for upcoming events at the park in October
- Atwood site – anticipate ordering of materials for water and sewer infrastructure by end of the week

Budget Workshop

In the process of fine tuning all funds for full and final presentation on August 20th. With no question to prompt further discussion the workshop was concluded.

Announcements

Mr. Aaron stated that Administrative Assistant and Marketing Communication Specialist Tiffani Sikes submitted her resignation and an opening for a full time position will be posted as soon as possible.

Adjourn

Mr. Acker made motion, seconded by Mr. Forisha, to adjourn the meeting. All members present voted "aye" adjourning the meeting at 6:29 p.m.

August 13, 2024
DATE

Rafael May
MAYOR

Brenda Kitgo
CITY SECRETARY