

The Early City Council met in regular session on Tuesday, August 13, 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
Economic Development Director Larry McConn
City Attorney Mark Bessent

Absent: Charles Matlock

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

Citizen’s comments

There were no citizen comments.

Public Hearing – Proposed Tax Rate 2024

Mayor Mangrum opened the Public Hearing at 6:01 p.m. and indicated for Mr. Aaron to proceed. Mr. Aaron presented the following information provided within the Notice of Meeting to Vote on Tax Rate that will be published in the Brownwood Bulletin:

Proposed Tax Rate	0.59924
No New Revenue Rate	0.77395
Voter Approval Rate	0.62224

Stating that the proposed rate is higher than the current rate but it will actually result in a 12% decrease in the collection of property tax revenue for the 2024-2025 budget year.

Having no questions or indication of further discussion, Mayor Mangrum closed the Public Hearing at 6:02 p.m.

Consideration to approve the disposal or sale of items as salvage or surplus.

A 2015 F350 utility truck is recommended for sale on auction site and use of the proceeds can be used toward the purchase of a right-of-way vehicle unit. The 2015 unit has approximately 106,000 miles and has been used within the public works department. A similar city public works unit was sold on the same auction site earlier this year for approximately \$17000.

Mr. Acker made motion, seconded by Mr. Allcorn, to approve the sale of the unit as salvage or surplus as recommended. All members present voted “aye”.

Consideration to approve entering into an agreement with Roberts & McGee, CPA for auditing services.

Roberts and McGee, CPA submitted a proposal to provide auditing services for the City and Early MDD. Staff went to meet the Robert & McGee accountants at their offices in Abilene and feel that they are a good fit and of similar professional mind and services as retired auditor Tony Krischke. They provide auditing services for several cities, counties and ISDs.

Rates for the 2023-2024 fiscal year audit will be:

City of Early	\$27,800
Single Audit	\$ 5,000
Early MDD	\$ 5,100

Mr. Aaron stated that this would be three-year agreement with Robert & McGee to provide the audit services for the respective fiscal years. Also noting that as a new client there would be a change in the audit schedule from previous years but would still be completed on a timely basis and fulfill compliance requirements for any State or Federal reporting timelines.

Mr. Acker made motion, seconded by Mr. Eoff, to approve entering the agreement with Robert & McGee as presented. All members present voted "aye".

Consideration to approve Ordinance 2024-09, establishing a Spay and Neuter Program within the city of Early.

As previously discussed, the Ordinance provides the guidelines and funding source for a Spay and Neuter Program for residents within the city limits of Early. An amount of \$5000 has been included within the 2024-2025 budget for this program to begin on October 1, 2024. The low-cost program will be available to residents who complete an application, proof of residency and income information. Upon the approval of the application and payment of applicable fee (established by income tier level) a voucher will be issued for the resident to take to a participating vet for the procedure to be completed. The participating vet will send invoice to the City for payment of the approved surgical procedure. The program will be available until funds within the budget are exhausted for the fiscal budget year. Funds for each year will be determined within the budget process for each fiscal year.

Mr. Forisha made motion to approve Ordinance 2024-09 to establish a Spay and Neuter Program. Mr. Acker seconded the motion and all members present voted "aye".

Executive Session in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 551, Texas Government Code Sections 551.071-Consult with Attorney, 551.072-Real Property, 551-074 Personnel Matters and 551.087-Economic Development.

Mr. Allcorn made motion, seconded by Mr. Acker, to enter into Executive Session. All members present voted "aye" entering into closed session at 6:13 p.m.

Reconvene into Open Session and consider action, if any, on items discussed in executive session.

Upon entering into open session at 7:00 p.m., Mr. Acker made motion to approve the City Administrator employee agreement for a term of three years to include all requests within the agreement presented. The contract will replace any existing contract beginning October 1,

2024 with a term ending date of September 30, 2027. Mr. Forisha seconded the motion and all members present voted "aye".

Administrator's Report

- Sales Tax – current month's receipts are lower than this time last year with a decrease of base sales tax of 6.2% but an industrial sales tax decrease of approximately 66%; Current collections \$2.5 Million, Budgeted collections \$3.1 Million
- FEMA grant awarded to Fire Department for SCBA air packs in the amount of \$143,000
- Community Development Block Grant award call from Commissioner Sid Miller for a \$500,000 grant for reconstruction of McDonald Drive; anticipate construction within 2025/2026 budget year
- Crescent Drive – nearing completion with small section remaining of sewer line install at Bluebonnet Drive; milling of the street to patch utility cuts and follow up with resurface overlay for Park, Crescent, Grandview, and Kings Court
- Autumn Drive – complete with a few items remaining from the contractor on the final punchlist
- Atwood site – approximately \$20,000 worth of dirt hauled from the WWTP to site by the developer/contractor

Budget Workshop

Budget Summary was provided and discussed showing the beginning fund balance, revenues, expenditures and ending fund balance for each Fund; Capital Project Fund still a work in progress due to current project progress and expenditures for the determination of a beginning fund balance; first payment was made this month to the contractors of the Town Center Boardwalk

Announcements

August 27, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. - Public Hearing FY 2024-2025 Budget

Adjourn

Mr. Acker made motion, seconded by Mr. Eoff, to adjourn the meeting. All members present voted "aye" adjourning the meeting at 7:12 p.m.

Brenda Kitzo
CITY SECRETARY

08-27-2024
DATE
[Signature]
MAYOR