

STATE OF TEXAS :
COUNTY OF HOWARD :
CITY OF BIG SPRING :

The City Council of the City of Big Spring, Texas, met in a regular meeting in the City Council Chambers located at 307 E. 4th St., Big Spring, Texas, at 5:30 p.m., January 12, 2021, with the following members present in person:

SHANNON THOMASON	Mayor
DOUG HARTMAN	Mayor Pro Tem
NICK ORNELAS	Councilmember
CODY HUGHES	Councilmember
GLORIA MCDONALD	Councilmember

Same and constituting a quorum, for which four Councilmembers must be present; and the following staff in person;

TODD DARDEN	City Manager
JOHN MEDINA	Assistant City Manager
ANDREW HAGEN	City Attorney
CHAD WILLIAMS	Police Chief
CRAIG FERGUSON	Fire Chief
SHANE BOWLES	Public Works Director
ADAM CZAJKOWSKI	Interim Finance Director
JIM LITTLE	Airpark Director
TIM GREEN	Municipal Judge

INVOCATION & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Councilmember Hughes gave the invocation and Mayor Thomason led the Pledge of Allegiance to the American and Texas Flags.

PUBLIC COMMENT

A couple of citizens spoke about the upcoming special election to fill the unexpired terms of Councilmembers 5 & 6.

ANNOUNCEMENTS, PRESENTATIONS AND PUBLIC HEARINGS

PRESENTATION TO ROBERT DIAZ'S FAMILY

Todd Darden, City Manager and Mayor Thomason presented Robert Diaz's family with a plaque for his service with the City of Big Spring Street Department of 26 years.

PRESENTATION TO CITY EMPLOYEE'S OF 25 YEARS OF SERVICE

Todd Darden, City Manager and Mayor Thomason presented 25 years of service awards to the following employees:

- Deputy Chief Steve Bedell (Big Spring Fire Department)
- Fire Marshal Daniel Hendrickson (Big Spring Fire Department)
- Lt. Ron Phillips (Big Spring Fire Department)
- Lt. Brian Gordon (Big Spring Police Department)
- Michael Coffman (Street Department)

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

Todd Darden, City Manager, gave an update on the following:

- Large Item Pickup – District 1 will be on January 20, 2021
- E-Waste Update – January 23, 2021
- CARES Update
- Families First Coronavirus Response Act Update
- 911 Address Update
- 2020 Convention South Readers' Choice Award
- City Holiday – Martin Luther King, Jr. Day – January 18, 2021
- Report on Number of Vaccinations Given in Howard County
- Report from Medical Advisor Dr. Ahmed on COVID 19

CONSENT ITEMS

APPROVAL OF THE CITY COUNCIL MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF DECEMBER 8, 2020 AND OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF DECEMBER 15, 2020

FINAL READING OF AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NUMBER 029-2020 WHICH ADOPTED THE ANNUAL BUDGET FOR THE CITY OF BIG SPRING, TEXAS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING OCTOBER 1, 2020 AND ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2021 BY INCREASING THE GENERAL FUND BUDGET TO BE USED FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES CONTRACT; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR PUBLICATION; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE

FINAL READING OF AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NUMBER 029-2020 WHICH ADOPTED THE ANNUAL BUDGET FOR THE CITY OF BIG SPRING, TEXAS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING OCTOBER 1, 2020 AND ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2021 BY INCREASING THE GENERAL FUND BUDGET BY ACCEPTING A DONATION TO BE USED FOR ADDITIONAL EQUIPMENT FOR THE EMS DEPARTMENT; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR PUBLICATION; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE

FINAL READING OF AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NUMBER 029-2020 WHICH ADOPTED THE ANNUAL BUDGET FOR THE CITY OF BIG SPRING, TEXAS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING OCTOBER 1, 2020 AND ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2021 REAPPROPRIATING BUDGETED FUNDS LEFT OVER WITHIN THE GENERAL FUND FROM FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING OCTOBER 1, 2019 AND ENDING SEPTEMBER

30, 2020; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR PUBLICATION; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE

ACKNOWLEDGE RECEIPT OF THE BIG SPRING MCMAHON-WRINKLE AIRPORT DEVELOPMENT BOARD MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF FEBRUARY 20, 2020 AND OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF APRIL 30, 2020 AND JUNE 4, 2020

Motion was made by Councilmember McDonald to approve the above captioned ordinances and minutes, seconded by Councilmember Ornelas, with all members of the Council present voting "aye."

VOUCHERS

Mayor Pro Tem Hartman reviewed the following vouchers;

Vouchers for 12/10/2020	\$	852,396.32
Vouchers for 12/17/2020	\$	1,027,295.85
Vouchers for 12/30/2020	\$	462,797.00
Vouchers for 01/07/2021	\$	218,757.65

Motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Hartman to approve the above captioned vouchers, seconded by Councilmember Hughes, with all members of the Council present voting "aye."

BIDS

AWARD THE BID FOR A LEASE FINANCING PACKAGE TO KEY GOVERNMENT FINANCE, INC. AND AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE ANY NECESSARY DOCUMENTS

Motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Hartman to award the above captioned bid to Key Government Finance, Inc. with an interest rate of 1.32%, seconded by Councilmember McDonald, with all members of the Council present voting "aye."

AWARD THE BID FOR A RISK AND RESILIENCE STUDY FOR AMERICA'S WATER INFRASTRUCTURE ACT (AWIA) TO FREESE AND NICHOLS AND AUTHORIZE THE CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE ANY NECESSARY DOCUMENTS

Motion was made by Councilmember McDonald to award the above captioned bid to Freese and Nichols, seconded by Councilmember Hughes, with all members of the Council present voting "aye."

NEW BUSINESS

ACKNOWLEDGE RECEIPT OF THE BIG SPRING ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF NOVEMBER 17, 2020

All Councilmembers present acknowledged receipt of the above captioned minutes.

CONSIDERATION AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO AMEND CITY COUNCIL MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF JUNE 29, 2020

Motion was made by Mayor Thomason to approve the above captioned amendments, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Hartman, with all members of the Council present voting "aye."

CONSIDERATION AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO ACCEPT A GIFT TO THE CITY OF BIG SPRING FIRE DEPARTMENT FROM PIONEER NATURAL RESOURCES

Motion was made by Councilmember Ornelas to accept the above captioned gift of \$1,000.00, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Hartman, with all members of the Council present voting "aye."

CONSIDERATION AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO ACCEPT A GIFT TO THE CITY OF BIG SPRING FIRE DEPARTMENT FROM GUNSIGHT MOUNTAIN

Motion was made by Councilmember McDonald to accept the above captioned gift of \$1,500.00, seconded by Councilmember Hughes, with all members of the Council present voting "aye."

ACKNOWLEDGE RECEIPT OF THE CITY ATTORNEY'S WRITTEN QUARTERLY REPORT ON LITIGATION AND CLAIMS AGAINST THE CITY; POSSIBLE DISCUSSION IN EXECUTIVE SESSION

All Councilmember present acknowledged receipt of the above captioned report. No executive session was necessary.

CONSIDERATION AND POSSIBLE ACTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO SIGN A LETTER ON BEHALF OF THE CITY OF BIG SPRING IN SUPPORT OF THE NOMINATION FOR THE PETROLEUM BUILDING WITH THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

Motion was made by Mayor Thomason to approve the above captioned authorization, seconded by Councilmember Ornelas, with all members of the Council present voting "aye."

CONSIDERATION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING A REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP) FOR THE SALE OF PROPERTY FOR RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT, LOCATED AT THE SW CORNER OF PARKWAY AND WILLARD STREETS IN HOWARD COUNTY, TEXAS, AND CONSISTING OF APPROXIMATELY 40 ACRES IN SECTION 13, BLOCK 33 IS, CITY OF BIG SPRING

Motion was made by Mayor Thomason to approve the above captioned request with an amount of \$8,500.00 per acre, seconded by Councilmember Hughes, with all members of the Council present voting "aye."

CONSIDERATION AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO DELEGATE AUTHORITY TO THE MAYOR TO NEGOTIATE, CONCLUDE, AND EXECUTE A PIPELINE RIGHT-OF-WAY AGREEMENT WITH OCCIDENTAL PETROLEUM CORPORATION

Motion was made by Councilmember Hughes to approve the above listed agreement, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Hartman, with all members of the Council present voting "aye."

FIRST READING OF AN ORDINANCE CALLING FOR A GENERAL ELECTION TO BE HELD ON MAY 1, 2021 FOR THE PURPOSE OF ELECTING CITY COUNCILMEMBERS FOR DISTRICTS TWO, FOUR AND SIX ALL OF WHOM SHALL BE ELECTED BY MAJORITY VOTE OF THE QUALIFIED VOTERS IN THE RESPECTIVE DISTRICTS; PROVIDING FOR THE CONDUCT OF THE ELECTION; DESIGNATING SEVERAL POLLING PLACES WITHIN THE CITY; AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE NOTICE AND HAVE THE NOTICE POSTED FOR THE PURPOSE OF NOTIFYING THE PUBLIC OF SAID ELECTION; AND PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY

Motion was made by Councilmember McDonald to approve the above captioned ordinance, seconded by Councilmember Ornelas, with all members of the Council present voting "aye."

FIRST READING OF AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 2 OF THE BIG SPRING CITY CODE ENTITLED "ADMINISTRATION," ARTICLE VIII "BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS," DIVISION 2 "AIRPARK DEVELOPMENT BOARD" SECTION 2-255 "ORGANIZATION AND MEMBERSHIP" IN ORDER TO CORRECT INCONSISTENCIES IN THE ORDINANCE AND TO CLARIFYING THE NATURE OF THE AIRPARK SAFETY SUBCOMMITTEE; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE

Motion was made by Councilmember McDonald to approve the above captioned ordinance, seconded by Councilmember Hughes, with all members of the Council present voting "aye."

CONSIDERATION AND POSSIBLE ACTION OF AN INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT WITH SOUTH PLAINS ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS (SPAG) AND AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR OR HIS DESIGNEE TO EXECUTE ANY NECESSARY DOCUMENTS

Motion was made by Councilmember McDonald to approve the above captioned ordinance, seconded by Councilmember Hughes, with all members of the Council present voting "aye."

CONSIDERATION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING AN AMENDMENT TO THE AGREEMENT WITH PARKHILL, SMITH AND COOPER, INC. FOR ENGINEERING SERVICES FOR THE BIRDWELL LIFT STATION PROJECT AND AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER OR HIS DESIGNEE TO EXECUTE ANY NECESSARY DOCUMENTS

Motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Hartman to approve the above captioned amendment, seconded by Councilmember Hughes, with all members of the Council present voting "aye."

COUNCIL INPUT

Mayor Thomason reminded everyone to keep taking precautions regarding COVID-19 and that City offices will open back up to the public on January 19, 2021 and City facilities will open back up for rentals on February 1, 2021. Mayor Thomason also asked citizens to “help control the pet population, spay or neuter your pets.”

Councilmember Ornelas requested several updates on complaints from citizens and would like to have a meeting with Mr. Darden on a regular basis. He also appreciated the large item pickup mail outs in his district and said that he would be working with ALSA to help clean up District One.

Councilmember Hughes congratulated the employees for their 25 years of service.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

ADJOURN INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PURPOSES PERMITTED BY THE OPEN MEETINGS ACT, SECTION § 551.071, TEXAS GOVERNMENT CODE, AND THE TEXAS DISCIPLINARY RULES OF PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT TO DISCUSS LITIGATION MATTERS.

Motion was made by Councilmember Ornelas to adjourn into executive session at 7:13 p.m., seconded by Councilmember McDonald, with all members of the Council present voting “aye”.

RECONVENE INTO OPEN SESSION AND TAKE ANY NECESSARY ACTION AT 8:22 P.M.

Motion was made by Councilmember Hughes to authorize outside counsel to negotiate a settlement with GEO Group as directed by the City Council, seconded by Councilmember McDonald, with all members of the Council present voting “aye”.

ADJOURN

Mayor Thomason adjourned the meeting at 8:24 p.m.



Shannon D. Thomason, Mayor

ATTEST:



Tami L. Davis, Assistant City Secretary