

**MINUTES  
OF  
CITY OF WHARTON  
SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
AUGUST 12, 2014**

Mayor Domingo Montalvo, Jr. declared a Special Meeting duly open for the transaction of business at 6:10 P.M.

Councilmembers present were: Mayor Domingo Montalvo, Jr., and Councilmembers Tim Barker, Al Bryant, Don Mueller, Steven Schneider and Russell Machann.

Councilmember absent was: Councilmember Jeff Gubbels.

Staff members present were: City Manager Andres Garza, Jr., Finance Director Joan Andel, City Secretary Paula Favors and Assistant to the City Manager Brandi Jimenez.

Visitors present were: Wharton Economic Director David Schroeder, Kay Shoppa, Lloyd Shoppa, Mike Hinze, Terry Hinze and Stewart Morris.

The second item on the agenda was roll call. Councilmember Don Mueller moved to excuse Councilmember Jeff Gubbels. Councilmember Russell Machann seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

The third item on the agenda was the City of Wharton 2014-2015 Fiscal Year Budget:

- A. Five Year Capital Improvement Program.
  - 1. Transportation Systems.
    - A. Streets.
    - B. Major Thoroughfares.

Mr. Stewart Morris stated to the City Council that it would be beneficial for a road to be constructed between FM 1301 and Highway 59. Mr. Morris discussed the future growth of the City of Wharton and the benefits a new roadway could bring. Mr. Mike Hinze, owner of Hinze's Bar-B-Que Restaurant, stated to the City Council that he had looked at several locations to relocate his restaurant and felt it was beneficial to have a location close to where the proposed FM 1301 extension would intersect with Highway 59. Mr. Lloyd Shoppa stated to the City Council that he supported the FM 1301 extension and discussed how it would bring economic growth to the community.

City Manager Andres Garza, Jr. discussed several initiatives that the City Council could consider submitting to the Wharton Economic Development Corporation Board for action. The initiatives were as follows:

1. That City Council consider the creation of a Parks and Recreation Fund in its proposed October 1, 2014 to September 30, 2015 budget. The budget for this fund would be \$150,000.00. The Wharton City Council would request the Wharton Economic Development Corporation Board allocate \$150,000.00 from its budget to fund this program. This would allow the City budget the capacity to establish a sustainable street improvement program for the next fiscal year.
2. That City Council request from the Wharton Economic Development Corporation Board removal from its proposed budget the \$600,000.00 for the FM 1301 Project. He said the amount needed from Wharton Economic Development Corporation was undetermined at the present time and could increase once final, Plans, Specifications, and Estimates (PS&E) had been completed and final bid costs were obtained. He said it was estimated that this amount would be available by January 2015.
3. That City Council request from the Wharton Economic Development Corporation Board an allocation to fund the construction of a road from CR 231 (Wilke Road) to CR 235 (Owens Road). City Manager Garza presented an estimate and map for the project. He said the total estimated cost was approximately \$926,200.00 with Phase I from US 59 to Wilke Road totaling \$486,090.00 and Phase II from Owens Road to US 59 totaling \$440,110.00. He said that the estimated amount would be for engineering, right-of-way acquisitions and material. He stated the construction would be undertaken by the City's Public Works Department with assistance from Wharton County.
4. That City Council request from the Wharton Economic Development Corporation participation with the City in the cost of a study to develop a future sustainable water supply. He said estimated cost of this study would be approximately \$200,000.00. He said the City Staff was reviewing how this study would be phased and costs for each phase.

2. Drainage System.
3. Water and Sewer Utility System.
  - A. Infrastructure.
  - B. Future Water Supply and Water Customers.
  - C. Beneficial/Reuse of Effluent.
4. Park System.
5. Sidewalk.
6. Flood Reduction Project-Levee.

- B. General Fund.
- C. Dispatching Services

City Manager Andres Garza, Jr. recommended City Council consider authorizing City Staff to contact Wharton County ESD #1 and Wharton County ESD #2 to discuss reimbursement for City dispatching services. City Manager Garza stated that the Wharton EMS department would be funding two dispatchers in fiscal year 2014-2015. After some discussion, Councilmember Al Bryant moved to authorize City Staff to contact Wharton County ESD #1 and Wharton County ESD #2 to discuss reimbursement for City dispatching services. Councilmember Tim Barker seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

- D. Fire Department Funding
- E. PEG Fund.

- F. Hotel Motel Fund.
- G. Narcotics Seizure Fund.
  
- H. Debt Fund.
- I. Capital Improvement Fund.
- J. Water & Sewer Fund.

City Manager Andres Garza stated the 2014-2015 fiscal year budget included a 3% increase in water and sewer rates.

- K. Solid Waste Fund.
- L. Emergency Medical Services Fund.
- M. Civic Center Fund.
- N. Airport Fund.

City Manager Andres Garza, Jr. and Finance Director Joan Andel presented the City of Wharton 2014-2015 fiscal year budget. City Manager Garza stated that it was a balanced budget in the general fund with no tax increase but an increase in utilities rates. City Manager Garza said the budget also included \$3,000 to S.P.O.T. and \$5,000 to the Wharton Crisis Center. Mrs. Andel stated that the proposed budget included a 3% pay increase for all full time City Employees.

The fourth item on the agenda was to review and consider the proposed 2014-2015 Wharton Economic Development Corporation Budget. City Manager Andres Garza, Jr. stated that the previous discussion on the initiatives the City had could be presented to the Wharton Economic Development Corporation. After some discussion, Councilmember Tim Barker moved to approve the afore mentioned initiatives and to send a letter to WEDCo requesting the initiatives. Councilmember Don Mueller seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

After discussing the proposed budget, no action was taken.

The meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

**CITY OF WHARTON, TEXAS**

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
**DOMINGO MONTALVO, JR.**  
Mayor

**ATTEST:**

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**PAULA FAVORS**  
City Secretary