

CITY OF ROSENBERG

WORKSHOP CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

On this the 23rd day of February, 2016, the City Council of the City of Rosenberg, Fort Bend County, Texas, met in a Workshop Session, in the Rosenberg City Hall Council Chamber, located at 2110 4th Street, Rosenberg, Texas.

Present: Cynthia A. McConathy, Mayor
William Benton, Councilor at Large, Position 1
Amanda J. Barta, Councilor at Large, Position 2
Jimmie J. Pena, Councilor, District 1
Susan Euton, Councilor, District 2
Lynn Moses, Councilor, District 4

Absent: Lisa Wallingford, Councilor, District 3

Staff Present: John Maresh, Interim City Manager
Cynthia Trevino, City Attorney
Linda Cernosek, City Secretary
Joyce Vasut, Executive Director of Administrative Services
Travis Tanner, Executive Director of Community Development
Charles Kalkomey, City Engineer
Tonya Palmer, Building Official
Dallis Warren, Police Chief
Wade Goates, Fire Chief
Randall Malik, Economic Development Director
Rigo Calzoncin, Public Works Director
James Lewis, Director of Technology
Jenny Pavlovich, Communications Manager
Kaye Supak, Executive Assistant

Call to order: City Hall Council Chamber

Mayor McConathy called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and thanked everyone who participated in the State of the City presentation earlier in the day.

AGENDA

1. **Review and discuss a presentation by CenterPoint Energy regarding tree planting in utility easements and rights-of-way, and take action as necessary to direct staff.**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Dominic Robinson, Service Area Director for CenterPoint Energy in Fort Bend County, will attend the meeting to present information regarding tree planting in utility easements and CenterPoint Energy's "Plant the Right Tree in the Right Place" campaign.

KEY DISCUSSION POINTS

Randall Malik, Economic Development Director, introduced Dominic Robinson and Gary O'Neal from CenterPoint Energy, who presented a "Plant the Right Tree in the Right Place" presentation. The number one cause of electrical outages is trees; either from trees interfering with power lines, untrimmed trees allowing animals access to power lines, or trees falling on power lines during weather events. CenterPoint and the City of Rosenberg work in conjunction with new developments to make sure that the trees that are planted are the right trees for their surroundings. CenterPoint also works with many third party companies to routinely trim trees in areas that need trimming. If citizens have concerns about trees that are too close to a power line, they can report the issue to CenterPoint at (713) 207-2222.

2. **Review and discuss a presentation on homestead exemptions for property taxes, and take action as necessary to direct staff.**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

During the FY2016 budget process, inquiries were made regarding the current homestead exemption available to home owners in the City of Rosenberg. The City currently offers a homestead exemption of one percent (1%) of the market value, or a minimum exemption of \$5,000.

An overview of the homestead exemptions offered by other cities within Fort Bend County is attached for review. Alternative options that the City could adopt, along with a timetable for implementing such a change if requested by City Council, will be presented at the meeting. Any changes to exemptions must be approved prior to July 01, 2016, for the 2016 tax year.

KEY DISCUSSION POINTS

Joyce Vasut, Executive Director of Administrative Services, read the Executive Summary and gave a presentation regarding Homestead Exemptions. Currently, 7,412 properties in the City of Rosenberg receive a homestead exemption, totaling \$37,071,110. Because the average homestead exemption home is valued at \$140,000 in the City, few homes receive an exemption of more than \$5,000. An increase in the homestead exemption to 5% from the current 1% would increase the average amount of homestead exemption to \$7,588, saving the average homeowner \$35.66 in taxes, and reducing the City's overall property tax revenue by a total of \$90,000. After discussion, Council expressed interest in increasing the homestead exemption to 5%, and asked that the option be presented during the next budget cycle.

3. **Review and discuss the City's banking services, and take action as necessary to direct staff.**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

On June 15, 2010, the City Council approved Resolution No. R-1162, authorizing the City Manager to execute the Depository Services Contract (Contract) with Amegy Bank of Texas for the period beginning July 01, 2010, and ending June 30, 2015, with the option to extend the Contract for one additional year. (Should City Council wish to review Resolution No. R-1162 in its entirety, the full document will be made available in the City Secretary's office in advance of the meeting.)

On June 02, 2015, City Council approved Resolution No. R-1970, extending the Contract for one additional year, effective through June 30, 2016.

At this time, staff is requesting City Council approval to seek proposals for banking services. The Request for Proposals will be issued in March 2016, and submitted proposals will be reviewed by the Finance/Audit Committee in April. A recommendation will be brought to City Council by the first meeting in May 2016.

KEY DISCUSSION POINTS

Joyce Vasut, Executive Director of Administrative Services, read the Executive Summary and explained that intermittent banking services proposals are required by City statute. As a result, Council directed staff to request proposals and move forward with the process.

4. **Review and discuss the proposed FY 2016 Street Paving and Reconstruction List, and take action as necessary to direct staff.**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Public Works Department would like to take this opportunity to submit the list of proposed streets to be overlaid and reconstructed for City Council's review. For FY 2016, the Public Works Department has identified a list of seventeen (17) street sections that have immediate needs, at a total estimated cost of \$2.6 million dollars.

The FY 2016 Budget includes funding in the amount of \$900,000.00. Additional funds in the approximate amount of \$281,316 are also available from FY 2014 and FY 2015 street paving projects making the total funds available \$1.18 million. (A large portion of the carryover funds were previously allocated to the J. Meyer Road reconstruction project, which is now ready to be completed.) Therefore, staff has prioritized a list of twelve (12) street sections that will fall within the budgeted amount. A list of the streets and a location map have been included for review.

Due to the continued backlog of work on the Fort Bend County Road and Bridge Department's work schedule, the FY 2016 proposed project list also includes the costs for a contractor to provide the necessary equipment and labor to complete the project. All of the material, labor and equipment costs are based on current Fort Bend County bids, with the exception of the subgrade stabilization for which the City already has a contract with Angel Brothers Enterprises, Ltd. (Resolution No. R-2025).

Staff would also note that a new water line is being designed for installation along Walger Avenue. Construction of the water line should occur in the mid to latter part of 2016. The Walger Avenue paving and reconstruction work will not be scheduled until such time the water line construction is completed.

Staff recommends approval of the twelve (12) prioritized street sections for the FY 2016 Street Overlay and Reconstruction Project list as presented, at the estimated cost of \$1.16 million. If City Council concurs, an action item will be placed on an upcoming Regular City Council Agenda for approval.

KEY DISCUSSION POINTS

Rigo Calzoncin, Public Works Director, read the Executive Summary and clarified that Herndon Drive would be reconstructed, whereas Mulcahy Street would be resurfaced. After discussion, Council advised that staff proceed with the first 12 streets on the list, and save the remaining 5 for the next budget year.

- 5. **Review and discuss a presentation on upgrades to the City's website, and take action as necessary to direct staff.**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This item has been included to provide an opportunity for staff to present planned upgrades to the City of Rosenberg website and allow for City Council input. The Communications and Information Services Departments have explored options for greater ease of connectivity and expanded responsive features across all digital media platforms that the public has come to expect in a website. Staff will present findings and seek direction from City Council on these proposed improvements.

KEY DISCUSSION POINTS

Jenny Pavlovich, Communications Director, gave the overview of the item, stating the limitations of the current City website. After conducting research and forming a website committee, staff recommends changing the City's web hosting company to Morning Star, which will provide a more flexible, mobile friendly website at a significantly reduced annual price after content migration. The general consensus of Council was to move forward with the proposed new web hosting company.

- 6. **Review and discuss potential revisions to the "Itinerant Vendors, Solicitors and Peddlers" Ordinance, and take action as necessary to direct staff.**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This item has been placed on the agenda at the request of Councilor Barta to review the Itinerant Vendors, Solicitors and Peddlers ordinance. Chapter 16, Article IV. Itinerant Vendors, Solicitors and Peddlers is included for review and discussion.

KEY DISCUSSION POINTS

Amanda Barta, Councilor, At Large Position Two, gave background on the item, explaining that citizens do not want solicitors going door-to-door, but do not want to call the police on something so seemingly insignificant. Dallis Warren, Police Chief, advised that the Police Department does not have the authority to enforce homeowners' association rules; instead, they must follow City Ordinances. Currently, the Ordinance has provisions that a solicitor is required to obtain a permit from the City, which will in turn issue an ID that they must carry. If a solicitor does not have the ID indicating a current permit, the Police Department can then restrict them from soliciting or issuing a citation. Chief Warren advised that the Police Department does not receive many calls from the public regarding solicitors, less than 20 calls per year, but the City also does not issue many permits. Citizens are encouraged to ask solicitors for proper identification, and to contact the Police Department if a solicitor does not have proper identification when going door-to-door. Cynthia Trevino, City Attorney, advised Council to update the Ordinance language to include specific time restraints, such as 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

- 7. **Adjournment.**

There being no further business, Mayor McConathy adjourned the meeting at 7:30 p.m.


Linda Cernosek, TRMC, City Secretary