



Minutes  
White Settlement City Council  
Meeting

City Hall  
214 Meadow Park Drive  
White Settlement, Texas

August 25, 2020  
6:30 p.m.

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## **THIS MEETING WAS HELD VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE**

The public was provided the agenda via the city's website as well as access to the meeting via the following statement:

*This Notice and Agenda, and Agenda Packet are available on the City's website. The public may access the meeting via the following link:*

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81465761223?pwd=ME0wZ1ZxWG0rc2RJZ3NJQzFmbGJlUT09>

*Please email the City Secretary at: [garold@wstx.us](mailto:garold@wstx.us) if you plan to provide comments during the meeting on public hearing items via videoconference. In order to facilitate the public hearings during the meeting, each name on the speaking list will be called at which time you will be provided an opportunity to comment. In lieu of participating in the meeting, you may also email your public hearing comments to the City Secretary at: [garold@wstx.us](mailto:garold@wstx.us) no later than one hour prior to the meeting, and any comments submitted will be read aloud during the respective public hearing.*

*Although this meeting will be held remotely via videoconference, the public may speak during the tax rate and budget public hearings in person at City Hall, where technology will be in place to allow participation in these hearings.*

### **CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor White called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM announcing a quorum of members present as follows: Council Member Paul Moore, Mayor Pro Tem Evelyn Spurlock, Council Member Amber Munoz, Council Member Christina Grudzinski, and Council Member Gregg Geesa.

Executive Staff present included City Manager, City Secretary, and City Attorney. Other staff present included Executive Administrative Assistant, Finance Director, Community Services Director, Communications Manager and City Marshals.

### **CITIZEN PARTICIPATION**

There were none.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Mayor White announced City Council would convene in Executive Session at 6:32 PM. after first reading the following statement:

Pursuant to the Texas Open Meetings Act, Chapter 551 of the Texas Government Code, the City Council may convene into Executive Session to deliberate regarding the following matters:

**Sec. 551.071 Consultation with Attorney.** The City Council reserves the right to adjourn into Executive Session at any time during the course of this meeting to seek legal advice from the City Attorney about any matters listed on the agenda, and the following topics:

- (a) November 3, 2020 General Election; eligibility requirements for public office; administrative declaration of ineligibility; and legal issues related to same.

### **RECONVENE IN OPEN SESSION**

Take action, if any, on items discussed in Executive Session.

Mayor White announced City Council reconvened from Executive Session at 6:51 PM.

No action was taken.

### **DELIBERATION AGENDA**

#### **HUMAN RESOURCES:**

- 2) Discuss and consider award of RFP #2020-006 for Employee Benefits Insurance.

Finance Director Krystal Crump (Foght) presented the item for Human Resource Director Shannon Jordan and explained the RFP. Finance Director Krystal Crump (Foght) provided staff recommendations to award Employee Benefits Insurance as follows at the recommendation of the city's benefits consultants:

- Blue Cross Blue Shield for medical insurance
- United Concordia for dental insurance

Council Member Geesa questioned the change in dental carrier asking what services were reduced to create the difference. Finance Director Krystal Crump (Foght) explained the benefits consultants compared the proposals stating both provide the same services with one at a better rate for the city.

**Mayor Pro Tem Spurlock made a motion to award RFP #2020-006 as presented for Employee Benefits Insurance. Council member Moore seconded the motion which carried with a vote of 4 to 1 as follows:**

<b>Council Member Moore</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mayor Pro Tem Spurlock</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Council Member Munoz</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Council Member Grudzinski</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Council Member Geesa</b>	<b>Nay</b>

- 3) Discuss and consider holding future meetings of the governing body and city boards via videoconference or in-person or a combination of the two.

City Manager Jeff James introduced the item at the request of a citizen and for those who do not have computers or access to equipment mentioning their concerns and referenced options.

Council members discussed health risks, current pandemic conditions, and mentioned two to three attend in person whereas twenty-five or more participate online. Members also discussed the option to continue zoom and offer in-person at City Hall until conditions improve.

**Council Member Moore made a motion to continue meetings as is (videoconference and in-person options). The motion was seconded by Council Member Geesa and carried unanimously.**

### **PUBLIC HEARINGS**

- 4) Hold a Public Hearing for Fiscal Year 2020 - 2021 Tax Rate.

Finance Director Krystal Crump (Foght) reviewed the proposed fiscal year 2020-2021 tax rate via the attached presentation.

Mayor White opened the Public Hearing at 7:09 PM

Eddie Delgado of 501 Comal addressed the City Council questioning whether the household increase is normal, below average or above average.

Finance Director Krystal Crump (Foght) mentioned new legislation changing the formerly allowed 8% to 3.5% stating each city has been affected differently by the new legislation and the covid-19 pandemic.

Hearing no other speakers Mayor White closed the Public Hearing at 7:12 PM.

Mayor White announced the proposed tax rate will be voted on at the regular meeting of the City Council on September 1, 2020 beginning at 7 PM.

5) Hold a Public Hearing for Fiscal Year 2020 - 2021 Operating Budgets.

Finance Director Krystal Crump (Foght) reviewed the proposed fiscal year 2020-2021 operating budgets via the attached presentation noting budget cuts within each department, reduction of staff, salary decrease for certain staff and no rate increases for employees. She mentioned not expecting to recoup losses resulting from the current covid-19 pandemic.

Mayor White and Council Members questioned and discussed

- anticipated recovery of any shortfall
- confusion over WEIR SPM status
- difficulties in preparing the budget due to new legislation and current pandemic
- code department concerns, compliance vs enforcement, and possibility of a volunteer citizen program for code issues

Staff stated

- complete recovery of the shortfall is not anticipated
- WEIR SPM status is questionable noting an announcement to sell, reduction of inventory, and significant decline in sales taxes
- Difficulties in creating a budget to fulfill citizen and council request while following new legislation and unforeseen limitations due to the current pandemic situation
- Changes in code department are not dissolving the department, duties of staff, goal of educating for compliance, and an increase in compliance

Mayor White opened the Public Hearing at 7:48 PM

Kathy Nichols representing the Library Board addressed the City Council in opposition to budget changes to the library budget, specifically page 37, stating books and video are an important part of library services used often by the library patrons.

Eddie Delgado of 501 Comal addressed the City Council in opposition to code enforcement changes of proposed operating budget by reading a lengthy statement on behalf of his wife. After reading this statement Mr. Delgado made a comment of his own suggesting the city look to the police department for ideas on retaining employees, concern of City Marshals appearance to code violators, and development of an oversight committee for code issues.

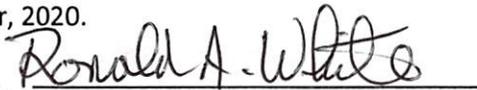
Hearing no other speakers Mayor White closed the Public Hearing at 8:02 PM.

Mayor White announced the proposed operating budget will be voted on at the regular meeting of the City Council on September 1, 2020 beginning at 7 PM.

**ADJOURNMENT**

With there being no further discussion, Mayor White adjourned the meeting at 8:02 PM.

Approved this 1<sup>st</sup> day of September, 2020.



Ronald A. White, Mayor



ATTEST:

  
Amy Arnold, City Secretary