

**CITY OF SCHULENBURG
SCHULENBURG, TX
August 16, 2021**

The City Council of the City of Schulenburg met in regular session on Monday, August 16th, 2021, at 6:00 P.M. in the Council Chambers located at 607 Upton Avenue, Schulenburg, Texas. The elected officials present included Mayor, Elaine Kocian, Aldermen, Wendy Fietsam, Ben Herzik, and Clarence Ahlschlager. City Staff present were City Administrator, Tami Walker, Chief of Police, Troy Brenek, Operations Manager, Darryl Moeller, and Human Resources Officer, Mason Florus.

Visitors included, Darrell Vyvjala of the Schulenburg Sticker, Reverend Andrew Stafford, Hollie Janecka of Strand Associates, Howard Stoner, James Brossmann, and Iván Velasquez.

Mayor Kocian called role and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Reverend Stafford said a prayer over the meeting and its members.

Alderman Thomas entered Council Chambers at 6:01 and took his seat at the Aldermen Dais.

Under Presentations by Citizens, Howard Stoner addressed Council. Mr. Stoner said he has been a resident of Schulenburg for 53 years. He asked Council who is in charge. He raised a complaint that it took five weeks to obtain a police report after he was told it would only take one. He then asked Council if police vehicles can carry family members. Mr. Stoner also asked how many employees have left since January, how many license operators do we have in Public Works, and why do we cater to some residents and "pick on" others.

Alderman Fietsam made a motion, seconded by Alderman Herzik, to accept Consent Agenda Items A, B, and C. The motion passed unanimously.

- (A) The minutes of the Regular Scheduled Meeting held on August 2, 2021
- (B) The minutes of the Budget Workshop Meeting held on August 9, 2021
- (C) The payment of current bills

Hollie Janecka of Strand Associates approached Council on awarding a bid for the new Ground Storage Tank (GST) at the Henderson Hill Water Plant.

Mrs. Janecka stated that bids were received on August 3rd with three bids coming in. Contractors bided concrete and steel tanks. The lowest bid was Legion Development LLC out of Georgetown Texas. They bid \$1,056,000 for the steel tank and \$1,111,000 for the concrete tank. Mrs. Janecka said that Strand has checked references and are confident in Legion's work.

Mrs. Janecka informed Council that the steel tank would have to be recoated about every 15 years. The concrete tank will not have to ever be recoated.

Alderman Herzik asked how much it would cost to recoat. Janecka replied between \$200,000 and \$300,000.

Alderman Fietsam asked how long these tanks last. Mrs. Janecka answered that the current tank was built in the 1950s. Most tanks have a lifespan of about 40 to 50 years.

Alderman Ahlschlager announced that he is in favor of a steel tank because it can be repaired easy should something ever happen. He continued, once a concrete tank leaks, there isn't much you can do.

Mrs. Janecka added that the current tank is partially submerged and a new steel tank would sit ground level.

Alderman Herzik inquired if everything was included in the bid. Mrs. Janecka said yes, it included demolition of the old tank and backfilling should the City go with a steel tank.

Alderman Fietsam wanted to know if a lot of cities have steel. Mrs. Janecka said yes, and a lot of Strand's clients in the Houston area have concrete.

Alderman Veselka entered Council Chambers at 6:16 and took his seat at the Aldermen Dais.

Alderman Ahlschlager stated that the coating has been getting better and with technological advancements, should be even better 15 years from now.

Alderman Thomas asked when the next time the tanks will be inspected. Alderman Ahlschlager replied April of 2022 is the next time the State will inspect. However, the City hires someone to inspect the tanks every year.

Alderman Ahlschlager made a motion, seconded by Alderman Thomas, to accept the bid for a steel tank. The motion passed unanimously.

Mrs. Walker led discussion on the Contract for Assessment and Collection Services with the Fayette County Appraisal District.

Mrs. Walker informed Council that the current contract will expire on December 31st, and the new proposed contract will be for an additional two years.

Alderman Veselka made a motion, seconded by Alderman Fietsam, to accept the new contract. The motion passed unanimously.

Mrs. Walker led discussion the Proposed Tax Rate.

Mrs. Walker informed Council that due to the new GST, the new lift station, the condition of some streets, The City is in need of additional revenue to provide core services. With that being said, Mrs. Walker proposed the 0.2187% Voter Approved Rate.

Alderman Ahlschlager stated that he's not in favor of raising the taxes because a lot of retirees, like himself, are living off a fixed income.

Alderman Fietsam announced that she took an average and this percentage only raises the price for the average home by \$12.40 or \$12.50, something like that.

Alderman Herzik pointed out that this is not the largest option and the City could raise it higher and still be within the bounds set by the legislature.

Alderman Veselka said that we're way behind in our rate compared to other towns like Weimar and Flatonia.

Alderman Veselka made a motion, seconded by Alderman Fietsam, to approve the 0.2187% tax rate. The motion passed unanimously.

Police Chief, Troy Brenek updated Council by saying he has really been working on code enforcement. Tami, Chief, and Sergeant Roggenkamp (Rusty) met with Chip Bubela of Keep Schulenburg Beautiful on ways to improve town. Chief stated that Rusty has been following up on over 20 plus code enforcement cases over the past couple weeks.

Operations Manager, Darryl Moeller, updated Council on the following:

- Electric Department cleaned up plugs after the Festival, installed temporary power at Ace Hardware, conducted meter changeouts, attended an LCRA meeting, and did some tree trimming.
- Water Department attended the GST bid, repaired a 1 ½ inch line and a 2-inch line both at the Sports Complex. They collected samples, flushed the dead-end lines, and read water meters.
- Street Department finished up around Wolters' Park, cut a tree down in the alley behind Simpson, and installed a new bearing at the sewer plant.
- Sewer Department did E.coli samples and worked on a headworks at Babylon.
- I met with the County Commissioners and worked with Commissioner Drew Brossmann to acquire more land to expand the County Barn Lift Station.

City Administrator, Tami Walker, updated Council on the following:

- Attended the bid opening
- Conducted interviews
- Mason and I will be attending the TMCA Legislative update in San Marcos, August 18-20th

Alderman Ahlschlager asked Mrs. Walker about Senate Bill 3. Mrs. Walker said she has not read up on it yet but she's sure Mason and herself will hear about it at the Legislative update.

Alderman Ahlschlager also inquired if the City had purchased the two new trucks. Mrs. Walker answered yes.

Alderman Veselka made a motion, seconded by Alderman Herzik, to adjourn at 6:38. The motion passed unanimously.