

**CITY OF SCHULENBURG
SCHULENBURG, TX
September 7, 2021**

The City Council of the City of Schulenburg met in regular session on Tuesday, September 7, 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, Gregg Thomas, Wendy Fietsam, Larry Veselka, 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, Loretta Baumgarten, Jeremy Baumgarten, Holly Hutchins Irwin, Shawn Irwin, Brian Lux, and Iván Velasquez.

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

Under Presentations by Citizens, Jeremy Baumgarten passed out packets to each Council Member and addressed the group. Baumgarten stated that he wishes to be put on the agenda for the next Council Meeting so he can explain the discrepancies he's found between the City Codes and the Texan Truck Stop. Baumgarten invited Council to contact him if they had any questions and thanked them for their time.

Alderman Veselka 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 16, 2021
- (B) The minutes of the Special Meeting held on August 23, 2021
- (C) The payment of current bills

Mrs. Walker led discussion on adopting the 2021 Tax Rate. Mrs. Walker informed Council that the City hosted a public hearing 15 minutes before the regularly scheduled Council Meeting. Mrs. Walker said that no citizens wished to speak at the hearing, and is recommending that the tax rate shall be .2187 and will generate more revenue than last year's budget by \$35,445 or 4.14 %.

Mrs. Walker stated that we have been in agreement that Schulenburg is considered to be behind other communities in relation to the tax rate. Citizens deserve and expect the City to provide services to them and in order to accomplish this, she recommends this increase to the ad valorem tax.

Alderman Thomas made a motion, seconded by Alderman Veselka, to adopt the proposed tax rate. The motion passed unanimously.

Mrs. Walker led discussion on setting a Budget Public Hearing Date for the FY2021-2022. Mrs. Walker proposed Monday, September 20th at 5:45 P.M. before the regularly scheduled Council Meeting.

Alderman Herzik made a motion, seconded by Alderman Fietsam, to set the Budget Public Hearing date for Monday September 20th at 5:45 P.M. The motion passed unanimously.

Mrs. Walker led discussion on revising and setting rates for Water and Sewer rates for the City. City Ordinance states that the first 3,000 gallons is the minimum. The new Residential Minimum Water Rates will be \$21 for water and \$19 for sewer (based on three-month winter averaging). Commercial rates will be \$24 for water and \$26.75 for sewer (based on three-month winter averaging). Heavy Industrial minimum will be \$20 for water.

Mrs. Walker said the ordinance also states that starting October 1, 2021, the water and sewer minimum charge will be increased a rate of \$1.00 per year for a five-year term unless the governing body changes and/or discontinues the rate schedule.

Alderman Thomas made a motion, seconded by Alderman Ahlschlager, to adopt the revised water and sewer fees. The motion passed unanimously.

Mrs. Walker led discussion on adopting Appendix A – Schedule of Fees in addition to the City's core services. The changes were noted as increasing the water and sewer rates. The only addition was the rental of the Big Fans under the Pavilion. They are \$10/ Hour with a minimum of 4 hours.

Mrs. Walker also raised the question about possibly renting out the Council Chambers. Alderman Fietsam asked if we have ever rented them out before. Mrs. Walker replied no it's primary use is PD and or Employee training, EDC meetings, and other City related organization meetings. Council agreed that if we have not rented out in the past there is no need to start now.

Alderman Fietsam stated that she was fine with the City continuing to utilize the Council Chambers like we have been.

Alderman Fietsam made a motion, seconded by Alderman Thomas, to adopt Appendix A Schedule of Fees. The motion passed unanimously.

Municipal Court Judge, Kayla Peters, and Library Director, Thadious Polasek's reports were presented in Council's packets.

Chief Brenek reported that he and Sergeants McFadden and Roggenkamp have been attending training. This training will allow PD to comb through the data in the incident reports and give PD better feedback on where auto accidents, vehicle burglaries, and code enforcement violations occur.

Chief also stated that the officers are averaging 160 calls a week. This system will make it easier to enter data.

Chief wanted to thank County Attorney Peggy Supak, who has agreed to pay for additional online training for our officers. Once the Commissioners' Court approves, our officers will be allowed to receive the online training.

Operations Manager, Darryl Moeller, was asked by Alderman Veseika about a sycamore tree on Loop 222. Moeller said yes it needs to be trimmed. Alderman Herzik mentioned another spot with low hanging limbs by the Welborn property. Moeller answered that that will be a winter project. He said that the guys will go around town with the lift and trim trees like we did several years ago.

Moeller then reported the following on Public Works:

- The Wastewater Department had three lift stations go down. Ben Jahn welded a part and saved the City money on having to order parts to fix the problem. They also assisted the Water Department in repairing a fire hydrant at the corner of Baumgarten and Williams
- The Electric Department had multiple outages, ran services, trimmed trees, replace street lights
- The Water Department repaired a ¾ inch line on Russek, worked on a leak on Summit, repaired an 8-inch line at Baumgarten and Wolters. Moeller wanted to welcome back Travis "Bubba" Wagner. Wagner left on great terms and was gone for about a month but returned back to Public Works and the Water Department
- The Street Department put all the flags out around town, patched in Meadowcreek, cleaned up the corner of Demel and Summit, hauled fill dirt from La Grange, and repaired the gate rails at Wolters Park

City Administrator, Tami Walker, reported the following to Council:

- Met with Fayette County Emergency Management Coordinator, Craig Moereau
- Mason and I attended the TMCA Legislative Update in San Marcos
- Had a phone conference with grant writer, Judy Langford
- Met with City Staff about the County Barn Lift Station
- Rode around town with Mayor and Alderman Veselka to determine where the flags should be displayed
- Have been working with the attorney on the Employee Handbook
- Have been working with a surveyor on the Brenda Shelby property by the Expo Center
- End of the month transfers

At 6:27, Council adjourned into Executive Session to discuss the following pursuant to Government Code, Section 551.072 Deliberation about Real Property.

No action was taken in Executive Session.

Alderman Veselka made a motion, seconded by Alderman Thomas, to adjourn out of Executive Session at 8:07 P.M. The motion passed Unanimously.