

**CITY OF SCHULENBURG  
SCHULENBURG, TX  
September 18, 2023**

The City Council of the City of Schulenburg met in regular session on Monday, September 18, 2023, at 6:30 P.M. in the Council Chambers located at 607 Upton Avenue, Schulenburg, Texas. The elected officials present included Mayor, Connie Koopmann, Aldermen, Frank Wick III, Larry Veselka, Scott Stoner, and Clarence Ahlschlager. City Staff present were City Administrator, Tami Walker, Operations Manager, Darryl Moeller, Accounts Payable, Julie Cernosek, Police Sergeant, Tobey McFadden, and City Secretary, Mason Florus.

Visitors included, Layne Vyvjala of the Schulenburg Sticker, Pastor Lemea Higgs, Planning and Zoning Chairperson, Tina Bohlmann, Glenn and Gina Harden, Helen Niesner, Catherine Burns, Hollie Janecka of Strand Associates, and Bradley Loehr with BEFCO.

Mayor Koopmann called role. Pastor Lemea said a prayer over the meeting and its members. Mayor Koopmann led the Pledge of Allegiance and the Texas Pledge.

Mrs. Walker read a Proclamation recognizing National Voter Registration Day. Helen Niesner and Catherine Burns spoke about the League of Women Voters of South-Central Texas. Mrs. Niesner stated the league serves five counties including Fayette. She said the biggest service the league provides is their voting guides. Mrs. Niesner concluded that the league is publishing a guide for this November listing the pros and cons of each State Constitutional Amendment on the upcoming ballot.

Alderman Veselka made a motion, seconded by Alderman Stoner, to accept Consent Agenda Items A and B. The motion passed unanimously.

- A. Minutes from the Regular Scheduled Council Meeting held on September 5, 2023
- B. Payment of Current Bills

Planning and Zoning Chairperson, Tina Bohlmann, reported to Council the results of a replat request of a Commercial Property located at 108 Kessler Ave., Schulenburg, Texas, to divide into two separate lots for the purpose of selling the two lots separately. Mrs. Bohlmann stated there was no opposition and the board recommends dividing the property.

Alderman Veselka made a motion, seconded by Alderman Stoner, to accept P&Z's recommendation. The motion passed unanimously.

Planning and Zoning Chairperson, Tina Bohlmann, reported to Council the results of a replat request of a Commercial Property located on S. Main Street owned by Schwenke Baumgarten Funeral Home to divide into two separate lots for the purpose of selling or gift deeding one lot and retaining the other. Mrs. Bohlmann announced to Council that there was no opposition and the board recommends dividing the property.

Alderman Veselka made a motion, seconded by Alderman Wick, to accept P&Z's recommendation. The motion passed unanimously.

Mrs. Walker invited Hollie Janecka, with Strand Associates, to inform Council on awarding a construction contract for the TxCDBG Grant #CDV21-0393 – City of Schulenburg's Water Improvement project.

Mrs. Janecka professed to Council that bids were opened September 7, and two bids were received. Texan Municipal & Industrial submitted a bid for \$451,169, and McDonald Municipal and Industrial submitted a bid for \$439,000. Mrs. Janecka announced that Strand has worked with McDonald in the past and it is her recommendation to award them as the contractor.

Alderman Ahlschlager made a motion, seconded by Alderman Veselka, to grant McDonald Municipal Industrial the project. The motion passed unanimously.

Mrs. Walker invited Bradley Loehr, with BEFCO Engineering, to speak to Council concerning awarding a construction contract for the James Avenue Waterline Improvements – Simpson Street to North Side of US HWY 90 Project.

Mr. Loehr announced to Council that this project was originally going to be James Ave. South of Simpson but with several water leaks occurring north of Simpson, there was an emergency stage initiated to repair the line between Simpson and 90.

Mr. Loehr continued that they received two bids, from M & C Fonseca Construction for \$457,228 and WJC Construction Services for \$416,322.30. Mr. Loehr announced that WJC still needs to file a permit with the Railroad so that will be another \$50,000 plus.

Alderman Veselka made a motion, seconded by Alderman Wick, to award WJC as contractor. The motion passed unanimously.

Mrs. Walker led discussion on a proposal from Mr. B Fireworks, Inc., for fireworks display in conjunction with the Schulenburg Sesquicentennial. Alderman Wick announced he will be abstaining from the vote due to a conflict of interest.

Mrs. Walker explained that this motion was tabled at the last meeting and needed to be addressed. Mrs. Walker said that Chamber of Commerce Executive, Terri Wagner, looked into a laser light show as an alternative and that could cost anywhere from \$5,500 to \$20,000.

Alderman Veselka made a motion, seconded by Alderman Ahlschlager, to decline the proposal of a firework show. The motion passed unanimously with Alderman Wick abstaining.

Mrs. Walker invited Accounts Payable, Julie Cernosek, to lead discussion on Approving and Adopting Annual Municipal Budget Amendments to the General Fund for the Fiscal Year 2022-2023 beginning October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022 and ending September 30<sup>th</sup>.

Mrs. Cernosek informed Council that each department line item can only be over 10% so the City trades money within departments to cover loses. Mrs. Cernosek iterated that the economy and higher electricity cost were the main culprits.

The following Budget Amendments were presented:

**Office and Management:**

- \$5,000 added to Computer Consultant / \$5,000 deducted from Engineering
- \$6,100 added to Office Equipment / \$6,100 deducted from PD Vehicle
- \$5,000 added to Contract Labor / \$5,000 deducted from PD Vehicle
- \$41,800 added to Salary / \$30,000 deducted from Contract Labor & \$11,800 deducted from PD Salary
- \$3,500 added to Social Security Tax / \$3,500 deducted from Contract Labor
- \$10,500 added to Group Insurance / \$10,500 deducted from Operating Salary
- \$13,300 added to Retirement Plan / \$13,300 deducted from Operating Salary

**Sports Complex:**

- \$12,900 added to Contract Labor / \$12,900 deducted from PD Salary
- \$5,500 added to Land and Improvement / \$5,500 deducted from PD Salary
- \$4,898 added to Building / \$4,898 deducted from PD Salary
- \$26,500 added to Salary / \$26,500 deducted from Civic Center Building
- \$2,500 added to Social Security Tax / \$2,500 deducted from Civic Center Building
- \$7,100 added to Retirement Plan / \$7,100 deducted from Civic Center Building
- \$7,100 added to Group Insurance / \$7,100 deducted from Civic Center Building

**Swimming Pool:**

- \$2,000 added to Electricity / \$2,000 deducted from PD Salary

Alderman Wick asked if this was normal for payroll. Mrs. Cernosek replied not generally for payroll. She continued that there were some employees' wages distributed incorrectly and we are working with the software company to resolve.

Alderman Veselka made a motion, seconded by Alderman Ahlschlager, to approve the Budget Amendments. The motion passed unanimously.

Mrs. Walker presented an Ordinance Adopting the Annual Municipal Budget for FY 2023-2024, Beginning October 1<sup>st</sup> and ending September 30<sup>th</sup>.

Alderman Wick made a motion, seconded by Alderman Ahlschlager, to accept the Budget for the FY 2023-2024. The vote occurred as a roll call vote and the results are as follows:

Alderman Greg Thomas – Absent  
Alderman Frank Wick III – Yes  
Alderman Scott Stoner – Yes  
Alderman Clarence Ahlschlager – Yes  
Alderman Larry Veselka – Yes

Mrs. Walker led discussion on Ratifying the Tax Increase Reflected in the Adopted Annual Municipal Budget for Fiscal Year 2023-2024, beginning October 1<sup>st</sup> and ending September 30<sup>th</sup>.

Alderman Veselka made a motion, seconded by Alderman Stoner, to ratify the tax increase. The motion passed unanimously.

Mrs. Walker led discussion on an Ordinance Adopting the 2023 Tax Rate.

Alderman Veselka made a motion, seconded by Alderman Wick, to adopt the ordinance. The vote occurred as a roll call vote and the results are as follows:

Alderman Greg Thomas – Absent  
Alderman Frank Wick III – Yes  
Alderman Scott Stoner – Yes  
Alderman Clarence Ahlschlager – Yes  
Alderman Larry Veselka – Yes

Mrs. Walker led discussion on Adopting an Investment Policy Resolution for the City of Schulenburg.

Alderman Veselka made a motion, seconded by Alderman Ahlschlager, to adopt the policy. The motion passed unanimously.

Mrs. Walker led discussion on Approving the 2023-2024 Schulenburg Economic Development Corporation (SEDC) Budget.

Alderman Wick made a motion, seconded by Alderman Veselka, to approve the budget. The motion passed unanimously.

Operations Manager, Darryl Moeller, reported to Council that Russek St. is finished and everything turned out great. The Straight Truck was delivered today and they can start picking up containers later this week. Lastly, there is another leak on Anderson right now as the meeting is being conducted.

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

- September 7<sup>th</sup>, Bid Openings for the TxCDBG Water Generators
- September 11<sup>th</sup>, Darryl, and I attended a meeting with LCRA about the Substation
- September 13<sup>th</sup>, attended the EDC Meeting. The EDC approved \$15,000 for brand new street signs throughout town and \$6,000 to go towards Parks and Rec.
- September 14<sup>th</sup>, Bid Openings for the James Ave. Waterline
- October 3-6 Darryl, Chief, and I will attend the TML Conference

Alderman Veselka asked what color the street signs will be. Mrs. Walker answered black and white and they will also include the block numbers. Alderman Veselka also inquired about the

curb being busted up on East Ave. Moeller replied that the property owner is waiting to haul the busted concrete away, then they'll start forming the parking lot.

Before adjourning into an Executive Session, Mayor Koopmann asked City Mechanic, Glenn Harden, and City Administrator, Tami Walker, if they wished to have an open or closed session for their respected agenda items. Mr. Harden answered open while Mrs. Walker replied, closed.

Mayor Koopman led discussion related to the evaluation of employee Glenn Harden. Mayor Koopmann said that since this is open, she wished to relay that when the incident with Mr. Harden first occurred, she offered to meet with every Councilmember individually and Alderman Wick and Stoner declined. She also reiterated that Council does not micromanage and has no authority to terminate.

Alderman Wick stated that he declined because he was worried about being part of a walking quorum. Alderman Stoner stated that he wished to discuss the item in executive session. Mayor Koopman answered that the issue was handled based on the advice from the attorney.

Mrs. Walker asked how this was an evaluation of Mr. Harden. If Council wished to question the disciplinary actions, they should move to enter an executive session.

At 7:30 P.M., City Council adjourned into an Executive Session pursuant to 551.074 Personnel Matters regarding the deliberation of the (Appointment, Employment, Evaluation, Reassignment, Duties, Discipline, or Dismissal of a Public Officer or Employee; or to hear a Complaint or Charge Against an Officer or Employee) Open Meeting Act. Tex. Gov't Code, Council will meet in Executive Session to discuss the following:

- A. Discussion of evaluation, duties, and disciplinary actions taken by the City Administrator with employee, Glenn Harden.

Council adjourned out of Executive Session at 8:24. There was no action taken.

Alderman Stoner made a motion, seconded by Alderman Ahlschlager, to adjourn the meeting at 8:26. The motion passed unanimously.