

City of Wimberley
City Hall, 221 Stillwater
Wimberley, Texas
Minutes of Special Meeting of City Council
September 21, 2016 at 6:00 p.m.

City Council meeting called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Mayor Mac McCullough

Councilmembers Present: Mayor Mac McCullough; Councilmembers Craig Fore, Sally Gibson Trapp, Gary Barchfeld, and John White. Councilmember Bob Dussler was absent.

Staff Present: City Administrator Don Ferguson

1. Resolution

Consider approval of a resolution of the City Council of the City of Wimberley, Texas, adopting the City of Wimberley Budget for the Fiscal Year beginning October 1, 2016 and ending September 30, 2017. (*City Administrator*)

This item was heard after Agenda Item 2.

Mayor McCullough called on former Mayor Steve Thurber, who signed up to speak on this item. Former Mayor Thurber applauded Council for its previous discussions in favor of keeping the Budget conservative and balanced. He asked that Council reconsider its reduction in the amount funds allocated for capital improvements related to roads and drainage. He provided history on the City's reserve fund, which has grown since incorporation to more than \$1,000,000. He noted past Council action allocating excess funds from the City's reserves, when those reserves exceeded \$1,000,000, for the purpose of capital improvements. Former Mayor Thurber stated that Council is not spending more than it is taking in, but it is spending what has been saved (an overage) from the previous year. He also noted that the aforementioned overage comes from greater than anticipated revenues, spending under amounts budgeted for, or a combination thereof. He asked that Council reconsider its decision and felt using excess reserves for capital road improvements is money well-spent. In addition, former Mayor Thurber asked Council to consider the people who work hard for the City and said it has been a long time since they have received a meaningful increase in pay.

Mayor McCullough spoke on how the Budget has survived despite setbacks over the years and concurred with former Mayor Thurber that the \$1,000,000 reserve amount is comfortable. He advocated re-addressing the \$100,000 trimmed from the Budget and cited the need for improved roads.

Barbara Hopson said she hoped to speak on the Hays County bond issue before Council took action in support of the proposed bonds. She felt that tonight's meeting contained a bit of "sleight of hand" and lacked transparency, as this is a special meeting not held on a regular meeting night. Ms. Hopson said her main concern is the road bond proposition and specifically what will happen to FM 150. She stated the people who live along FM 150 do not want it

changed and cited Hays County's Transportation Plan map showing FM 150 as a divided, four-lane road, with 150-foot wide right of way all the way from I-35 to up above Dripping Springs on the west side of Highway 290. She spoke of a planned Driftwood subdivision and the impact of changes to FM 150 on promotion of the subdivision as a rural retreat. Ms. Hopson spoke of her conversations with Hays County Precinct Three Commissioner Conley and her request to remove FM 150 from any planned expansion, which she said statistics show is not needed. Ms. Hopson expressed concerns regarding the amount of debt incurred by Hays County and the raising of that debt should the proposed bonds be approved. She said even though the tax rate has slightly decreased, appraisals have gone up mightily, which will raise taxes for everyone whose properties have appreciated. Ms. Hopson was concerned that use of terms such as "safety and mobility" as criteria for use of bond money are too general and does not specify how it would be spent. She felt that ballot language for the proposed bonds allows Hays County commissioners to do anything they wish with roads, which many people feel gives them too much power with less-than-stellar transparency.

Mayor McCullough said he thought the handwritten sign-in sheet for speakers listed Ms. Hopson's item as the "budget" resolution agenda item, rather than "bond," apologized to Ms. Hopson, and noted that his misreading was not intentional.

City Administrator Ferguson detailed \$100,000 in specific budget cuts in accordance with Council's direction. He presented information on payment of the remaining \$54,000 associated with the TWDB loan for planning and design of the Central Wimberley Wastewater Project.

Mayor McCullough opened discussion and clarification was provided by City Administrator Ferguson to Councilmember Trapp on Council's ability to spend excess fund balance on road project(s) later in the year by way of a budget amendment. Councilmember Fore favored balancing the budget and allocating any expenditure of excess funds at a later date, if needed. Councilmember Barchfeld felt Mayor McCullough and City Administrator Ferguson did a good job on the Budget and were conservative on revenue estimates. He said Council could come back later and make adjustments for items such as roads. He favored continuation of Council's policy to build "a nice nest egg for the City" and preserve the City's reserves.

Mayor McCullough approved of revisiting allocating funds for road improvements following the completion of the City's annual audit. He expressed concerns regarding reports of slow sales activity from local businesses and remained cautious about revenues. Councilmember Barchfeld asked about the subject of employee salaries brought up by former Mayor Thurber and Mayor McCullough said he had a brief discussion with City Administrator Ferguson on this issue. City Administrator Ferguson noted his decline of any pay increase and advised recent employee salary adjustments were made due to realignment of staff. He stated this is an issue for Council to decide and said Council can revisit possible mid-year adjustments for cost of living, if desired. Councilmember White said that health insurance is a non-taxable "hidden salary" to employees and City Administrator Ferguson stated that staff has worked hard to find a benefit package that works and helps attract and retain employees. City Administrator Ferguson said staff is respectful of the City's limited revenue sources and is appreciative of benefits provided. Mayor McCullough recognized the amount paid for employee benefits and was comfortable with it at this time.

Councilmember Fore moved to adopt the resolution to approve the Budget, as presented, including the following (as read by City Administrator Ferguson): “On August 19, 2013, the Wimberley City Council approved an Ordinance authorizing the issuance and sale of \$650,000 in Combination Tax and Surplus Revenue Anticipation Notes (Series 2013) to fund the planning and design of a central Wimberley wastewater system. The referenced Ordinance established an ad valorem tax to fund the debt service requirements on the Notes. At this time, rather than utilize the authorized ad valorem tax to fund the required debt service, the City Council approved the use of existing City revenues to meet the City’s debt obligation. Prior to the City Council’s August 19, 2013 action, the City of Wimberley did not have an established ad valorem tax. That said, the FY 2017 Annual Budget raises no ad valorem tax revenues.” Councilmember White seconded.

Mayor McCullough called for a vote as follows: Councilmember Fore, aye; Councilmember Trapp, aye; Councilmember Barchfeld, aye; Councilmember White, aye. Motion carried on a vote of 4-0.

2. Presentation

Presentation by Hays County Precinct Three Commissioner Will Conley regarding the Hays County Road Bond Propositions relating to transportation and public safety improvements that will go before Hays County voters on November 8, 2016. (*Hays County Precinct Three Commissioner Will Conley*)

This item was heard before Agenda Item 1.

Commissioner Conley presented information on Proposition No. 1 to help fund needed improvements to update and expand Hays County jail facilities and communications/operations centers in order to provide a more efficient environment and a higher level of public safety for law enforcement, first responders, and citizens.

Hays County Sheriff Gary Cutler spoke on specific public safety needs and measures implemented to extend the life of existing overcrowded jail/staff facilities and avoid outsourcing for as long as possible.

Speaking on Proposition No. 2, Commissioner Conley provided examples of transportation safety improvements, including maintenance, expansion, or upgrades to specific roadways, right-of-way acquisition for anticipated future roadways, pedestrian/bicycle mobility, environmental mitigation/conservation, and leverage for possible allocation of state/federal funds. He reviewed past transportation projects resulting from bonds passed in 2008 and the successful partnership of Hays County and the State of Texas. He cited specific roadways/improvements that would not be included in any projects to be paid for with Proposition No. 2 funding. He believed that these two bond proposals would not require any changes to Hays County’s tax rate, if passed, and spoke of the financial health of Hays County and its AA bond rating.

Discussion addressed possible future development/funding of sidewalks within Wimberley, and explanation of collaborative inter-jurisdictional funding strategies.

3. Discussion and Possible Action

- A. Discuss and consider possible action regarding the Hays County Bond Propositions relating to transportation and public safety improvements that will go before Hays County voters on November 8, 2016. (*Mayor Mac McCullough*)

Councilmember Fore moved to support the Hays County Bond Propositions. Councilmember White seconded. Mayor McCullough answered affirmatively to an audience member who questioned whether discussion would take place.

Mayor McCullough opened discussion and Councilmember Barchfeld felt it appropriate to take action indicating support for the proposed bonds. Motion carried on a vote of 4-0.

Commissioner Conley thanked Council and stated more information on the proposed bonds is available on the Hays County website or by contacting his office.

- B. Discuss and consider possible action amending the Fiscal Year 2016 City of Wimberley General Fund, Wastewater, Municipal Court and Blue Hole Budgets for the purpose of accounting for actual and anticipated expenditures and revenues, and declaring adjustments as a necessity. (*City Administrator*)

No discussion or action was taken on this item, which will be continued until Council’s Special meeting to be held next week.

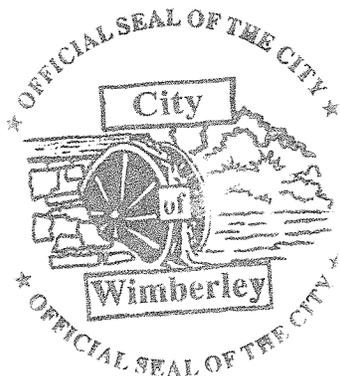
Adjourn

Mayor McCullough called the meeting adjourned at 7:17 p.m.

Recorded by:

Cara McPartland
 Cara McPartland

These minutes approved on the 6th of October, 2016.



APPROVED:

[Signature]

Mac McCullough, Mayor