

MINUTES
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
SEPTEMBER 6, 2016

CALL TO ORDER – Roll Call and Determination of a Quorum

The Parker City Council met in a regular meeting on the above date at Parker City Hall, 5700 E. Parker Road, Parker, Texas, 75002.

Mayor Z Marshall called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. Council members Scott Levine, Lee Pettle, Cleburne Raney, Ed Standridge, and Patrick Taylor were present.

Staff Present: City Administrator Jeff Flanigan, Finance/H.R. Manager Johnna Boyd, City Secretary Patti Scott Grey, City Attorney Jim Shepherd, Fire Chief Mike Sheff, Assistant Fire Chief Mark Barnaby, and Police Chief Richard Brooks

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

AMERICAN PLEDGE: Hugh Lewis led the pledge.

TEXAS PLEDGE: David Leamy led the pledge.

MOMENT OF SILENCE

Mayor Marshall asked for a moment of silence for former Councilmember Tom Stone. He passed away peacefully at his home in Parker on September 1, 2016.

David Leamy, 5801 Rathbone Drive, asked when former Councilmember Stone's internment would be. Mayor Marshall said his service was earlier today.

Councilmember Standridge commended Mayor Marshall for the wonderful eulogy he gave on former Councilmember Stone's behalf.

Mayor Marshall spoke briefly of plans to name a street in Tom Stone's honor. He said Mayor Pro Tem made the suggestion and Developer Stephen Sallman agreed to name a street in one of the new developments in his honor. The Mayor thanked both gentlemen.

PUBLIC COMMENTS The City Council invites any person with business before the Council to speak. No formal action may be taken on these items at this meeting. Please keep comments to 3 minutes.

No comments

INDIVIDUAL CONSIDERATION ITEMS

1. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES FOR JULY 20, 2016. [SCOTT GREY]

MOTION: Councilmember Pettle moved to approve July 20, 2016 City Council minutes, as presented. Councilmember Taylor seconded with Councilmembers Levine, Pettle, Raney, Standridge, and Taylor voting for the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

2. CONSIDERATION AND/OR ANY APPROPRIATE ACTION ON ORDINANCE NO. 740, ADOPTING THE 2016 TAX RATE. [MARSHALL]

Mayor Marshall asked City Attorney Shepherd to address an issue Staff discovered this afternoon. After an inquiry by Finance/H.R. Manager Boyd, Collin County indicated they erred by transposing numbers. The numbers Collin County provided, which were used to calculate the effective tax rate and the rollback rate, resulted in a \$37 million error. Those results or numbers were used in required newspaper advertising and city website notices/postings and they were off. Specifically, because the tax worksheets provided by Collin County were incorrect. That made the tax increase, specifically, the percentage increase appear much worse than it was. The laws states if this was done in bad faith the citizens had a right to an injunction to stop the tax rate increase. The City did not do that, in fact, as soon as the error was discovered it was brought to the attention of Collin County, they have acknowledged their transposition error, and worked to correct the error. City Attorney Shepherd said though unfortunate, the error was being corrected and defendable.

Mayor Marshall thanked Finance/H.R. Manager Boyd for her diligent work in getting the error corrected.

MOTION: Councilmember Taylor moved that the property tax rate be increased by the adoption of a tax rate of 0.365984, which is effectively a 12.46 percent increase in the tax rate [This motion approved Ordinance No. 740, adopting the 2016 Tax Rate]. Councilmember Standridge seconded with Councilmembers Levine, Pettle, Raney, Standridge, and Taylor voting for the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

3. CONSIDERATION AND/OR ANY APPROPRIATE ACTION ON ORDINANCE NO. 741, ADOPTING THE 2016-2017 BUDGET. [MARSHALL]

Mayor Marshall noted the corrected budget cover page (See Exhibit 1 – City of Parker, Fiscal Year 2016-2017, Budget Cover Page, September 6, 2016). He then asked if there were any questions or comments. He asked City Attorney Shepherd if there was any particular language required for this item. City Attorney Shepherd said no. This required language was for the last item, adopting the 2016 Tax Rate. The motion would be to adopt the budget.

MOTION: Councilmember Standridge moved to approve Ordinance No. 741, adopting the 2016-2017 Budget, as stated. Mayor Marshall said we have a motion to approve Ordinance No. 741, adopting the 2016-2017 Budget with the corrected budget cover page attached. Councilmember Taylor seconded.

Mayor Marshall asked if there was any discussion. Councilmember Pettle said she had a comment about the budget. Ms. Pettle said she was a little uncomfortable with the Fire Department's request. They are requesting to add up all of the various funding sources for personnel, some \$200,000. She said the problem was it appeared they were moving toward a paid fire department, but City Council has no information or explanation whether this was what the City wanted or needed to do, what we should do or anything, at this point in time. In April, City Council gave the fire department permission and money for two (2) paid employees to see how that would work, effective June 1st through October 1st unless we continued. City Council received no feedback. We do not know if it improved service, if we are throwing good money away, or the legalities. She said she was also concerned about moving forward without input from our citizens.

Mayor Marshall clarified Councilmember Pettle had no other issues with the budget other than the fire department. No other councilmembers had a problem with the budget. The Mayor recognized Mayor Pro Tem Levine, because he worked closely with the fire department on the issue. Mayor Pro Tem asked Fire Chief Sheff to come forward to confirm his summarization of the matter. The new aspect to the budget would be the weekend part time paid portion for approximately \$45,000. Everything else was done previously. Chief Sheff agreed.

Mayor Pro Tem Levine addressed Councilmember Pettle, stating this budget did not take effect until October 1. He clarified Councilmember Pettle's concerns, 1) we did not have the consultant and 2) we do not have the information, in your view, to determine whether these programs instituted were working. He suggested, since the new piece to the budget was approximately \$45,000, City Council approve the budget, and at the same time authorize you to meet with Chief Sheff and Finance/H.R. Manager Boyd to gather and review some of the information you inquired about tonight. Councilmember Pettle would report back to City Council around the beginning of October. In the interim, the fire department would not start any weekend part time paid personnel, until we get this issue resolved. Councilmember Pettle agreed, but noted the two (2) part time paid positions were only authorized until October 1. Mayor Pro Tem said Councilmember Pettle would not be limited to this subject, but would be able to discuss any concern she might have and report back to City Council. At that time, City Council and City Staff could make a policy decision on how to spend that money at the beginning of October. He asked if that was a reasonable suggestion. Mayor Marshall said that sounded like a reasonable plan. The Mayor then reminded everyone the next regularly scheduled meeting was Tuesday, September 20, 2016. The following meeting, Tuesday, October 4, 2016 was on tonight's agenda to be canceled, due to National Night Out. He asked if that was something that could be completed in the next two (2) weeks. Councilmember Pettle said she was available if Chief Sheff and Finance/H.R. Manager Boyd were. City Administrator Flanigan said there might be some difficulty since Finance/H.R. Manager Boyd would be on vacation. Chief Sheff asked if Councilmember Pettle could meet with him. Ms. Pettle said she would like Finance/H.R. Manager Boyd's input on the finances, human resources, and potential problems.

Mayor Pro Tem asked Chief Sheff if it would put him in a difficult position to say we will not have any expenditures on that line item. Chief Sheff said he could go two (2)

weeks without the personnel. Councilmember Pettle would report back to City Council October 18, 2016. City Attorney Shepherd said City Council could proceed with the approval of the budget, including in that motion there would be no expenditures from that line item until City Council made a decision on October 18th. Chief Sheff wanted clarification on the line item. Mayor Pro Tem Levine said it would be the weekend part time.

Councilmember Standridge amended his motion to include the clarification.

Councilmember Pettle said City Council already approved the part time paid personnel until October 1. She said she was unclear whether having that weekend part time personnel helped or not, because there had been no feedback. Chief Sheff pointed out the Fire Department Quarterly report, specifically, provided statistics that indicate what percentage of calls that occur during the day, their average response time during the day, and whether we were filling slots.

Councilmember Standridge voiced his concern that while they have been reviewing the budget for some time this issue was not brought up previously. If it was a significant problem, it should have been brought up earlier. Councilmember Pettle said it was not on the agenda so she could discuss it previously. Ms. Pettle did say she brought it up in budget planning session and then it was not on the agenda to be discussed since. This was the first time she said she could bring it up.

Mayor Pro Tem summarized by saying, City Council would vote to approve the budget and the item would stay in the budget, with respect to the part time paid weekend personnel, the department was told and would not cause any expenditures to be made for that line item until such time as October 18th, when City Council had an opportunity to hear from Councilmember Pettle. In respect to the week day part time City Council was approving that part of the budget and they were free to continue with that program. If there was some chance Councilmember Pettle came back with a recommendation to discontinue that program that would be the motion to discontinue that program. Councilmember Pettle said she was agreeable.

Mayor Marshall said he understood they would not start the weekend coverage until after the October 18th. Mayor Pro Tem said they would not have started until October 1st, so it would be delaying that start until October 18th. Chief Sheff said he would delay the start for eighteen (18) days.

Mayor Marshall said if he understood City Attorney Shepherd's suggestion. The motion would be to approve Ordinance No. 741, adopting the 2016-2017 Budget, in addition, expenditures for the weekend part time personnel for the fire department would be postponed to October 18th. Councilmembers Standridge and Taylor agreed to restate their earlier motion and second to "approve Ordinance No. 741, adopting the 2016-2017 Budget, in addition, expenditures for the weekend part time personnel for the fire department would be postponed to October 18th. Councilmembers Levine, Pettle, Raney, Standridge, and Taylor voting for the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

4. CONSIDERATION AND/OR ANY APPROPRIATE ACTION ON CANCELING THE OCTOBER 4, 2016 REGULAR MEETING DUE TO NATIONAL NIGHT OUT (NNO).

Mayor Marshall said he had the authority to cancel and/or set meetings. This action officially canceled the October 4, 2016 City Council meeting for National Night Out.

MOTION: Councilmember Taylor moved to cancel the October 4, 2016 City Council Meeting due to National Night Out (NNO). Councilmember Pettle seconded with Councilmembers Levine, Pettle, Raney, Standridge, and Taylor voting for the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

5. CONSIDERATION AND/OR ANY APPROPRIATE ACTION ON CANCELING THE NOVEMBER 1, 2016 REGULAR MEETING DUE TO EARLY VOTING.[FLANIGAN]

This item was similar. The November 1, 2016 City Council meeting coincided with November Early Voting, 7a.m. – 7 p.m., as shown on the schedule provided. The recommendation would be to cancel that meeting as well.

2016 NOV. EARLY VOTING PERIOD AND ELECTION DAY INFORMATION

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
October 23	October 24 Early Voting 8am - 5pm	October 25 Early Voting 8am - 5pm	October 26 Early Voting 8am - 5pm	October 27 Early Voting 8am - 5pm	October 28 Early Voting 8am - 5pm	October 29 Early Voting 7am - 7pm
October 30 Early Voting 1pm - 6pm	October 31 Early Voting 7am - 7pm	November 1 Early Voting 7am - 7pm	November 2 Early Voting 7am - 7pm	November 3 Early Voting 7am - 7pm	November 4 Early Voting 7am - 7pm	November 5
November 6	November 7 November 8 Election Day 7am - 7pm					

MOTION: Councilmember Taylor moved to cancel the November 1, 2016 regular meeting due to early voting. Councilmember Raney seconded with Councilmembers Levine, Pettle, Raney, Standridge, and Taylor voting for the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

ROUTINE ITEMS

6. TEXAS MUNICIPAL LEAGUE (TML) ANNUAL CONFERENCE IS OCT. 4-7, 2016 IN AUSTIN, TEXAS. [MARSHALL]

Mayor Marshall reviewed details of the upcoming TML Annual Conference.

7. 2016 NOV. EARLY VOTING PERIOD AND ELECTION DAY INFORMATION

**City of Parker
Fiscal Year 2016–2017
Budget Cover Page
September 6, 2016**

Exhibit 1

This budget will raise more revenue from property taxes than last year's budget by an amount of \$390,510, which is a 16.15 percent increase from last year's budget. The property tax revenue to be raised from new property added to the tax roll this year is \$95,440.

The members of the governing body voted on the budget as follows:

FOR: Councilmember(s): Scott Levine, Cleburne Raney, Lee Pettle, Ed Standridge, Patrick Taylor

AGAINST: Councilmember(s):None

PRESENT and not voting: Mayor Z Marshall

ABSENT: None

Property Tax Rate Comparison

	2016–2017	2015–2016
Property Tax Rate:	\$0.365984/100	\$0.350984/100
Effective Tax Rate:	\$0.325429/100	\$0.331666/100
Effective Maintenance & Operations Tax Rate:	\$0.252541/100	\$0.274315/100
Rollback Tax Rate:	\$0.339009/100	\$0.374872/100
Debt Rate:	\$0.066265/100	\$0.078612/100

Total debt obligation for City of Parker secured by property taxes: \$508,538

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November 6	November 7	November 8 Election Day 7am - 7pm				

The schedule was provided for citizens to be aware of the dates and times for early voting as well as Election Day.

8. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Mayor Marshall asked if there were any items to be added to the future agenda. Councilmember Taylor noted Councilmember Pettle's Report on concerns with the 2016-2017 Budget and the weekend part time fire department personnel. The next regularly scheduled meeting would be Tuesday, September 20, 2016. Mayor Marshall said City Council already discussed naming a street in honor of former Councilmember Tom Stone, but he would like to add an item to discuss other ideas for honoring his service to the City.

9. ADJOURN

Mayor Marshall adjourned the meeting at 8:04 p.m.



ATTESTED:


Patti Scott Grey, City Secretary

APPROVED:


Mayor Z. Marshall

Approved on the 18th day
of October, 2016.