



**CITY COUNCIL MINUTES**  
**August 15, 2006**

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Mayor Armstrong announced that there was no need for an Executive Session. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:41 p.m.

APPROVED:   
 WILL ARMSTRONG, Mayor of the City of  
 Victoria, Texas

ATTEST:   
 SCARLET SWOBODA, City Secretary

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**VICTORIA CITY COUNCIL**  
**August 22, 2006**

**CALL TO ORDER**

A special meeting of the Victoria City Council was called to order by Mayor Will Armstrong at 5:00 p.m. Tuesday, August 22, 2006 in the Council Chambers, 107 W. Juan Linn, Victoria, Texas. The pledge of allegiance was said, and all citizens were welcomed.

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Will Armstrong, Mayor  
 Philip Guittard  
 Lewis Neitsch  
 Paul Polasek  
 David Hagan  
 Jim Wyatt  
 Tom Halepaska

**STAFF PRESENT**

Charles Windwehen, Assistant City Manager  
 David A. Smith, City Attorney  
 Charmelle Garrett, Director, Human Resources  
 Miles Risley, Senior Assistant City Attorney  
 John Johnston, Director, Public Works  
 John Kaminski, Director, Planning  
 Richard Jones, Chief of Police  
 Vance Riley, Director, Fire and EMS  
 Doug Cochran, Director, Parks and Recreation  
 James Stewart, Director, Library  
 Rick Henrichs, Director, IT  
 Lynn Short, Director, Utilities  
 Gilbert P. Reyna, Jr., Director, Finance  
 Steve Trevino, Director, IMS  
 Jerry James, Director, Environmental Services  
 Scarlet Swoboda, City Secretary

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

There were none.

**CITIZENS COMMUNICATION**

No one wished to address Council.

**ITEMS FROM COUNCIL**

Mayor Armstrong reported on a trip that he and representatives of Victoria Economic Development Corporation (VEDC) had taken. He also advised that he had asked Cm. Polasek to head up a committee to develop standards for a downtown development plan, which Cm. Polasek agreed to do.

Mayor Armstrong stated that he wanted to keep the Junior Leagues request open and study the whole situation and then maybe there would be something in place by budget time next year.

It was the consensus of Council to allow Cm. Polasek to move forward with a committee.

### **PUBLIC HEARINGS**

Mayor Armstrong opened a public hearing on the following items:

#### **ORDINANCE 2006-2007 – ADOPTING THE 2006-2007 FISCAL YEAR BUDGET FOR THE CITY OF VICTORIA**

The ordinance considers adopting the proposed 2006-2007 Fiscal Year City of Victoria Budget. Gilbert P. Reyna, Jr.

Gilbert P. Reyna, Jr., Director of Finance advised that all of Council requests from the last several meetings had been incorporated into the proposed budget.

Cm. Wyatt stated that he had received an email from the Small Business Administration concerning \$12,000 that they used to receive from the City, stating that they would like it reinstated. Mr. Reyna advised that years ago that funding came about because the Small Business Administration at that time was housed in the 700 Main Building and they served as the building manager and handled the rentals in an effort to incubate new businesses. He stated that the funding was re-evaluated and the decision was made to eliminate it from the budget since the service was no longer there.

Cm. Wyatt stated that the other thing he wanted to discuss was Phase II of the development of the sports complex at the community center. He asked Council to include in the budget \$250,000 for the skateboard park and \$30,000 for the engineering fee to go along with it as the City moves forward with developing that site. He stated that economy of scale could be a real benefit to the City on these projects at the community center and he had support from the community to move forward. He further stated that the citizens that contacted him wanted these venues at one location so that their children could play at the other sports venues while their other children participate in activities at the ball fields.

Mayor Armstrong stated that he still had concerns with placing all of the sports venues at the community center and the City still did not know how much the maintenance was going to be. He also expressed concerns that this was not included in the vote for the ballparks, suggesting that it was too much too fast.

Cm. Wyatt advised that the only reason that the ball fields were put to the voters was to get their approval to finance the complex, it had nothing to do with Phase I, II, or III. He stated that when things are built or improved at other parks in the City, those items are not put before the voters; the Council approves those funds needed in the budget. Cm. Wyatt further stated that he was on the committee that put the swimming pool at the community center and it was that committee's vision to see other venues at that location.

Cm. Halepaska stated that when this issue was given to the Parks Commission to study, they came back with a unanimous decision to place it all at the community center. He stated that he had to respect the committee's deliberations and their recommendation. He agreed that there could be some savings by moving forward with Phase II.

Cm. Neitsch stated that he agreed with Cm. Wyatt's request to set funds aside and do the engineering for drainage at the same time the engineering was being done for the ball fields. He stated that the Parks Commission has always stressed to not forget the whole scope of the complex, which was to build an area where the youth could go and do multiple things. He did not want to set this project on the back burner and be forgotten.

## CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

August 22, 2006

Cm. Hagan agreed with Mayor Armstrong and suggested waiting. He expressed concern that the skate park would not have regulated supervision, suggesting that it could be a place for people to mill around and get in trouble and attract the type of people that are not desirable. Cm. Halepaska advised that other cities have put in skate parks with no negative reactions.

Cm. Guittard stated that election results can be interpreted many ways, but the vote on the sports complex was a signal to him that a youth sports complex was what the citizens wanted. He stated that Council Members are elected to make decisions and fund the proper projects.

Mayor Armstrong asked if there were any questions from Council or the audience. There were none.

**ORDINANCE 2006-2007 – ADOPTING THE 2006-2007 FISCAL YEAR BUDGET FOR THE CITY OF VICTORIA**

City Attorney, David A. Smith, read the caption of Ordinance 2006-2007, which approves and adopts a budget for operating the municipal government of the City of Victoria for the Fiscal Year beginning October 1, 2006, and ending on September 30, 2007 and appropriates money for the various funds and purposes of such budget including appropriations of money to pay interest and principal sinking fund requirements on all indebtedness. First Reading. Gilbert P. Reyna, Jr.

Cm. Wyatt moved to amend the budget to reserve \$250,000 for Phase II and \$30,000 for engineering of Phase II of the Sports Complex, with Cm. Neitsch seconding the motion. The ordinance was amended by the following vote:

AYES: Council Members Guittard, Neitsch, Polasek, Wyatt, and Halepaska

NAYS: Council Members Hagan and Mayor Armstrong

Cm. Wyatt moved that the ordinance pass on first reading, with Cm. Guittard seconding the motion. The ordinance passed, as amended, on first reading by the following vote:

AYES: Council Members Guittard, Neitsch, Polasek, Hagan, Wyatt, Halepaska, and Mayor Armstrong

NAYS: None

Caption:

**AN ORDINANCE APPROVING AND ADOPTING A BUDGET FOR OPERATING THE MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT OF THE CITY OF VICTORIA FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING OCTOBER 1, 2006, AND ENDING ON SEPTEMBER 30, 2007; APPROPRIATING MONEY FOR THE VARIOUS FUNDS AND PURPOSES OF SUCH BUDGET INCLUDING APPROPRIATIONS OF MONEY TO PAY INTEREST AND PRINCIPAL SINKING FUND REQUIREMENTS ON ALL INDEBTEDNESS; REPEALING ALL CONFLICTING ORDINANCES AND APPROPRIATIONS; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; AND DECLARING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**

**PUBLIC HEARING ON THE PROPOSED TAX INCREASE FOR FISCAL YEAR 2006-2007 (TAX YEAR 2006)**

A public hearing to consider setting the proposed tax increase for the Fiscal Year 2006-2007. Gilbert P. Reyna, Jr.

Gilbert P. Reyna, Jr., reported that a \$0.69 tax rate was being proposed, of which \$0.4204 was for the maintenance and operation side and \$0.2696 was for the debt service side. He advised that the effective tax rate was \$0.65, which was \$0.04 above the \$0.69 being proposed.

Mayor Armstrong asked if there were any questions from Council or the audience. There were none, and Mayor Armstrong closed the public hearing.

**CITY MANAGER REPORTS**

**Health Plan Fund**

Charmelle Garrett, Director of Human Resources, advised that because the consultants for the Health Fund were changed this year, information would not be available until mid October. She stated that the Finance Director had included an additional \$300,000 in the proposed budget to cover any increases that may occur. She stated that the pharmacy benefit plan programs were bid out, so that information would also be delivered in mid October. Ms. Garrett advised that the premium split has been 85 percent paid by the City and the employee paying 15 percent, with dependents paying 100 percent and retirees paying on a tier basis, based on years of service. She stated that the premium recommendations had not been prepared yet, because she was still waiting on information from the consultants.

**South Texas Aggregation Group**

David A. Smith, City Attorney, reported on a meeting with the South Texas Aggregation Group concerning the cost of street lights. He advised that he had received a contract from Tri-Stem, which was based on a contingency fee only, with no up front money by the City, and no expense money by the City. He advised that if Tri-Stem was able to save the City money on the street lights with AEP, then the City would get 61% and Tri-Stem would get 39% of the amount, and Tri-Stem would do all the investigation for the City. Mr. Smith stated that he had recommended this contract to the City Manager and he had signed it on behalf of Victoria, contingent on Corpus Christi and McAllen joining in.

**RESOLUTION 2006-129R – EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR JIM WYATT**

The resolution expresses the City's support and appreciation for City Councilman Jim Wyatt in his bid for President of Texas Municipal League (TML). David A. Smith.


Cm. Neitsch moved that the resolution be adopted, with Cm. Guittard seconding the motion. The resolution was adopted by the following vote:

- AYES: Council Members Guittard, Neitsch, Polasek, Hagan, Wyatt, Halepaska, and Mayor Armstrong
- NAYS: None

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Mayor Armstrong announced that there was no need for an Executive Session. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:52 p.m.

APPROVED:   
WILL ARMSTRONG, Mayor of the City of  
Victoria, Texas

ATTEST:   
SCARLET SWOBODA, City Secretary

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