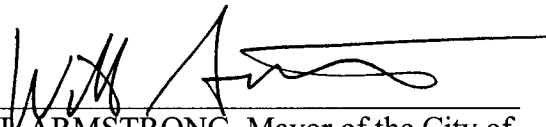



AYES: Council Members Guittard, Neitsch, Polasek, Hagan, Wyatt, Halepaska, and Mayor Armstrong
NAYS: None

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mayor Armstrong announced that there was no need for an Executive Session. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:26 p.m.

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

ATTEST: 
SCARLET SWOBODA, City Secretary

**VICTORIA CITY COUNCIL
August 12, 2008**

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 12, 2008 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 E. Windwehen, City Manager
Charmelle Garrett, Deputy City Manager
Miles Risley, City Attorney
Gilbert P. Reyna, Jr., Director, Finance
Lynn Short, Director, Public Works
John Kaminski, Director, Planning
Vance Riley, Fire Chief
Doug Cochran, Director, Parks and Recreation
James Stewart, Director, Library
Danette Respondek, Director, Human Resources
Rick Henrichs, Director, IT
Jerry James, Director, Environmental Services
Scarlet Swoboda, City Secretary

CITIZENS COMMUNICATION

Russell Pruitt, 402 Sherwood, addressed the effective tax rate, expressing concern with the cost of all services and cost of living in general. Also, the Appraisal District increased the property values by 9.85% adding stress to residents and businesses. He stated that a fair tax rate for Victoria would promote growth, and he would like to see the tax rate lowered, or consider homestead exemptions including some type of relief for the businesses. He further stated that tax abatements were not a fair way to grow the City because all it does is promote competition for the locals and the business usually leaves once the abatement ends.

ITEMS FROM COUNCIL

Cm. Polasek advised that he had a lot of contact with folks about the Chamber of Commerce Visitors Bureau (CVB). The problems and expectations have been laid out to the Chamber and he felt it was important to reassure the Chamber that Council would make the best decision they can and not to overreact.

CITY MANAGER REPORTS

- **Delivery of Fiscal Year 2008-2009 City of Victoria Proposed Annual Budget** – City Manager, Charles E. Windwehen, advised that the budget was designed to meet the Councils priorities, financial goals, and service goals. He pointed out highlights of the budget and advised that it would be available at the Victoria Public Library and the City Website.
- **Delivery of Certified Tax Roll** – Finance Director, Gilbert P. Reyna, Jr., advised that the certified tax roll came in about 4.4% higher than last year. He took out the frozen property for the year end and added the properties that were really taxable coming up with a 9.2% increase over last year. After looking at over \$100 million in new improvements, which is 39% of the overall increase of \$255 million appraised value, the reappraised value came out to \$155 million, or approximately 61% of the overall reappraised value increase. He advised that the effective tax rate calculation was \$.6339, and was proposing \$.6562 for the tax rate, which was also the rollback tax rate. The tax rate being proposed is less than the tax rate from 1991. Mr. Reyna added that new revenue would be approximately \$1.1 million from ad valorem taxes, of that \$800,000 goes to General Fund and \$200,000 goes to debt service. Overall ad valorem revenue is approximately \$12.7 million, and the Fire Department and Police Department combined makes up \$22.5 million. The only true growth in the General Fund is from ad valorem and sales tax.
- **Availability of Water and Proposed Nuclear Power Plant** – Director of Environmental Services, Jerry James, reported that the Exelon Nuclear Power Plant was proposing to use approximately 75,000 acre feet per year or apply for a permit to use Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority (GBRA) Dow water rights for that amount. In 1993 when the City planned to purchase 20,000 acre feet of water they had to look at all 5,858,328 acre feet of water rights in the Guadalupe River assuming that they would all be utilized, and prove that there would still be enough water left for reliable use for Victoria. Since that time the City has acquired other water rights along the Guadalupe River. The Castle water right for 608 acre feet with a priority date of 1918, the Lipscomb water right for 260 acre feet with a priority date of 1951, Paradise Ranch water right for 263 acre feet with a priority date of 1951, and from the O'Connor Trust 4,676 acre feet with a priority date of 1978, giving the City a total of 25,804 acre feet available for City use. He added that the current needs were approximately 10,000 acre feet, which were more than adequate now and with projected growth rates well into the future. In addition to that, the City has an additional 10,000 acre feet available from ground water wells, and water storage across the river in off storage reservoirs.
- **Brush – Recycling – Solid Waste Services and Fees** – Mr. James deferred the report until the next meeting.
- **Automated Garbage Service** – Assistant Director Environmental Services, Darryl Lesak, gave a brief report on the progress of the automated collection. He reported that stickers in English and Spanish were being placed on each cart with instructions for use. He also reported that the number of carts being tagged, and not picked, up had decreased from over 300 in May to 80 this last week. Cm. Neitsch suggested adding a phone number and the City website address to the sticker.

RESOLUTION 2008-125R – APPOINTING GILBERT P. REYNA, JR., C.P.A. AS THE REPRESENTATIVE TO PERFORM THE EFFECTIVE TAX RATE AND ROLLBACK CALCULATIONS

The resolution appoints Gilbert P. Reyna, Jr., C.P.A. as the representative to perform the effective tax rate and rollback calculations according to Section 26.04(c) of the Texas Property Tax Code. Gilbert P. Reyna, Jr.

Cm. Neitsch moved that the resolution be adopted, with Cm. Polasek 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

RESOLUTION 2008-126R – AUTHORIZING THE PUBLICATION OF THE “NOTICE OF EFFECTIVE TAX RATE” SCHEDULES

The resolution authorizes the publication of the “Notice of Effective Tax Rate” schedules in accordance with Section 26.04 of the Texas Tax Code and Rules of the Texas Comptroller. Gilbert P. Reyna, Jr.

Cm. Neitsch moved that the resolution be adopted, with Cm. Polasek 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

RESOLUTION 2008-127R – SETTING A PUBLIC HEARING ON THE PROPOSED FISCAL YEAR 2008-2009 BUDGET

The resolution sets a Public Hearing on the proposed Fiscal Year 2008-2009 City of Victoria Budget on August 28, 2008, 5:00 p.m. at the Council Chamber, 107 West Juan Linn Street. Gilbert P. Reyna, Jr.

Cm. Polasek moved that the resolution be adopted, with Cm. Halepaska 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

RESOLUTION 2008-128R – PROPOSING A TAX RATE CHANGE FROM CALCULATED TAX RATE OF \$.6339 PER \$100 VALUATION TO \$.6562 PER \$100 FOR FISCAL YEAR 2008-2009

The resolution proposes a tax rate change from the calculated effective tax rate of \$.6339 per \$100 valuation to \$.6562 per \$100 for Fiscal Year 2008-2009, calls public hearings for the proposed tax increase to be held on August 28, 2008 and September 2, 2008 at 5:00 p.m. in the City Council Chambers, 107 W. Juan Linn, Victoria, Texas and sets a vote concerning the tax rate on the City Council agenda on September 9, 2008 at 5:00 p.m. in the City Council Chambers, 107 W. Juan Linn, Victoria, Texas. Gilbert P. Reyna, Jr.

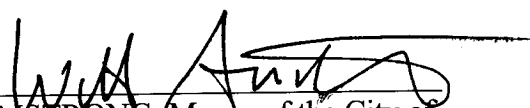
Cm. Polasek moved that the resolution be adopted, with Cm. Neitsch seconding the motion. The resolution was adopted by the following vote:

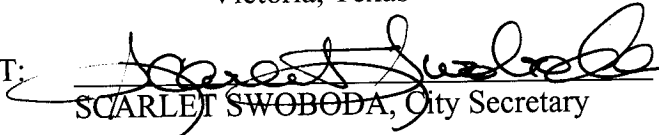
AYES: Council Members Guittard, Neitsch, Polasek, Hagan, Wyatt, Halepaska, and Mayor Armstrong

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 5:48 p.m.

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

ATTEST: 
SCARLET SWOBODA, City Secretary