

Council Suggestions

- Cm. Rangel suggested adding bathroom facilities to the downtown area similar to the one in Cuero. Theirs were built with grant funds.
- Mayor Pro-Tem Halepaska wanted to see Ball Airport extended if money was available.
- Cm. Soliz would like to install electrical outlets in the ground for downtown events.


Additional Options

- Option 1 – Airline Road Extension – Utilities - \$3,312,500
- Option 2 – Ball Airport Road Sections 5 and 6 - \$3,717,188
- Option 3 – Red River Street Section #1 - \$1,993,719
- Option 4 – Huvar Street – Option #2 - \$1,590,075
- Option 5 – US 77 North Annexation Project - \$2,698,750

ADJOURN

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:03 p.m.

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

ATTEST: 
 SCARLET SWOBODA, City Secretary

**VICTORIA CITY COUNCIL
August 11, 2009**

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 11, 2009 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
 Denise Rangel
 Gabriel Soliz
 Paul Polasek
 David Hagan
 Joe Truman

STAFF PRESENT

Charles E. Windwehen, City Manager
 Charmelle Garrett, Deputy City Manager
 George E. Hyde, Interim City Attorney
 Linda Champion, Assistant City Attorney
 Gilbert P. Reyna, Jr., Director, Finance
 Lynn Short, Director, Public Works
 John Kaminski, Director, Development Services
 Bruce Ure, Police Chief
 Vance Riley, Fire Chief
 Doug Cochran, Director, Parks and Recreation
 Dayna Williams-Capone, Director, Library
 Danette Respondek, Director, Human Resources
 Rick Henrichs, Director, IT
 Scarlet Swoboda, City Secretary

MEMBERS ABSENT

Tom Halepaska, Mayor Pro-Tem

OTHERS PRESENT

Bob Henderson, RBC Capital Markets
Financial Advisor for the City

CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
August 11, 2009

CITIZENS COMMUNICATION

John Griffin, 507 S. DeLeon provided information to the Council on the "Fit City Program," which is a program to encourage people to get more healthy and fit. He commented that better fitness would lead to lower medical expenses.

ITEMS FROM COUNCIL

Mayor Armstrong commented that we are in a serious period of drought and he asked the Director of Public Works, Lynn Short to provide an update. Mr. Short advised that the water flowing down West Outfall was being pumped from ground water wells and entering the Guadalupe River. It is a tactic being used to enable the citizens with a stable consistent high quality water supply even during the severe drought. The primary drinking water source is surface water from the Guadalupe River and is currently unavailable because the level of the river has fallen below the minimum levels that by permit, the City can normally take from the river. This forces the City to rely on alternate water supplies, off-channel reservoirs, and other surface water sources through water rights that have been acquired over the last several years. Water is stored in Canyon reservoir that can be accessed along with ground water. Currently the City is relying on ground water, but instead of piping into a piping network it is being piped to the river then exchanging it with the State for surface water from the Guadalupe River. This allows the City to eliminate the negative consequences of blending large bodies of two very dissimilar waters. Since converting to surface water, his office has seen an 80% reduction in water quality complaints.

Cm. Hagan commented that he would be requesting at the appropriate time for the Effective Tax Rate to remain at \$.6367 instead of \$.65 which was being proposed.

CITY MANAGER REPORTS

- **Delivery of Fiscal Year 2009-2010 City of Victoria Proposed Annual Budget to Mayor and City Council** - Finance Director, Gilbert P. Reyna, Jr. handed out the proposed budget and advised that it would also be posted to the City Website, and two copies would be available at the Victoria Public Library
- **Delivery of Certified Tax Roll to Mayor and City Council** - Mr. Reyna handed out the Certification of the 2009 Appraisal Roll, and the 2009 Effective Tax Rate and Rollback Tax Rate Worksheets. He advised that the Effective Tax Rate was \$.6367 and the Rollback Tax Rate was \$.6613. State Law allows the tax rate to go up 8%; however the City Charter imposes a 5% limitation. The proposed budget was built around a tax rate of \$.65 with \$.3959 for Maintenance and Operations, and \$.2451 for Debt Services. The Effective Tax Rate would generate the same amount as last year; it would not cover any new costs. It was pointed out that there are 28,795 total appraised properties.

RESOLUTION 2009-139R – PUBLISH “NOTICE OF EFFECTIVE TAX RATE”

The resolution authorizes publishing the "Notice of Effective Tax Rate" schedules in accordance with Section 26.04 of the Texas Tax Code and the form and language prescribed by the Texas Comptroller. Gilbert P. Reyna, Jr.

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

AYES: Council Members Rangel, Soliz, Polasek, Hagan, Truman, and Mayor Armstrong
NAYS: None

RESOLUTION 2009-140R – APPOINT GILBERT REYNA, JR., C.P.A. TAX REPRESENTATIVE FOR THE CITY

The resolution appoints the City's Director of Finance, Gilbert P. Reyna, Jr., C.P.A., as the representative for the City of Victoria to perform the effective tax rate and rollback calculations. Gilbert P. Reyna, Jr.

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

AYES: Council Members Rangel, Soliz, Polasek, Hagan, Truman, and Mayor Armstrong
NAYS: None

RESOLUTION 2009-141R – CHANGE TAX RATE AND CALL PUBLIC HEARINGS

The resolution authorizes a tax rate change from the currently effective tax rate of \$.6367 per \$100 valuation to \$.65 per \$100 for Fiscal Year 2009-2010, calls public hearings for the proposed tax increase to be held on August 27, 2009 and September 1, 2009 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 8, 2009 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. Truman seconding the motion. The resolution was adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Council Members Rangel, Soliz, Polasek, Hagan, Truman, and Mayor Armstrong
NAYS: None

RESOLUTION 2009-142R – PUBLICATION OF INTENT TO ISSUE CERTIFICATES OF OBLIGATION

The resolution authorizes the Publication of Notice of Intention to Issue Certificates of Obligation of the City of Victoria, in the maximum principal amount of \$26,520,000 for the purpose of paying all or a portion of the City’s contractual obligations incurred to (1) construct, improve and repair City streets and sidewalks, together with drainage, utility line replacement, traffic and street signalization and lighting improvements; (2) acquire and install communications equipment for various City departments including the Police Department, the Fire Department, the Parks Department and the Public Works Department; (3) construct and equip a fire station; (4) pay all or a portion of the City’s contractual obligations for professional services rendered by engineers, attorneys, and financial advisors in connection with the above projects (collectively, the “Projects”) and Certificates of Obligation. Gilbert P. Reyna, Jr.

Bob Henderson, Director of RBC Capital Markets, and Financial Advisor for the City explained the process of issuing and selling certificates of obligation for the benefit of the new Council Members. He pointed out that if the debt portion is lowered it would lower the amount that could be borrowed and it would also lower future amounts that could be borrowed.

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

AYES: Council Members Rangel, Soliz, Polasek, Hagan, Truman, and Mayor Armstrong
NAYS: None

RESOLUTION 2009-143R – SET PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED 2009-2010 FISCAL YEAR BUDGET

The resolution sets a Public Hearing on the Proposed Fiscal Year 2009-2010 City of Victoria Budget on August 27, 2009, 5:00 p.m. Gilbert P. Reyna, Jr.

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

AYES: Council Members Rangel, Soliz, Polasek, Hagan, Truman, and Mayor Armstrong
NAYS: None

CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
August 11, 2009

WORK SESSION

Proposed FY2009-2010 Budget

City Manager, Charles E. Windwehen briefly went over the major fund highlights of the budget, all of which had been addressed at previous meetings.

- **General Fund** – \$43.9 million, which is eight tenths of one percent of last year. The tax rate is the same and the tax base is up 3.6%. There has been approximately \$50 million in new improvements or construction in the City. The amount of new revenue from property tax is approximately \$484,000 with the majority coming from new construction and not reappraisals.
 - \$430,000 for Police and Fire pay program for certified positions. Total of \$609,000 including non-certified Police and Fire employees.
 - Three new Police Officers
 - Ending Fund balance was strong and budget was balanced using conservative estimates on Sales Tax.
 - More emphasis has been put on street maintenance program in area of crack sealing and less on the overlay and reclaiming.
 - Recommended eliminating Summer Parks Program in order to pay for more mowing.
 - Outside Agencies –
 - Keep Victoria Beautiful - Recommending \$15,000, which is less than the \$24,000 they requested. They also requested that the City pay their water bill and allow them to rent the facility and some of the outside grounds for events.
 - South Texas Zoo – Recommending \$160,000, which is what they requested. Also recommending that they start paying for the water service by 10% the first year and going up each year. Staff felt that it should not be a free service.
 - Boys and Girls Club – Recommending \$7,000, which is less than the \$18,000 requested.
 - Priorities were received from the Council to maintain public services and not cut back on them, maintaining infrastructure, staffing Police, Police and Fire pay, not raising the tax rate.
 - Police Department Software - \$900,000.
 - Fire Department - \$460,000.
 - Public Works Gradall - \$271,000.
 - Parks Department Splash Pad Grant - \$500,000 match

Mr. Windwehen commented that the management philosophy has been to take a long-term approach to financial management and budgeting. Council and staff come and go, but the municipal corporation and the citizens will be here, and they will still want public services. We are still in a catch up mode and if we cut back, then we are just passing those problems on to a future Council and staff.

- **Water Wastewater Fund** – Total budget of \$23 million, with \$16 million in operations and \$7 million debt. Debt issuance planned in 2010 for \$8.7 million to pay for utilities in Downtown Projects. Water rates would become effective September 1 and the sewer rates would be effective October 1.
 - Continuing to work on the Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority (GBRA) Contract closure and an appropriate site for a new wastewater treatment plant.
 - Sewer Line cleaning and sewer line replacement in the Greenbriar Addition.
- **Solid Waste Fund** – Total budget of \$3.9 million, which is \$500,000 less than the current budget.
 - Propose \$2.50 increase for yard waste collection.
 - Propose closing Pine Street Recycling Center.
- **Motel Tax Fund** – Currently \$1.4 million available
 - Proposing same level for Convention and Visitors Bureau under the Chamber until they have time for their new Director to develop a work program and budget.

CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
August 11, 2009

- **Health Plan Fund** –The current balance is \$4.2 million.
 - The total premium is currently \$467.32. Propose moving the cost share to and 82/18 split, this would increase the employee’s monthly premium by \$4.68.


A Wellness Program was presented which would manage healthcare costs, increase productivity, reduce workers’ compensation costs, support city goals and service vision, improve overall health of employees and dependents, improve employee morale, and recognize employee value to organization and his/her family. A four-year Wellness Strategy was suggested. It was pointed out that an outside agency would handle the screening study.


- Proposing \$25,000 in Fiscal Year 2009-1020 for a Wellness Program which would be used to:
 - Promote Wellness through a Wellness Committee
 - Promote Wellness within departments by encouraging participation in “Get Fit Victoria”
 - Support targeted programs (tobacco cessation, stress management, etc.)
 - Identify healthy-at-risk individuals.

It was the consensus of Council to move forward with the recommended Wellness Program.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:40 p.m.

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

ATTEST: 
SCARLET SWOBODA, City Secretary

VICTORIA CITY COUNCIL
August 18, 2009

CALL TO ORDER

A regular meeting of the Victoria City Council was called to order by Mayor Will Armstrong at 5:00 p.m. Tuesday, August 18, 2009 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
Tom Halepaska, Mayor Pro-Tem
Denise Rangel
Gabriel Soliz
Paul Polasek arrived at 5:05 p.m.
David Hagan
Joe Truman

STAFF PRESENT

Charles E. Windwehen, City Manager
Charmelle Garrett, Deputy City Manager
George E. Hyde, Interim City Attorney
Linda Champion, Assistant City Attorney
Gilbert P. Reyna, Jr., Director, Finance
Lynn Short, Director, Public Works
John Kaminski, Director, Development Services
Bruce Ure, Police Chief
Vance Riley, Fire Chief
Doug Cochran, Director, Parks and Recreation