

MINUTES OF THE CROCKETT CITY COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON THE 7<sup>th</sup> DAY OF AUGUST 2023 IN THE CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS, LOCATED AT 200 NORTH FIFTH IN THE CITY OF CROCKETT, HOUSTON COUNTY TEXAS AT 6:00 P.M.

THE COUNCIL MET IN REGULAR SESSION WITH THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS PRESENT: IANTHIA FISHER, DENNIS IVEY, ERNEST JACKSON, MARQUITA BEASLEY & MIKE MARSH. CITY OFFICIALS PRESENT: CITY ADMINISTRATOR JOHN ANGERSTEIN, CITY SECRETARY MITZI STEFKA, POLICE CHIEF CLAYTON SMITH AND FIRE CHIEF JASON FRIZZELL. DARRELL JONES WAS NOT PRESENT.

OPEN MEETING WITH INVOCATION AND PLEDGE

Mayor Fisher called the formal session open. Council member Jackson gave the invocation, and all joined in the pledge.

RECOGNITION OF VISITORS

Mayor Fisher recognized all visitors present.

COMMENTS FROM AUDIENCE OR COUNCIL *(At this time, anyone will be allowed to speak on City related matters only; no personnel matters or matters under litigation will be allowed. The length of time may not exceed three minutes. NO Council discussion or action may take place on a matter until such matter has been placed on an agenda and posted in accordance with law.)*

No comments

Mayor Fisher moved to Item #10 on the agenda.

1. SECTION 3 PRESENTATION FOR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT CONTRACT CDV21-0080 ROAD RECONSTRUCTION

Mr. Angerstein presented required information related to our Community Development Block Grant for road construction on Martin Luther King, Jr Blvd.

2. FISCAL YEAR 2024 BUDGET UPDATE

Mr. Angerstein received certified values from the Houston County Appraisal District. These values didn't make any significant changes to the proposed budget. Our current tax rate is \$0.6813/\$100 and the new voter approval rate is \$0.6936/\$100. Proposed budget reflects a 16% increase in health insurance costs, increases in fuel/maintenance costs and absorption of increases in water & garbage costs.

3. CONSIDER AND APPROVE PROPOSED TAX RATE

Mr. Angerstein explained our current tax rate is \$0.6813/\$100 and the new voter approval rate is \$0.6936/\$100. The voter approval rate will bring in approximately \$95,000 more than our current tax rate. Mayor Pro Tem Marsh expressed concerns with the water and garbage rates/contracts. Mr. Angerstein informed the council that adopting the voter

approval rate would allow the city to absorb the increased water and garbage costs, while adopting the previous rate would require us to pass the increased garbage rates to the customers. Council member Jackson made a motion to approve the same rate as last year of \$0.6813/\$100. Mayor Pro Tem Marsh seconded the motion. Motion passes 4-0.

4. CONSIDER AND APPROVE PROPOSED BUILDING INSPECTION AND PERMIT FEES AND DISCUSS SEEKING OUTSOURCING CITY INSPECTION SERVICES

Mr. Angerstein informed council that the State of Texas has provided notice requiring the city to have licensed/certified building officials to conduct inspections. He explained the most cost-effective option is to contract with a 3<sup>rd</sup> party to perform building inspections. Council member Beasley made a motion to approve the proposed building inspection and permit fees. Council member Jackson seconded the motion. Motion passes 4-0.

5. CONSIDER AND APPROVE AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF CROCKETT, TEXAS, AMENDING CHAPTER 7, FIRE PREVENTION AND PROTECTION, ARTICLE II, FIRE PREVENTION CODE, ADDING SECTION 7-19 OF THE CROCKETT CODE, TO PROVIDE PENALTIES FOR VIOLATION OF THE FIRE CODE; PROVIDING A SEVERABILITY CLAUSE; CONTAINING A REPEALING CLAUSE; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE

No discussion/no action

6. PUBLIC HEARING ON THE PROPOSED REAUTHORIZATION OF TAX ABATEMENT GUIDELINES AND CRITERIA

Mayor Fisher opened the public hearing. Mr. Angerstein explained that abatement guidelines and criteria must be reauthorized every two years and discussed the point system for businesses to qualify for tax abatements.

7. CONSIDER AND APPROVE A RESOLUTION ELECTING TO BECOME ELIGIBLE TO PARTICIPATE IN TAX ABATEMENT

Council member Beasley made a motion to approve a resolution electing to become eligible to participate in tax abatement. Mayor Pro Tem Marsh seconded the motion. Motion passes 4-0.

8. CONSIDER AND APPROVE ADOPTION OF JOINT TAX ABATEMENT GUIDELINES AND CRITERIA WITH HOUSTON COUNTY, TEXAS

Mayor Pro Tem Marsh made a motion to approve adoption of Joint Tax Abatement Guidelines and Criteria with Houston County, Texas. Council member Jackson seconded the motion. Motion passes 4-0.

9. CONSIDER AND APPROVE PAYMENT OF INVOICES FROM CROCKETT ECONOMIC AND INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Council member Beasley made a motion to approve payment of invoices from Crockett Economic and Industrial Development Corporation. Council member Jackson seconded the motion. Motion passes 4-0.

#### EXECUTIVE SESSION

#### 10. GOV. CODE 551.071 – CONSULTATION WITH ATTORNEY

Mayor Fisher stated Council would convene into Executive Session per Gov. Code 551.071 – Consultation with Attorney. Time was 6:02 P.M.

#### RECONVENE INTO REGULAR SESSION AND CONSIDER ACTION, IF ANY, ON EXECUTIVE ITEMS

Mayor Fisher reconvened the meeting into open session. Time was 7:15 P.M.

Mayor Pro Tem Marsh made a request to have an agenda item at the next scheduled council meeting to consider removing some or all members of the Crockett Economic and Industrial Development Corporation board of directors.

Mayor Fisher moved to Item #1 on the agenda.

#### ADJOURNMENT

Without objection, Mayor Fisher adjourned the meeting at 8:10 P.M.

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Dr. Ianthia Fisher, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Mitzi Stefka, City Secretary