



City of League City, TX

300 West Walker
League City TX 77573

Meeting Minutes City Council

Monday, August 10, 2015

6:00 PM

Johnnie Arolfo Civic Center
400 West Walker Street

Council Work Session

The City Council of the City of League City, Texas, met in a work session in the Johnnie Arolfo Civic Center at 400 West Walker Street on the above date at 6:00 p.m.

Mayor:

Tim Paulissen

City Council Members:

**Dan Becker
Tommy Cones
Heidi Hansing
Todd Kinsey
Geri Bentley
Keith Gross
Nick Long**

City Manager:

Mark Rohr

Deputy City Manager:

John Baumgartner

City Attorney:

Nghiem V. Doan

City Secretary:

Diana M. Stapp

Chief of Police:

Michael Kramm

Director of Engineering:

Earl Smith

Director of Finance:

Rebecca Underhill

Director of Human Resources/Civil Service:

Queenell Fox

Director of Parks & Cultural Services:

Chien Wei

Director of Planning & Development:

Paul Menzies

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS

Mayor Paulissen called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and called the roll. All members of Council were present.

Present 8 - Mayor Tim Paulissen, Mr. Dan Becker, Mr. Tommy Cones, Ms. Heidi Hansing, Mr. Todd Kinsey, Ms. Geri Bentley, Mr. Keith Gross and Mr. Nick Long

2. **PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION ON AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 102 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF LEAGUE CITY ENTITLED "SUBDIVISIONS" (DIRECTOR OF PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT)**

Paul Menzies, Director of Planning & Development, said we are continuing what we discussed two weeks ago with regards to subdivision development, underground power line ordinances and things of that nature. This is not on the Council's agenda for tomorrow night. Last time we left off with this we had the discussion regarding the seeming trend in other high growth cities about overhead power, that most of them had allowed overhead power on the perimeter of development. We also had the discussion with the City Attorney about our current ordinance which requires everything be placed underground, 3-phase power, perimeter or otherwise, and how actually enforceable that would be into the future. We left with the attorney's conclusion that based on the plights of other cities, especially high growth cities in this state we would not be able to continue to enforce the 3-phase underground power as an absolute. And so where is the compromise in this? So last time we talked about 3-phase overhead on the perimeter of development, and again look at the trend and then look at the concrete pole option as a compromise between if we are going to allow overhead on the perimeter. Can it be concrete, if it can be concrete where do we allow it in specific instances. We heard from the development community, we heard from the power company, city staff has done its own research with regards to concrete poles. We feel the concrete pole option is very viable especially in those areas of subdivisions where there are existing roads, particularly arterials or more of your highway type access. In those instances we feel it a good idea to allow for the concrete pole option. In those areas of the perimeter that don't have that access, those lower visibility areas that we discussed last time, it would be appropriate to continue with the wood pole option. So we talk about in the proposed draft that if the perimeter of a development is adjacent to an arterial roadway classification, basically you four-lane divided highways, that the concrete pole option would be appropriate. And we actually have an adopted document that we use daily in our development activities, the Master Thoroughfare Plan, which defines where the connections need to be made, how wide those roads need to be so when developers come in and subdivide property the City taxpayers get the width of roadway that is necessary. So we would require concrete poles along arterials and wood poles everywhere else. We have a draft ordinance that does just that and if you would like for us to move forward with that we could bring it back on August 25. If you would like more research we could do that. This is our first draft and we think it covers a majority of the issues that we are seeing right now. In a couple of months when we consider the development code as a whole we can revisit this. If something between now and then throws up a red flag we can tweak it. There are a number of subdivision plats right now that are subject to the current ordinance, which requires underground everywhere, that are being held up to some degree.

3. **DISCUSSION REGARDING EMPLOYEE BENEFITS, INCLUDING HEALTH INSURANCE (DIRECTOR OF HUMAN RESOURCES AND CIVIL SERVICE)**

Queenell Fox, Director of Human Resources, said last week at the August 4 workshop there were some questions and concerns following the presentation so we worked with IPS, our broker, who is here tonight to address those concerns.

Brian Wilson, IPS Advisors Account Manager, said first as we look over the projections, even though they have appeared scary at times they actually ran well over the last 5 years. We worked together with city management as well as a couple of council members and have come up with the following plan moving forward. What this plan does – if you look at the city contributions for both the Buy Up and Core Plan they are the same. This is a cost neutral plan, for both plans. It also allows the employees to keep both plans. What this plan also does for the employee contributions, for the buy-up plan \$49.68 is an increase over what they paid last year; and the core plan will see some decreases. What this does is gives some variance between the two plans and actually makes this a more core buy up type option. What this also does is keeps the city contributions at 10.5% which satisfies the budget constraints that we are looking at from last time.

Council Member Nick Long said so the issue here is we were underfunding the Base plan, overfunding the Buy Up plan. So we were making it really attractive for everyone to go to a Buy Up plan. The Buy Up plan has better benefits so people were naturally moving that way. This way we are giving the same amount to every employee, totally equal. So it will result in some employees paying less for their family, other people who are in other tiers who are getting heavily subsidized by the rest of the plan will have to pay more now. You can see the wild rate changes to get it back to equal/equal. But this way we give you if you are single \$561 per employee/per month your choice if you want to Buy Up, you bear the cost but we are paying that \$561 for everyone regardless of what plan you choose from there. The employee is bearing the entire cost of buying up. We are covering the benchmark, funding to the benchmark and then if the employee chooses that they want a better benefit they can do that but they are paying the cost of that. We made a few plan changes to modernize the way the plan works. One issue we have that we talked about last time was that we had a plan where for a \$75 copay you could walk into a standalone ER where that visit would cost \$1,200 whereas a doctor's office visit would cost \$80 - \$100, but the difference in the employees copay was only \$20. So they don't really feel what the plan is feeling. So by changing it to help show them other ways such as going to CareHere for a discount, go to an urgent care or walk-in doc-in-the-box type facility we are giving them other more cost effective ways. We are changing plans, hopefully changing behavior along with it.

We excluded out-of-network benefits. We really didn't have an issue with out-of-network but the issue is when you do have a problem with out-of-network now being self-funded we would bear 100% of that. There is no discount. Whatever the doctors or hospitals decide to charge you out-of-network is what we pay. So we eliminated that, we are in a huge network which about 98-99% of our expense is falling into anyway and now all that can run through the plan.

John Baumgartner, Deputy City Manager said so tomorrow night we are going to bring forward a plan that mirrors this for you to vote on so we can get started with the authorization and sign a contract. We looked at both the vision and dental self-insuring. We are on a two year contract for dental. We talked with Boon Chapman and decided that we would implement that next year because of the lateness of this conversation.

Mr. Wilson said we will be proposing a change for the vision to go to Davis Vision from Superior Vision which is a 9% savings or \$4,000 for the year. Then lastly for the FSA we are actually going to recommend a change there as well. We have had some administration with Discovery so we went out to bid and TASC can hopefully alleviate those issues and also came in cheaper with a 19% decrease or \$1,300 in savings.

4. **DISCUSSION REGARDING THE INCLUSION OF THE CITY AUDITOR AND THE GHIRARDI HOUSE IN THE 2015-2016 BUDGET**

John Baumgartner said the City Manager sent an email to us to consider putting this on the agenda for further discussion regarding either of these. Part of the concern was when we proposed refinements to the budget you had not seen them before and there was a little bit of consternation. I know in my mind clearly you voted on both of those individually and wanted to give everyone an opportunity to at least talk about them in case they wanted to add them or change their minds regarding the Ghirardi House. I remember the Ghirardi House conversation suggested we would contribute \$50,000 for the restoration of that and look for matches.

Rebecca Underhill, Director of Finance said to catch you up after last week we worked through the changes that we went over at the last meeting including adding in the funds from the Happy Harbour Retirement Home so that left us in a place where we have \$60,000 so if we place \$50,000 in for the Ghirardi House that leaves us \$10,000 which is going to leave us shy on the auditor position. So we continue to go through to try to find some money in anticipation of this item on the agenda tonight. When the Council took action two weeks ago to commit to lower the tax rate that impacted the amount that we had budgeted for payment into the TIRZ because what we do is we return into the three TIRZ's that are active a portion of the taxes that are collected in those districts. So I feel like we have a sufficient fund in savings from those reduced TIRZ payments to fund that position if you choose to move forward with this proposition.

5. **CONDUCT A WORK SESSION OF THE CITY COUNCIL TO RECEIVE INFORMATION CONCERNING AGENDA ITEMS APPEARING ON THE MEETING AGENDA FOR THE AUGUST 11, 2015 MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LEAGUE CITY.**

NO VOTE OR ACTION WILL BE TAKEN ON ANY ITEM UNDER CONSIDERATION

6. **ADJOURNMENT**

At 7:40 p.m. Mayor Paulissen said there being no further business this meeting is adjourned.

TIMOTHY PAULISSEN
MAYOR

JEANNE HAMMACK
DEPUTY CITY SECRETARY

(SEAL)

MINUTES APPROVED: