

**MINUTES  
OF  
CITY OF WHARTON  
FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING  
120 EAST CANEY STREET  
WHARTON, TEXAS 77488  
Monday, August 23, 2021 –5:30 p.m.**

Assistant City Manager Paula Favors, declared a meeting of the City Council Finance Committee duly open for the transaction of business at 5:35 p.m.

Committee Members present were: Mayor, Tim Barker; Councilmember, Alice Heard-Roberts and Councilmember, Russell Machann.

Committee Member absent was: None.

City Council Member present was: None.

Staff members present were: Assistant to the City Manager, Brandi Jimenez; Finance Director, Joan Anandel; Community Development Director, Gwyn Teves and Assistant City Manager, Paula Favors.

Staff member absent was: City Manager, Joseph R. Pace.

Visitors: Mr. Matt Breazeale of Jones & Carter.

Public Comments. There were no public comments.

The first item on the agenda was to review and consider minutes from the meeting held July 27, 2021. Councilmember, Russell Machann, made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Councilmember, Alice Heard-Roberts, seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

The second item on the agenda was to review and consider Ordinance: An ordinance repealing and replacing the City of Wharton Code of Ordinances, Chapter 86 Utilities & Service, Article III, Solid Waste Disposal Exhibit A; providing that a violation of the ordinance or any part of the code as adopted hereby shall constitute a penalty upon conviction of a fine and setting an effective date. Finance Director, Joan Anandel, stated to the Committee that the solid waste services would increase by three (3) percent beginning October 1, 2021. She stated that this would result in an increase to the residential customers of \$0.64 per month while commercial customers would increase \$0.84 per month. She presented the analysis of garbage rates showing current and proposed rates for residential and commercial services as well as the increase in commercial bins. After some discussion, Councilmember, Russell Machann, made a motion to recommend to the City Council to approve the ordinance repealing and replacing the City of Wharton Code of Ordinances, Chapter 86 Utilities & Service, Article III, Solid Waste Disposal Exhibit A; providing that a violation of the ordinance or any part of the code as adopted hereby shall constitute a penalty upon conviction of a fine and setting an effective date. Mayor, Tim Barker, seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

The third item on the agenda was to review and consider Ordinance: An ordinance amending the City of Wharton Code of Ordinances, Chapter 86, Sections 86-15, 86-16, 86-17, 86-18 and 86-21, Utilities and Services, Article I in General; Providing that a violation of the ordinance or any part of the Code as adopted hereby shall constitute a penalty upon conviction of a fine; Providing a savings clause and revoking all ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict herewith only to the extent same are in conflict herewith otherwise provided herein. Finance Director, Joan Anandel, presented a draft copy of the revised City of Wharton Code of Ordinance, Chapter 86 Utilities and Service Sections: 15, 16, 17 and 21 with changes as presented at the budget workshop held on August 10, 2021. She stated that the proposed change is a ten (10) percent increase to utility (water/sewer) rates. After some discussion, Mayor, Tim Barker, made a

motion to recommend to the City Council to approve the ordinance amending the City of Wharton Code of Ordinances, Chapter 86, Sections 86-15, 86-16, 86-17, 86-18 and 86-21, Utilities and Services, Article I in General; Providing that a violation of the ordinance or any part of the Code as adopted hereby shall constitute a penalty upon conviction of a fine; Providing a savings clause and revoking all ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict herewith only to the extent same are in conflict herewith otherwise provided herein. Councilmember, Russell Machann, seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

The fourth item on the agenda was to review and consider Resolution: A resolution of the Wharton City Council approving a utility service agreement with Wharton Economic Development Corporation and the City of Wharton and authorizing the Mayor of the City of Wharton to execute the agreement. Community Development Director, Gwyn Teves, stated to the Committee that the Wharton Economic Development Corporation (WEDCO) was working with a business at 3010 N. Richmond Rd. and was wanting to provide utilities for that business. She stated that the City of Wharton would be working with consultants and bidding out the construction of the utilities and costs would be paid by WEDCO up to \$150,000.00. She stated that if the estimate or any change orders require additional funds, this would then be discussed with WEDCO prior to approval. After some discussion, no action was taken. All voted in favor.

The fifth item on the agenda was to review and consider Wharton Flood Reduction Project-Levee:

A. Resolution: A resolution of the Wharton City Council amending the agreement with Jones and Carter for Engineering Services for the Wharton Levee Private Utility Coordination and authorizing the Mayor of the City of Wharton to execute all documents related to said amendment.

B. Resolution: A resolution of the Wharton City Council amending the agreement with Jones and Carter for Engineering Services for the City of Wharton Levee Public Utility Design and Construction Observation and authorizing the Mayor of the City of Wharton to execute all documents related to said amendment. Community Development Director, Gwyn Teves, stated to the Committee that on May 28, 2019, the Wharton City Council awarded an Engineering Services Contract to Jones & Carter for both the Wharton Levee Public Utility Design and Construction Observation and City of Wharton Private Utility Coordination. She stated that Jones and Carter were requesting an amendment to both contracts due to the extended time taken by United States Army Corp of Engineers (USACE) to complete and provide those designs for reference of the utilities to be relocated. She stated that the delay in final plans had resulted in additional time for utility coordination as well as delays in acquisition that have resulted in construction for City utilities to be relocated. She stated that the contract for the City of Wharton Levee Public Utility Design and Construction Observation was for Basic Compensation Services not to exceed \$167,410.00. She stated that the requested amendment was for an additional \$15,840.00. She stated that the contract for the City of Wharton Private Utility Coordination was for Basic Compensation Services not to exceed \$86,130.00. She stated that the requested amendment is for an additional \$5,400.00. After some discussion, Councilmember, Alice Heard-Roberts, made a motion to recommend to the City Council amending the agreement with Jones and Carter for Engineering Services for the Wharton Levee Private Utility Coordination and amending the agreement with Jones and Carter for Engineering Services for the City of Wharton Levee Public Utility Design and Construction Observation. Councilmember, Russell Machann, seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

The sixth item on the agenda was adjournment. Councilmember, Russell Machann, moved to adjourn. Councilmember, Alice Heard-Robertson, seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

The meeting adjourned at 6:01 p.m.

  
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Joseph R. Pace, City Manager