

**MINUTES
OF
CITY OF WHARTON
FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING
120 EAST CANEY STREET
WHARTON, TEXAS 77488
Monday, November 22, 2021 –6:00 p.m.**

City Manager, Joseph R. Pace, declared a meeting of the City Council Finance Committee duly open for the transaction of business at 6:00 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: Councilmember, Terry Freese; Councilmember, Don Mueller; Councilmember, Steve Schneider and Councilmember Clifford Jackson.

Staff members present were: City Manager, Joseph R. Pace; Assistant to the City Manager, Brandi Jimenez; Finance Director, Joan Anandel; Community Development Director, Gwyn Teves and Emergency Medical Services Director Christy Gonzales.

Staff member absent was: None.

Visitors: None.

Public Comments. There were no public comments.

The first item on the agenda was to review and consider minutes from the meeting held November 8, 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 Resolution: A resolution of the Wharton City Council adopting the City of Wharton Investment Policy after the Annual Review of City of Wharton Investment Policy and setting an effective date. Finance Director, Joan Anandel, stated to the Committee that she had submitted the current City of Wharton's Investment Policy to Mr. James Gilley Jr., Financial Advisor at U.S. Capital Advisors for his review. She stated that she had listed the statutory requirement of Chapter 2256 of the Public Funds Investment Act and had also included three Local Governmental Investment Pools to the List of Broker/Dealers. She stated that at this time, Mr. Gilley sees no other changes needed to the policy. After some discussion, Councilmember, Russell Machann, made a motion to recommend to the City Council to approve the adoption of the City of Wharton Investment Policy after the Annual Review of City of Wharton Investment Policy and to set an effective date. Councilmember, Alice Heard-Roberts, seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

The third item on the agenda was to review and consider Resolution: A resolution of the Wharton City Council authorizing a Loan Agreement with the State Infrastructure Bank Transportation Loan Program through the Texas Department of Transportation for Utility Relocations required by the TxDOT I-69 Expansion Project and authorizing the Mayor of the City of Wharton to execute all documents related to said submission. Finance Director, Joan Anandel, stated to the Committee that the City Staff had received the TxDOT Loan Agreement for the utility relocations for the TxDOT I-69 Project in the amount of \$5,500,000. She stated that the City Staff had sent the Loan Agreement to the City's Bond Counsel, Mr. Tom Sage, with Hunton Andrews Kurth LLC, and also to Mr. James Gilley, Financial Advisor, with U.S. Capital Advisors for their review. After some discussion, Mayor, Tim Barker, made a motion to recommend

to the City Council to authorize the Loan Agreement with the State Infrastructure Bank Transportation Loan Program through the Texas Department of Transportation for Utility Relocations required by the TxDOT I-69 Expansion Project. Councilmember, Alice Heard-Roberts, seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

The fourth item on the agenda was to review and consider Proposed City of Wharton Write Offs:

- A. City of Wharton EMS.
- B. Utilities.

Finance Director, Joan Andel, stated to the Committee that the Utility Department was requesting that uncollected balances from October 2020 through September 2021 be written-off due to non-payment. She stated that the uncollected balances were mainly due to customers who had moved away without finalizing their accounts. She stated that City had applied the customers' deposit to the account but a balance remains unpaid and each of the customers had received a final bill. She stated that the customer was not allowed to open a new utility account in the future until all utility bad debts owed to the City had been cleared. She stated that Ms. Debra Medina, from Prudentia, was recommending that any account that is self-pay and has not had any activity in a year be written off. She stated that the City Staff had checked the utility billing system to see if there were any accounts that could provide current addresses to enable Prudentia to seek further collection on any accounts that were returned with bad addresses. She stated that all of these accounts had been transferred to Linebarger, Goggan, Blair, and Sampson LLC for collection efforts to begin from our outside collectors. After some discussion, Councilmember, Russell Machann, made a motion to recommend to the City Council to approve all proposed City of Wharton Write Offs for the EMS and Utilities Department. Councilmember, Alice Heard-Roberts, seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

The fifth item on the agenda was adjournment.

The meeting adjourned at 6:25 p.m.


Joseph R. Pace, City Manager