

**MINUTES
OF
CITY OF WHARTON
FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING
120 EAST CANEY STREET
WHARTON, TEXAS 77488
Monday, January 8, 2024–6:00 p.m.**

City Manager, Joseph R. Pace, declared a meeting of the City Council Finance Committee duly open for the transaction of business at 6:01 p.m.

Committee Members present: Mayor, Tim Barker and Councilmember, Russell Machann.

Committee Members absent: Councilmember, Larry Pittman.

City Council Members present: Councilmember, Terry Freese.

Staff members present: City Manager, Joseph R. Pace; Assistant City Manager, Paula Favors; Assistant to the City Manager, Brandi Jimenez; Finance Director, Joan Anandel; Chief, Terry David Lynch and EMS Director Christy Gonzales.

Staff members absent: 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 on November 27, 2023. Councilmember, Russell Machann, made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Mayor, Tim Barker, seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

The second item on the agenda was to review and consider a resolution of the Wharton City Council authorizing the City Manager to purchase two (2) patrol vehicles and one (1) CID vehicle from Caldwell Country through the Buy Board Cooperative Purchasing Program. Chief, Terry David Lynch, presented to the Committee a resolution authorizing the City Manager to purchase two (2) patrol vehicles and one (1) CID vehicle from Caldwell Country through the Buy Board Cooperative Purchasing Program. He stated that the purchase of the two (2) patrol vehicles totaled \$140,310.00 and the purchase of one (1) CID vehicle totaled \$46,980.00 and was budgeted in the 2023-2024 fiscal year which was approved by the City Council. After some discussion, Councilmember, Russell Machann, made a motion to recommend to the City Council the approval of the resolution authorizing the City Manager to purchase two (2) patrol vehicles and one (1) CID vehicle from Caldwell Country through the Buy Board Cooperative Purchasing Program. Mayor, Tim Barker, seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

The third item on the agenda was to review and consider an Ordinance: An ordinance approving an Amendment to the City of Wharton, Texas, Budget for the 2022-2023 Fiscal Year. Finance Director, Joan Anandel, presented the Budget Adjustments to the Committee for review. After some discussion, Mayor, Tim Barker, made a motion to recommend to the City Council to approve the ordinance as presented. Councilmember, Russell Machann, 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 Anandel, stated to the Committee that Ms. Debra Medina from Prudentia was recommending that any account that is self-pay and had not had any activity in a year be written off. She presented the Committee with the list that represents those accounts. 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 those accounts had been transferred to Linebarger, Goggan, Blair, and Sampson LLC for collection efforts to begin from our outside collectors. After some discussion, Mayor, Tim Barker, made a motion to recommend to the City Council that the total amounts be written off of the Emergency Services Accounts Receivable, and should any future collections be received, the write-off would be reversed, and the payment applied. Councilmember, Russell Machann, seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

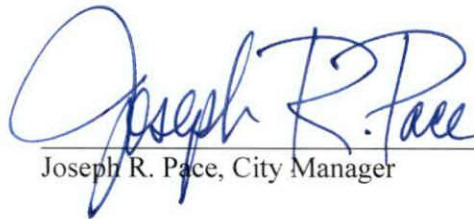
Finance Director, Joan Andel, stated to the Committee that the Utility Department was requesting that uncollected balances from October 2022 through September 2023 be written-off due to non-payment. She stated that the uncollected balances were mainly due to customers who had moved away without finalizing their accounts. She stated that the City had applied the customer's deposit to the account but the balance remains unpaid. She stated that each of these customers had received a final bill and that the customer is not allowed to open a new utility account in the future until all utility bad debts owed to the City have been cleared. She presented the previous years' write-off for utility accounts as follows:

2017-2018	\$52,654.92
2018-2019	\$23,177.44
2019-2020	\$32,417.02
2020-2021	\$24,049.55
2021-2022	\$37,022.97
2022-2023	\$38,743.52

After some discussion, Mayor, Tim Barker, made a motion to recommend to the City Council to approve the utility write-offs as presented. Councilmember, Russell Machann, seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

The fifth item on the agenda was adjournment.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:17 p.m.



Joseph R. Pace, City Manager