

**MINUTES  
OF  
CITY OF WHARTON  
FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING  
120 EAST CANEY STREET  
WHARTON, TEXAS 77488  
Monday, January 10, 2022-5:30 p.m.**

City Manager, Joseph R. Pace, declared a meeting of the City Council Finance Committee duly open for the transaction of business at 5:32 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.

Staff members present were: City Manager, Joseph R. Pace; Assistant to the City Manager, Brandi Jimenez; Finance Director, Joan Anandel and City Secretary Paula Favors.

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 22, 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 approving an amendment to the City of Wharton, Texas, Budget for the 2020-2021 Fiscal Year. Finance Director, Joan Anandel presented the Committee the budget adjustments for the 2020-2021 Fiscal Year. After some discussion, Councilmember, Russell Machann, made a motion to recommend to the City Council to approve the amendment to the City of Wharton, Texas, Budget for the 2020-2021 Fiscal Year. Councilmember, Alice Heard-Roberts, seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

The third item on the agenda was to review and consider City of Wharton Personnel Policy Updates:

- A. Resolution: A resolution by the City Council of the City of Wharton, Texas implementing the requirements of HB 2073 and Chapter 180, Local Government Code establishing a paid quarantine leave policy for City of Wharton's peace officers, emergency medical technicians and/or paid firefighters; providing a severability clause and establishing an effective date.

City Secretary Paula Favors stated to the Committee that House Bill 2073 required municipalities to adopt a policy providing paid leave to peace officers, fire fighters, emergency medical technicians, and detention officers when the employee was ordered to quarantine or isolate due to a possible or known exposure to a communicable disease while on duty. She stated that unlike SB 1359, HB 2073 was quite specific about the provisions necessary to include in the policy and included definitions for key terms. She stated that the proposed policy reflected these requirements and definitions. She stated that this bill went into effect immediately upon its passing, so it was important to expedite this policy. After some discussion, Mayor, Russell Machann, made a motion to recommend to the City Council to approve the resolution implementing the requirements of HB 2073 and Chapter 180, Local Government Code establishing a paid quarantine leave policy for City of Wharton's peace officers, emergency medical technicians and/or paid firefighters; providing a severability clause and establishing an effective date. Mayor Tim Barker, seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

B. Resolution: A resolution by the City Council of the City of Wharton, Texas amending the City's personnel policy – leave time - to implement the requirements of SB 1359 and amendments section 614.015, Local Government Code, establishing a Mental Health Leave Policy for City of Wharton police officers; providing a severability clause and establishing an effective date. City Secretary Paula Favors stated to the Committee that Senate Bill 1359 required municipalities to adopt a policy providing for mental health leave for peace officers employed by the municipality who had experienced a traumatic event. She stated that the bill did not require any specificity with regard to the required policy—she presented a draft proposed policy with certain practical situations in mind. She stated that this bill went into effect September 1, 2021. After some discussion, Mayor, Russell Machann, made a motion to recommend to the City Council to approve the resolution amending the City's personnel policy – leave time - to implement the requirements of SB 1359 and amendments section 614.015, Local Government Code, establishing a Mental Health Leave Policy for City of Wharton police officers; providing a severability clause and establishing an effective date. Mayor Tim Barker, seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

The fourth item on the agenda was adjournment.

The meeting adjourned at 5:45 p.m.



Joseph R. Pace, City Manager