

**MINUTES  
OF  
CITY OF WHARTON  
FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING  
120 EAST CANEY STREET  
WHARTON, TEXAS 77488  
Monday, May 13, 2024–12:00 p.m.**

City Manager Joseph R. Pace declared a meeting of the City Council Finance Committee duly open for the transaction of business at 12:02 p.m.

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

Committee Members absent: None.

City Council Members present: None.

Staff members present: City Manager Joseph R. Pace, Finance Director Joan Anandel, Assistant to the City Manager Brandi Jimenez, City Secretary Paula Favors, H.R. Generalist Selena Rios, and Director of Planning & Development Gwyn Teves.

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 March 25, 2024. Councilmember Russell Machann made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Councilmember Larry Pittman seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

The second item on the agenda was to review and consider an Ordinance: An ordinance of the City Council of the City of Wharton, Texas, accepting and approving a Service and Assessment Plan and Phase #1 Assessment Roll for the Wharton Public Improvement District No. 2; making a finding of special benefit to the property in Phase #1 of the District; levying special assessments against property within Phase #1 of the District and establishing a lien on such property; providing for the method of assessment and the payment of the assessments in accordance with Chapter 372, Texas Local Government Code, as amended; providing penalties and interest on delinquent assessments; providing for severability; and providing an effective date. Finance Director Joan Anandel stated to the Committee that a petition was submitted and filed requesting the creation of a Public Improvement District in the City. She stated that the City Council authorized and created the district and adopted a resolution approving the preliminary amended and restated service and assessment plan. She stated that the ordinance would take effect and would be in force immediately if approved by the City Council. After some discussion, Councilmember Russell Machann made a motion to recommend to the City Council to approve the ordinance accepting and approving a Service and Assessment Plan, and Phase #1 Assessment Roll for the Wharton Public Improvement District No. 2. Mayor Tim Barker seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

The third item on the agenda was to review and consider a Resolution: A resolution of the Wharton City Council approving an agreement for benefits consulting services and authorizing the Mayor of the City of Wharton to execute all documents related to said agreement. City Secretary Paula Favors stated to the Committee that over the last several years, the City of Wharton had seen large increases in health insurance premiums through the TX Health Benefits Pool. She stated that with many cities going out to the health insurance market, the City Staff was requesting to contract with a company to issue Requests for Proposals (RFP). She stated that bidding out services for health insurance was crucial for several reasons, those reasons being cost efficiency, quality assurance, and transparency and accountability. She stated that

bidding out services for health insurance promotes competition, drives down costs, improves quality, and expands access to healthcare services, ultimately benefiting both insurers and their members. After some discussion, Mayor Tim Barker made a motion to recommend to the City Council to approve the resolution approving an agreement for benefits consulting services. Councilmember Larry Pittman seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

The fourth item on the agenda was to review and consider an Ordinance: An ordinance declaring a public necessity for rights of entry and/or acquisition to the below-listed properties located in Wharton, Texas, for a public purpose, namely for geotechnical studies, appraisal, surveying, environmental assessments and borings and/or acquisition, to include fee simple acquisition, public drainage, and levee easements for the Lower Colorado River Basin Phase II, Texas, Wharton Flood Risk Management Project; ratifying and affirming all prior acts and proceedings done or initiated by attorneys and employees of the City to acquire such rights of entry/acquisitions for the property; authorizing all other lawful action necessary or incidental to such rights of entry/acquisitions. Director of Planning & Development Gwyn Teves stated to the Committee that the City of Wharton had been working with the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) on the Wharton Colorado Levee Project. She stated that the USACE had been working to complete the design of Phase II. She stated that the City had received authorization from the USACE to begin partial Phase II acquisitions. She stated that the authorization for these properties were in the northernmost area of the project and would potentially be the longest acquisition process. She also stated that the notice was required prior to any acquisition to be eligible for reimbursement from the USACE. She stated that as a requirement for acquisition if the property owners were not willing to work with or negotiate with the City, the City needed to have a Public Purpose Ordinance in place. After some discussion, Councilmember Russell Machann made a motion to recommend to the City Council the approval of the ordinance. Councilmember Larry Pittman seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

The fifth item on the agenda was adjournment.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:20 p.m.



Joseph R. Pace, City Manager