

**MINUTES
OF
CITY OF WHARTON
FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING
120 EAST CANEY STREET
WHARTON, TEXAS 77488
Monday, November 23, 2020 –6:00 p.m.**

City Manager Andres Garza, Jr., declared a meeting of the City Council Finance Committee duly open for the transaction of business at 6:05 p.m.

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

Committee Member absent was: Councilmember Alice Heard.

City Council Member present was: Councilmember Terry Freese.

Staff members present were: City Manager Andres Garza, Jr., Assistant to the City Manager Brandi Jimenez, Finance Director Joan Aniel, City Secretary Paula Favors and Community Development Director Gwyn Teves.

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 9, 2020. 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 Resolution: A resolution of the Wharton City Council authorizing the submission of an application to 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. Community Development Director Gwyn Teves stated to the Committee that the City Staff had been in contact with TxDOT Engineers who were working on the I-69 expansion and had been made aware that there could be some utility relocations required due to the expansion. She stated that the City Staff was requesting authorization to submit an application to cover the costs of these relocations to the State Infrastructure Bank in order to take advantage of the current interest rate and interest forgiveness if the application was submitted before December 31, 2020. She stated that the City Staff had also met with Jones and Carter Inc., and had obtained quotes for the work to be completed. She stated that the current estimated total is \$5,326,100.00 for all relocations. She stated that it is the Staff's understanding that TxDOT would cover the cost of the waterline relocations, the City Staff feels that the total needed could be lowered at a later time. After some discussion, Councilmember Russell Machann made a motion to recommend to the City Council the authorization of the submission of the application to the State Infrastructure Bank Transportation Loan Program through the Texas Department of Transportation for Utility Relocations required by the TxDOT I-69 Expansion Project. 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 Option 3 with the Texas Municipal League Health Benefits Pool (TML Health Benefits Pool) for their medical coverage transition to Blue Cross Blue Shield of Texas PPO on January 1, 2022 and thereafter October 1st and to remain on a calendar year deductible and authorizing the Mayor of the City of Wharton to execute all documents related to said agreements. City Secretary Paula Favors stated to the Committee that TML Health is dedicated to providing quality benefits and exceptional value to the City of Wharton. She stated that they had announced their new partnership with Blue Cross Blue Shield of Texas coming in September 2021. She stated that TML Health was giving their member groups some options about when they would prefer to make their transition to Blue Cross Blue Shield and start experiencing better healthcare. She stated that the City was being asked to choose an option before November 30, 2020 and the three options were as followed:

Option 1 – Today, TML Health only has calendar year accumulators. If the City of Wharton would like transition to BCBS of TX on your anniversary date (10/01/21) to Plan Year Accumulators. We will prorate your current calendar year Deductible and Out of Pocket from 01/01/2021 to 09/30/2021. In June, when we release your renewal, we will share the new plan consideration from BCBS of TX and the guaranteed savings they have given us, which assure you the lowest rate increase possible.

Option 2 – The City of Wharton also has the option to move from a 10/01 anniversary to a 01/01/22 anniversary. This will make The City of Wharton transition as of 01/01/22 and will become your new anniversary date. If you would like this option TML Health will extend your current plan and rates (no increase) to 12/31/2021 and your plan will align with a calendar year accumulator.

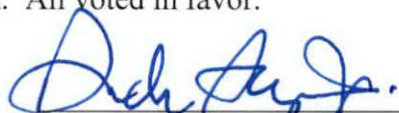
Option 3 – Stay as is, which means the City of Wharton will transition to BCBSTX on 1/1/22, keep your 10/1 anniversary date and remain on calendar year accumulators. This can have some member concerns, as if you have a plan change with a new Deductible and Out of Pocket for 10/01/21, a member will have to meet this new Deductible and Out of Pocket and then this will reset as of 01/01/22 when moved to BCBS of TX. This is the same way it is today with UnitedHealthcare at renewal.

She stated that this would not impact the City's current rates or plans. After some discussion, Mayor Tim Barker made a motion to recommend to the City Council the approval of Option 3 with the Texas Municipal League Health Benefits Pool (TML Health Benefits Pool) for their medical coverage transition to Blue Cross Blue Shield of Texas PPO on January 1, 2022 and thereafter October 1st and to remain on a calendar year deductible. Councilmember Russell Machann seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

The fourth item on the agenda was to review and consider a Resolution: A resolution of the Wharton City Council approving an agreement between the City of Wharton and Bojorquez Law Firm, PLLC for redistricting in accordance with the 2020 U.S. Census Data and authorizing the Mayor of the City of Wharton to execute the agreement. This item was deferred to a later date.

The fifth item on the agenda was adjournment. Councilmember Russell Machann moved to adjourn. Mayor Tim Barker seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

The meeting adjourned at 6:35 p.m.


Andres Garza, Jr., City Manager