



**CITY OF WHARTON  
BUDGET WORKSHOP**

**Monday, July 17, 2023  
6:00 P.M.**


***CITY HALL 120 EAST CANEY STREET  
WHARTON, TEXAS 77488***

**NOTICE OF  
CITY OF WHARTON  
BUDGET WORKSHOP**

Notice is hereby given that a Budget Workshop will be held on Monday, July 17, 2023, at 6:00 P.M. at the Wharton City Hall, 120 East Caney Street, Wharton, Texas, at which time the following subjects will be discussed to-wit:

**SEE ATTACHED AGENDA**

Dated this 13th day of July 2023.

By:   
Tim Barker, Mayor

I, the undersigned authority, do hereby certify that the above Notice of Meeting of the Budget Workshop is a true and correct copy of said Notice and that I posted a true and correct copy of said Notice on the bulletin board, at City Hall of said City or Town in Wharton, Texas, a place convenient and readily accessible to the general public at all times, and said Notice was posted on July 13, 2023, at 4:30 p.m. and remained so posted continuously for at least 72 hours preceding the scheduled time of said Meeting.

The Wharton City Hall is wheelchair accessible. Access to the building and special parking is available at the primary entrance. Persons with disabilities, who plan to attend this meeting and who may need auxiliary aids or services such as interpreters for persons who are deaf or hearing impaired, readers, or large print, are requested to contact the City Secretary's Office at (979) 532-4811 Ext. 225 or by FAX (979) 532-0181 at least two (2) days prior to the meeting date. **BRILLE IS NOT AVAILABLE.**

Dated this 13th day of July 2023.

**CITY OF WHARTON**

By:   
Paula Favors  
City Secretary



**A G E N D A**  
**CITY OF WHARTON**  
**Budget Workshop**  
**Monday, July 17, 2023**  
**City Hall - 6:00 PM**

**Call to Order –Opening Devotion –Pledge of Allegiance.**

**Roll Call and Excused Absences.**

**Public Comments.**

**Wharton Moment.**

**Review and Consider:**

1. City of Wharton 2023-2024 Fiscal Year Budget:
  - A. Funding Request:
    1. Women’s Crisis Center.
    2. Wharton Chamber of Commerce.
    3. SPOT.
    4. Friends of Wharton Animal Control.
    5. Just Do It Now.
  - B. Five-year Vehicle & Equipment Capital Needs:
    1. Code Enforcement Department.
    2. Airport Department.
    3. Fire Department.
    4. Emergency Medical Services Department.
    5. Emergency Management Department.
    6. Police, Animal Control & Communications Departments.
    7. Municipal Court.
    8. City Secretary.
    9. Civic Center.
    10. Community Development.
  - C. Five-Year Capital Infrastructure Improvement Program:
    1. Transportation Systems.
      - A. Streets.
      - B. Major Thoroughfares.
      - C. Sidewalks.
    2. Drainage System.
    3. Flood Reduction Project-Levee.
    4. Water and Sewer Utility System.
    5. Garage.
    6. Parks & Facilities Department.

- D. General Fund.
- E. PEG Fund.
- F. Hotel Motel Fund.
- G. Narcotics Seizure Fund.
- H. Debt Fund.
- I. Capital Improvement Fund.
- J. Water & Sewer Fund.
- K. Solid Waste Fund.
- L. Emergency Medical Services Fund.
- M. Civic Center Fund.
- N. Airport Fund.

**Adjournment.**

City of Wharton  
120 E. Caney Street  
Wharton, TX 77488

## CITY COUNCIL COMMUNICATION

<p>Meeting Date:</p>	<p>7/17/2023</p>	<p>Agenda Item:</p>	<p>City of Wharton 2023-2024 Fiscal Year Budget:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>A. Funding Request:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Women’s Crisis Center.</li><li>2. Wharton Chamber of Commerce.</li><li>3. SPOT.</li><li>4. Friends of Wharton Animal Control.</li><li>5. Just Do It Now.</li></ul></li><li>B. Five-year Vehicle &amp; Equipment Capital Needs:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Code Enforcement Department.</li><li>2. Airport Department.</li><li>3. Fire Department.</li><li>4. Emergency Medical Services Department.</li><li>5. Emergency Management Department.</li><li>6. Police, Animal Control &amp; Communications Departments.</li><li>7. Municipal Court.</li><li>8. City Secretary.</li><li>9. Civic Center.</li><li>10. Community Development.</li></ul></li><li>C. Five-Year Capital Infrastructure Improvement Program:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Transportation Systems.<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>A. Streets.</li><li>B. Major Thoroughfares.</li><li>C. Sidewalks.</li></ul></li><li>2. Drainage System.</li><li>3. Flood Reduction Project-Levee.</li><li>4. Water and Sewer Utility System.</li><li>5. Garage.</li><li>6. Parks &amp; Facilities Department.</li></ul></li><li>D. General Fund.</li><li>E. PEG Fund.</li><li>F. Hotel Motel Fund.</li><li>G. Narcotics Seizure Fund.</li><li>H. Debt Fund.</li><li>I. Capital Improvement Fund.</li><li>J. Water &amp; Sewer Fund.</li><li>K. Solid Waste Fund.</li><li>L. Emergency Medical Services Fund.</li><li>M. Civic Center Fund.</li><li>N. Airport Fund.</li></ul>
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The City Staff will present the information on the City budget at the meeting.	
City Manager: Joseph R. Pace	Date: Thursday, July 13, 2023
Approval: <i>Joseph R. Pace</i>	
Mayor: Tim Barker	



P.O. Box 1820\*Wharton, TX 77404-1820  
**Bus. Office: (979) 245-9109\*Fax: (979) 245-3426\***  
**Outreach Office: (979) 531-1300 \* Fax: (979) 531-1545**

May 23, 2023

City of Wharton  
 120 East Caney  
 Wharton, TX 77488

RE: Request for Public Funds FY24

Dear Wharton City Council,

We would like to thank you for the continued support that the Crisis Center receives financially from the City of Wharton and for the tremendous support we receive from the members of the community, other city departments and our community/MDT partners. The Crisis Center is proud to continue serving the City of Wharton and working collaboratively with multiple different City of Wharton departments. Since June 1984 the Crisis Center has provided dedicated services to Wharton, along with other areas in the counties we serve, and continually works to increase support we can provide to the residents and to the City of Wharton.

The Crisis Center works diligently to provide a wide array of services to multiple areas in the counties we serve, but expanded services also increases our overall costs. You will see that the Center has worked to expand services to meet the needs of the community through newly created programs and expanded services over the past years and also works diligently to ensure the County of Matagorda adheres to new legislative mandates in the 87<sup>th</sup> session; HB 1172 and HB 476 in particular.

The Crisis Center truly values the continuous support from the City of Wharton and their dedication to ending violence. In support of HB 1172; Art. 56A.3515 of the Texas Code of Criminal Procedure, we applied for foundation funding and matched it, over double with general funds, to create a soft interview room for law enforcement to utilize in our Wharton Office to ensure 100% compliance with Art. 56A.3515. The opening of our soft interview room is scheduled for June 2023.

Looking back at 2022, the Crisis Center provided 9744 nights of shelter, conducted 328 forensic interviews with children, and 111 clients received forensic medical examinations at our Center in Wharton. Through these programs we provided, at no cost to the client, 314 children were provided with trauma focused mental health therapy, over 15,000 individuals were provided with prevention programs, and we had 594 residential clients living in our shelter.





If provided public funds in FY 24, the Crisis Center will utilize the funds for basic operational expenses associated with our current programs and to ensure full compliance with the 87<sup>th</sup> and potential 88<sup>th</sup> legislative updates for our law enforcement partners.

We truly thank you for your dedication to our mission of creating an environment where violence and abuse are not tolerated in the community. Any funding that you can provide us would be greatly appreciated and will be used to provide services to survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault and child abuse.

Thank you for allowing us to serve your community!

Sincerely,

*Kelli Wright-Nelson*

Kelli Wright-Nelson  
Executive Director  
The Crisis Center  
979-245-9109 x 101  
[kelli@crisiscnt.com](mailto:kelli@crisiscnt.com)







Organization: Matagorda County Women's Crisis Center

Operational Date: March 12, 1984

501(c)(3): 74-2316319

DUNS #: 800512840 Renewal Date: 09/01/2022

Funds requested: \$7,000

The Matagorda County Women's Crisis Center (The Crisis Center) is 1 of 5 umbrella agencies in Texas that offer a family violence/sexual assault residential and non-residential program and a Child Advocacy Center program. The Crisis Center has several offices located in Matagorda and Wharton Counties; administrative office in Wharton, Shelter (undisclosed location), CAC and, Outreach office in Palacios, Outreach office in El Campo, and an umbrella location in Wharton County that offers CAC services, DV/SA services and SANE medical examinations.

The Crisis Center offers a 24-hour shelter and 24-hour crisis hotline that allows for victims to enter the shelter 24-hours a day. The residential program offers shelter, free childcare, free legal assistance, case management, job search assistance/resume creation, assistance applying for public benefits, assistance with obtaining drivers licenses'/social security cards/birth certificates, free legal services, free counseling, peer support groups, accompaniment (medical, criminal justice, court), transportation, advocacy, and crisis intervention. The non-residential service program offers all of the above services without shelter; clients can choose which programs fits their particular situation. The Crisis Center also offers a Child Advocacy Center program where forensic interviews are conducted by certified forensic interviewers. Children that become clients through having a forensic interview, are eligible for free counseling, advocacy, legal services, accompaniment and they are provided with a designated advocate who monitors their progress and helps to address needs of the family. All program participants, in any of the programs, are offered crime victims' compensation assistance, VINE registration and victim impact statement assistance. The CAC also hosts monthly MDT meetings with all local law enforcement agencies and CPS to ensure that the needs to child victims are being met. Sexual assault clients are offered all of the above services but are also eligible for forensic medical examinations at our confidential location in Wharton where a trained professional can best serve them at no cost.

The Crisis Center tailors the program to meet each client's needs and unique situation. The service plans are individualized and personalized to meet the client's diverse needs. By



**24-hour Crisis Hotline (979) 245-9299 or (800) 451-9235**



working together, the client has the opportunity to gain control of their own situation and work towards goals they have established. Each client is assisted in creating an individualized safety plan that meets their goals, enhances their level of safety and provides them with local resources. The approach of this project is to provide a holistic approach to victim services through a variety of options that are tailored to the needs of the client, and mutually agreed upon.

The Crisis Center would like to utilize the funds requested for unexpected operating expenses, repairs, maintenance, and outreach activities in Wharton associated with the purchase or our new facility in Wharton, additional expense occurred that are associated with legislative updates/mandates, and for training costs for our SART/MDT partners.

We would be grateful for any financial assistance the City of Wharton can provide. We are thankful for the amazing partnership and working relationship between the Crisis Center and the City of Wharton; this includes Wharton Police Department, Wharton ISD Police, Wharton Housing Authority, Wharton Municipal Court and other departments.

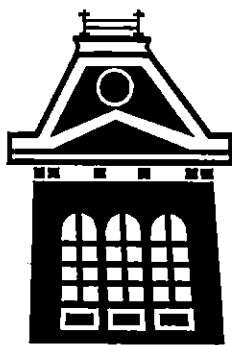
Please let me know if there is any further information needed. Thank you for continuing to support our mission of creating an environment where violence and abuse are not tolerated in the community.

Sincerely,

*Kelli Wright-Nelson*

Kelli Wright-Nelson  
The Crisis Center  
Executive Director  
979-245-9109 x101  
[kelli@crisiscnt.com](mailto:kelli@crisiscnt.com)





# WHARTON

Chamber of Commerce  
& Agriculture

225 N. Richmond Road, Wharton, Texas 77488  
Ronald K. Sanders, Executive Director

979-532-1862

whartonchamber.com

Kristi Kocian, Board Chair

May 31, 2023

Mr. Joseph Pace  
City of Wharton  
120 W. Caney St.  
Wharton, TX 77488

Dear Joseph,

Please consider this the chamber's proposal for allocation of hotel-motel tax for the 2024 fiscal year starting Oct. 1, 2023. We are seeking an allocation that returns to the pre-covid level of \$58,000 for the upcoming fiscal year.

This will allow us to continue the services we now provide to the Wharton community and give us the opportunity to enhance them. For more than one century, we have served as the front door to the city of Wharton, providing information about shopping, working, living and doing business in Wharton. We connect businesses and customers.

We are embarking on several new initiatives, including the Wharton County BBQ Trail and the Inaugural Billie H. Jones Leadership Academy, and we plan to continue to participate and offer good offices to the Education Taskforce, Friends of Caney Creek Watershed and more.

Our social media presence is also impactful for business and civic life. We boast 4,900 Facebook followers, requiring constant updating. We also have impact through our Constant Contact services which reach nearly 1,000 every time we send a message via email. We also send people to our website, whartonchamber.com, to learn about special activities and register online, plus use our community calendar for what's going on. We also reach people with our digital marquee, although it is costly to repair and maintain. TxDOT statistics show an average traffic count of more than 7,000 vehicles on average per day in front of our building.

In conclusion, we have had a long-standing relationship with the city of Wharton. We all are working to make the most out of expected great changes to our town.

Best Regards,

Ronald K. Sanders  
Executive Director

RECEIVED  
MAY 31 2023

BY: .....



P.O. Box 584  
Wharton, TX 77488  
979.253.3446  
wspot@hotmail.com  
www.facebook.com/wspot  
www.wspot.org

## Wharton County SPOT Spay-Neuter Program 2023-2024 City of Wharton

Although the pandemic may be officially “over,” the repercussions are still being felt nationwide, including in Wharton County: pet owners’ support networks shrunk and living situations changed, everything from vet expenses to food and supplies is more expensive. According to a Lending Tree survey in Fall 2022, “a quarter of owners are struggling to afford the cost of their pet amid inflation, and nearly one in four have taken on debt from pet care.” In the 15 years Wharton County Stray Pet Outreach Team (SPOT) has been organized, the demand for our help has never been greater, to which many animal advocates in Wharton can attest.



We can rescue homeless dogs and cats all day but, without a robust spay-neuter program, we are only addressing the results of unfixed pets and not the cause. The City of Wharton, along with the other cities in Wharton County, and Wharton County are all dealing with an increased number of homeless dogs and cats. This is partially due to the fact that pet owners haven’t been able to afford the cost of getting them fixed [from \$121 (male cat) to \$314 (large female dog, not in heat/pregnant) at Wharton Veterinary Clinic].



SPOT wants to ensure that spay-neuter services continue to be available to low-income City of Wharton residents. PetSmart Charities’ research demonstrates that 90% of people living in poverty do not get their pets fixed because of the cost. **Wharton residents are paying for those unwanted litters through the cost of operating the City of Wharton Animal Control (WAC).** SPOT wants to be proactive and assist WAC with its mission of controlling the pet population.



In addition to assisting with the spay-neuter of pets that belong to Wharton residents, SPOT has been partnering with WAC to **occasionally pull dogs and cats from its shelter – over 20 since October 1.** These include pregnant Scout (top, who delivered seven pups several weeks later), the five Easter pups (lab/pit mixes, 2<sup>nd</sup> from top) and Meadow (brindle mix with Chief Lynch, 3<sup>rd</sup> from top). Meadow is one of the dogs who had been with FOWAC for an extended period of time; we have now helped rehome seven of their long-stay dogs.



SPOT also **takes in dogs and cats from Wharton residents** instead of them being turned into WAC, like Gracie (bottom); Gracie was found at the Wharton Pizza Hut in November 2022, battled parvo and ringworm, and was finally adopted in Seattle a few weeks ago. We

have also helped city residents who want to rehome a pet, have found a pregnant cat, or had a personal unfixed pet that got pregnant.

In addition, SPOT is **working diligently with city residents who are feeding a colony of cats** to get them all fixed, and kittens socialized, adopted and fixed. This includes a colony on Rusk/Fulton Streets. We have trapped and fixed several of the cats, and taken in their ten kittens (Lexi and her litter of four kittens, photo right).



SPOT is proposing that the **City of Wharton match SPOT's contribution of \$3,000** to provide spay-neuter services for the 2023-2024 budget year.

\$6,000.00 (**\$3,000 City of Wharton, \$3,000 SPOT**) – Spay-neuter services, including rabies vaccination and pain injection:

Alamont Vet Clinic: \$130/animal (45 lbs.-under, including cats) and \$150/animal (46-90 lbs.)

Wharton Veterinary Clinic: \$157.50/animal (45 lbs.-under) and \$179.50 (46-90 lbs.)

for City of Wharton residents. Of this cost, the pet owner will pay \$50/\$70 at Alamont or \$78/\$100 (depending on weight of pet), the City will pay \$40, and SPOT will pay \$40 for a **total of 75 fixed pets**.

This City of Wharton Low-Income Spay-Neuter Program works as follows:

1. A pet owner contacts SPOT to arrange for a voucher.
2. A designated SPOT volunteer interviews the pet owner to determine eligibility, including living within the City of Wharton city limits, and completes the voucher form.
3. The voucher form is transmitted to the appropriate vet clinic.
4. The pet owner makes an appointment with the vet clinic.
5. The pet owner pays the vet clinic the agreed-up co-pay (depending on weight of the animal) prior to the surgery and signs any clinic paperwork.
6. The vet clinic does the spay-neuter, administers a rabies vaccination (if proper documentation is not available), and pain injection.
7. Pet owner picks up pet from the vet clinic.
8. SPOT is billed for the surgery and pays the bill.

This is the same protocol that has been followed with the Wharton County Low-Income Spay-Neuter Program and has been successful with residents who can afford the \$50-\$100 co-pay. SPOT will take care of the advertising and administering the Spay-Neuter Program.

**Now in its 11th year, SPOT's Spay-Neuter Program has fixed almost 1,600 dogs and cats that belong to Wharton County residents, including from the City of Wharton.** Over 65% of those pets were female, thus reducing the stray pet population.

SPOT looks forward to continuing to collaborate with Chief Lynch and the City of Wharton Animal Shelter, and partnering with the City of Wharton to continue SPOT's Spay-Neuter Program.



**Friends of Wharton, Texas Animal Control**  
**1390 CR 467**  
**Wharton, TX 77488**  
**cell 979 533 2081**  
**kittypp@hotmail.com**

May 30, 2023

City of Wharton:

Re: Friends of Wharton, Texas Animal Control

Dear Sir or Madame:

Friends of Wharton, Texas Animal Control is a 501(c)(3) Fed Tax Id #831981766 non profit animal rescue group formed to save the dogs and cats at the Wharton, Texas City pound which directly benefits the City, saving thousands of dollars in euthanasia costs each year. We partner and work closely with the City of Wharton to save each and every new intake. Our volunteer efforts include assisting animal control with cleaning, feeding the dogs and cats, washing pound laundry, giving medications, taking pictures, behavior assessments, vaccinating, spay/neutering, micro chipping, worming, heart/flea prevention, finding fosters, posting on face book, fund raising via monthly bake sales along with pickles, salsa and homemade crafts sales to assist with medical costs at local vet clinics, along with coordinating food supplies drives . Our ultimate goal is to save, vet and adopt out each and every animal that enters the pound and find amazing homes either locally or transporting to our rescue partner in the Northeast.

Please consider adding our organization to the City budget and our request for financial assistance of \$12,500.00 to help us continue our rescue efforts and passion for animals. This would be greatly appreciated.

Should you have any questions or need additional information, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,



Sherry L. Smith, President  
Friends of Wharton, Texas AC



**Just Do It Now, Inc.**

*"A Hand Extended to Reach The World"*

Item-1.

June 16, 2023

Ms. Joan Anandel  
City of Wharton  
120 East Caney  
Wharton, TX 77488

Dear Ms. Anandel,

On behalf of Just Do It Now, Inc (JDIN), I humbly request The City of Wharton to consider designating a portion of funds to JDIN, in order to help us continue to serve our families and children and allow us to continue to "Love the Community Back to Health".

I would like to take a moment to thank Mayor Tim Barker, City Manager Mr. Joseph Pace, the Public Works Dept., and all the Council Members for supporting Just Do It Now throughout the years.

As we all continue to overcome the challenges of Covid-19, I want to take a moment to pay respects to all those in our Wharton County community that have lost loved ones and to pray for those who have been or continue to be negatively impacted from the effects of Covid-19 and other variants.

Just Do It Now Inc (JDIN) is proud to say that we continue to offer assistance to some of Wharton's most vulnerable residents during some of the most challenging times. Last year, JDIN served around 300 youth from Wharton through our various programs to include our "Yes WE Can" Intervention/Prevention afterschool and summer programs, JDIN Youth Football/Cheer, Wharton County Wave track club, and JDIN select basketball. We provide much needed programs to enhance the lives of our youth and partner with local organizations and Bee Busy from Houston to provide some of these programs. We feed our members a hot meal daily, have homework help time, recreational activities and transportation home. Our youth football league participates in a league that has teams from Columbus, La Grange, Sealy, Shiner, Bellville, Rice (Eagle Lake), and Flatonia. Since we host home games and playoffs, this program brings others from these areas to Wharton to watch the games, eat at our restaurants, stop at our convenient stores and more. Our Wharton County Wave track team also hosts an annual track meet which averages bringing 25 teams to town from the Houston, Katy, Pearland, Cy-Fair areas and even teams from as far as Corpus Christi. We have had many compliments on our meet and reports of good experiences at the stops they make at our local businesses. Many of these people often state they have never been to Wharton before and look forward to returning.

Just Do It Now strives to make the lives better for our residents. We have encountered numerous homeless citizens of Wharton. We provide direct assistance to many people to include putting our homeless in local motels during inclement weather as well as locals who have become displaced for some reason or another. We have our Golden Housing Opportunity program where we house a family on a 30 day basis (which can be extended if needed) and assist them in becoming employed, receive necessary documents, and allow them the time to find permanent housing. We also assist in bills to include their water bill, utilities, and rent/mortgage. We host a monthly "Food Bank Friday"





program where typically 250 plus families receive food monthly. We recently installed our "Baines Blessing Box" which is a 24/7 food pantry that is located in front of our facility and typically stocked with food and snacks that are easily accessible to hungry individuals and families and to our homeless residents. When disasters strike, we are always ready and willing to assist as needed and have been heavily involved in assisting residents during floods, fires and the pandemic.

As a non-profit organization, JDIN heavily depends on grants and public funding, along with charitable donations and fundraising. Due to Covid-19, we did lose a significant amount of funding the last couple of years. Your assistance by providing funds to help us continue the great programs that we have here at JDIN that are important to enhancing the daily lives of our children, families, and residents in Wharton that are in dire need of assistance would be greatly appreciated.

**We are requesting \$25,000 to assist us in continuing the following programs:**

- "Yes WE Can" Intervention/Prevention afterschool and summer programs for youth ages 6-18
- Direct Assistance program to help people with motels, utilities, rent/mortgage and food
- Golden Housing Opportunity to assist individuals/families in emergency situations by housing them on a 30-day basis in a safe home and provide necessary assistance to allow them the time to become self-sustaining
- "Baines Blessing Box" food for our 24/7 food pantry to feed individuals/families at any time that may be hungry

Any amount of funding would be greatly appreciated and allow us the opportunity to ensure that these programs will continue so that we can make a positive impact on the youth and families of Wharton. Thank you in advance for your time and consideration. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

/S/ James L. Perez

James L. Perez  
Just Do It Now  
Executive Director

