

**CITY OF CASTROVILLE CITY COUNCIL
SPECIAL CALLED COUNCIL MEETING**

**1209 Fiorella
City Council Chambers**

**Tuesday
August 25, 2020**

**3:00 p.m.
MINUTES**

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 3:01 p.m. by Mayor Pro Tem Schroeder

II. ROLL CALL

Present:

Mayor Pro Tem Darrin Schroeder
Councilmember Sheena Martinez
Councilmember Paul Carey
Councilmember Phil King
Councilmember Todd Tschirhart

Leroy Vidales, Interim City Administrator/Finance Director
Debra Howe, City Secretary
John Gomez, Public Works

III. CITIZEN COMMENTS

The public was permitted to offer public comments telephonically as provided by the agenda and as permitted by the presiding officer during the meeting. Written questions or comments could be submitted up to two hours before the meeting. A recording of the telephonic meeting was made and available to the public in accordance of the Texas Public Information Act upon request.

No one requested to speak.

**IV. Review of the proposed FY2021 Operating Budget.
(Leroy Vidales, Interim City Administrator/Finance Director)**

Interim City Administrator Leroy Vidales briefed the city council on the department heads reducing their budgets by a minimum of 3% to help balance the proposed budget the council had received. Mr. Vidales handed out information on fund balances showing there was a surplus of 10 months in the General and the Utility Funds. Mr. Vidales provided information breaking out the expenses and investments in Capital Assets (land, construction projects in progress, water rights, facilities and improvements, transportation, and equipment) average expenditures. Balances shown were the General Fund with \$981,536 and Utility Fund with \$3,705,139 remaining. Mr. Vidales said the council would need to make a decision on what they wanted to do with the surplus. Mr. Vidales said sales and property tax collections were up, municipal court revenues were down but two courts were scheduled for the month of September. Councilmember King asked about the delinquent tax amount of \$90,137 being collected in FY 19. Mr. Vidales said he would check this numbers as it seemed to be high, to date \$6,000 had been collect. Shown to be collected in FY21 was \$6,000. Council discussed the Parks and Recreation Department revenues and expenses in the proposed budget. Due to COVID 19 they felt the numbers were too high. The council requested pool fees be reduced to \$9,000, Swim Lessons -\$0, Swim Team -\$0, Vending -\$0, reduce Picnic Areas to \$3,000, Park Tables daily use fees -\$400,

Pavilion fees -\$3,000, Holiday fees -\$5,000, Sport Field fees-\$3,200, Pool Parties -\$1,000 and Pool Passes to \$5,000. Mayor Pro Tem Schroeder said if the restrictions were lifted by next season the revenues would be reflected to the good. Councilmember King said with the reduction of revenues the expenditures should also be reduced. As an example: with less pool activities there would be less need for seasonal employees. Mr. Vidales said they would make the changes. Public Works Director John Gomez said if the city council approved his purchase of the digger truck at the following meeting, he would reduce that line item by \$237,000. Mayor Pro Tem Schroeder asked about the electric updates in River Bluff and Country Village. Mayor Pro Tem Schroeder said this project only benefited citizens in those two areas and understood it was a priority to just those subdivisions. He asked about the Lafayette waterline replacement and felt this project would benefit the citizens overall. Council recommended the staff meet with the city financial advisor and look at options such as a bond. Mr. Vidales said he would work with the Public Works Director to reduce his budget further. Council asked to capture the cost when the city had outages in electric and water. Mr. Vidales reviewed the current bonds and the ending dates. Council wanted to look at fund balances and the best use of them and a financial report on the city water rights and the possibility of leasing some of the rights out.

V. ADJOURN

Mayor Pro Tem Schroeder adjourned the meeting at 4:31 p.m.

Darrin Schroeder
Mayor Pro Tem

ATTEST:

Debra Howe
City Secretary