

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

**1209 Fiorella
City Council Chambers**

**Tuesday
September 15, 2020**

**5:00 p.m.
MINUTES**

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 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
Brian Jackson, Police Chief
John Gomez, Public Works
David Kirkpatrick, Airport Manager
Devin Fredrickson, Parks and Recreation Director
Angelia Alejandro, Library Director
Breana Soto, Community Development Coordinator
Hilda Bernal-Chavez, Accounting Manager
Kathy Adams, Public Works Assistant

III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

IV. INVOCATION

Councilman Paul Carey gave the invocation.

V. 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.

Robert Lee, 1314 Gentilz, spoke to the city council on his recent information request related to paper street issues. Mr. Lee stated he would withdraw his request if the city council researched and looked at the history on the streets when they started their deliberation to make the best decision. Mr. Lee felt there had not been enough issues over the years to warrant looking at closing access to the river. Mr. Lee also spoke on giving the citizens an option on having an additional trash bin instead of recycle bin. Mr. Lee said he did not recycle but could use the additional trash bin and the council could make that decision to allow.

VI. Public Hearing (#2) on Proposed Tax Rate of 0.495178 for FY 2020

Open: 5:06 p.m.

(Cont.)

Interim City Administrator Leroy Vidales briefed the city council on the additional information added to the last presentation on the tax rate. Mr. Vidales said the total tax levy and certified values was the addition information received from the County Appraisal District.

No one requested to speak during the hearing.

Closed: 5:08 p.m.

VII. Public Hearing (#1) on proposed FY 2021 Annual Operating and Capital Budget

Open: 5:08 p.m.

Interim City Administrator Leroy Vidales briefed the city council on the summary of total revenues and expenditures for the proposed FY2021 Budget.

No one requested to speak.

Closed: 5:12 p.m.

VIII. Discussion and review of Staff recommendations for proposed changes to the Comprehensive Fees Schedule. (Leroy Vidales, Interim City Administrator)

Interim City Administrator Leroy Vidales briefed the city council on staff proposed changes to the comprehensive fee schedule. Each member of the city staff was in attendance for questions. Community Development Coordinator Breana Soto reviewed her department's fees and highlighted the plat fees now included recording fees and her fee schedule had been condensed and simplified. Parks and Recreation Director Devin Fredrickson spoke on several changes to the fees for sports, pool, RV, and table/pavilion/picnic areas. Mr. Fredrickson said for softball fields – an hourly fee (\$15) was included, soccer fields – per season (\$500), daily fee (\$40), hourly (\$15); Regional Park- Soccer fields – added daily fee (\$100) and hourly (\$15), RV & Camping – late fee (\$5 per day) and Discounts for Military stays – 10% and a promotional discount (available when less than 75% capacity) 25% monthly discount only/single use patron; additional utility fee for 30amp/50amp usage changed to May through August. Volleyball Courts added daily (\$100) and hourly fees (\$15); Pavilion & Picnic Areas – \$25 refundable cleaning fee for all area rentals; change to half day/full day costs for table rentals for resident/non-resident fees per area; park land rental fees were added; a weekend pass for holiday weekends (\$25/car). Mr. Fredrickson increased fees for three day minimum on large (\$300) and small (\$200) pavilions and areas #1-#5 tables; added Administration fees for Special Event Applications (\$50/refundable if denied) and a cancellation fee (\$5 per reservation/excluding rainchecks or reschedules). Mr. Fredrickson said he recommended reducing the amphitheater fees for Class 2: Commercial Events w/admission fee charges from \$750 to \$150 + 10% gross sales, Class 3 Events/no admission fee from \$500 to \$100 + 10% gross sales, and Class 4 non-profit events from \$250 to \$50 + 10% gross sales. A refundable \$100 security deposit was also added. Interim City Administrator Leroy Vidales spoke on the utility deposits and breaking out to reflect each utility deposit and the additional trash bin (\$13) cost, recovery fee (\$62.15), trip charge (\$241), roll off relocation fee (\$247), non WS roll off (\$400). Public Works Assistant Kathy Adams spoke on

changes to the electric service costs reflecting more of the true cost to the city; gas service – residential (cost plus 5% admin. Fee) and commercial (cost plus 5% admin. fee). Ms. Adams said backflow testing and small cell nodes were included in this list of fees with the information provided from the current ordinances. Councilmember King asked about costs shown for hourly fees for soccer fields and clarified if families having gatherings would not be charged. Mr. Fredrickson said this fee would be charged for organized groups of 5 or more. Mr. King asked about the RV late fee charges and the length of stay allowed. Mr. Fredrickson said the daily late fee was to deter patrons from being late on RV space rentals and they currently could request an extension from the city administrator after the 6 month deadline, some had in past been allowed to stay several months. Mr. Fredrickson said he was working on updating the rules for the RV Park. Councilman King said due to the park being in a flood zone no permanent structures were allowed and RV's had to leave after 6 months to abide by the state regulations but could return after a period of time. Mr. King asked about the citizens of Castroville being charged a dump fee (\$15) in the proposed fees. Mr. King said a past council he was on had passed a no cost to Castroville citizens for the use of the dump station. Mr. Fredrickson said he was unaware of this and would correct. Mayor Pro Tem Schroeder asked about the school charge of \$.50 per child under the park land rental fees. Mr. Fredrickson said in the past there was not a charge for the students. Councilmember Tschirhart was in favor of the charge but Mayor Pro Tem was not sure they should charge for school children. Mayor Pro Tem Schroeder asked if he had the flexibility to decide on charging or not. Mr. Fredrickson said he could. Mayor Pro Tem Schroeder asked about the current garbage rate and what was being proposed. Mr. Vidales said in the past the increases had been calculated by a percent. Staff recommended council look at making the amount a whole number for simplicity. Council looked at a \$3.05 cent increase for a monthly fee of \$24.00 for residential with the commercial fees increasing slightly. Councilmember Martinez asked about the commercial costs not being shown for recycling in the fee schedule. Mr. Vidales said he would contact the city representative Chris Cox and get the correct information. Ms. Martinez said in the newsletter it stated the pickup dates was on Thursday and hers was on Tuesday. Mr. Vidales said this was a change and that all of the town would be on a Thursday pickup starting in October. Ms. Martinez recommended putting in the newsletter. Councilmember Tschirhart asked about the backflow inspections and if the city could do this in-house to make money. Ms. Adams said it would need to be a full time employee dedicated to this. Councilmember Martinez said in the current ordinance it stated \$0 for testing and that the city had sent letters stating the annual inspection was due. Ms. Martinez said the requirement was every two years and questioned the \$0. She also questioned who had sprinkler systems and wanted staff to check on registration. Council felt the wording from the ordinance relating to waiver of fees was also confusing and wanted to review the ordinance at a future meeting.

IX. ADJOURN

Mayor Pro Tem Schroeder adjourned the meeting at 6:19 p.m.

Darrin Schroeder
Mayor Pro Tem

ATTEST:

Debra Howe
City Secretary