

Minutes
Special Meeting
October 28, 2010

On this 28th day of October 2010, at 6:00 p.m., the City Council of the City of Devine convened in a Special Meeting, the same being opened to the public at their regular meeting place, thereof at City Hall, 303 S. Teel Drive, Devine, Texas. Notice of said meeting having been prescribed in Chapter 551, Government Code and Vernon's Texas Codes, Annotated, and the following members thereof, being present:

Mayor William L. Herring
Alderman Hal Lance
Alderwoman Marina Antu
Alderwoman Kathy Wilkins
Alderwoman Gina Champion

Absent being Alderman John Ramirez; thus, constituting a quorum.

Personnel present: Dora V. Rodriguez, Interim City Administrator/City Secretary; Ofilia H. Pedroza, Assistant City Secretary; City Accountant Nancy Pepper; and Police Chief Rob Flores.

Others present: Sandy Herrera – Devine News; James LaCombe – Medina Valley Times; Gary Pelech, Floresville, Mark Kidd and Bill Schneider – Devine Chamber of Commerce; and Alan Clark, Devine, Texas.

Mayor Herring, presiding, declared the meeting opened.

The first order of business was to discuss and consider request made by the Chamber of Commerce for the City to disburse funds from the Hotel/Motel Tax account for the purpose of Advertising/Promoting the 50th Annual Devine Fall Festival.

Mr. Mark Kidd, Chamber of Commerce Secretary, addressed City Council with an update on the position that the Chamber of Commerce is in now as opposed to last year at this time when they were in a hurting financial state. He informed Council that even though they are in a much better financial position now, they still need money for advertising, and he asked Council to do whatever they feel is privy.

City Council held discussion on the amount of money in our Hotel/Motel Tax line item. City Accountant Nancy Pepper informed Council that \$10,000 has come in this year, and said that we have helped out the Chamber of Commerce in the past with various amounts; last year we gave them \$1,500.

When asked how much he would accept as the minimum amount, Mr. Kidd told Council that they need at least \$750. He said that with \$2,000 they could do a lot; however, he would accept whatever Council gives them, and said they would like to receive something on a quarterly basis.

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Alderman Champion advised Mr. Kidd that the Council would really appreciate it if the Chamber would come before the Council during our budget workshops, in the future. He understood and told Council that he doesn't want to get to the point where the City is supporting the Chamber of Commerce.

Motion made by Alderman Lance to approve that the City give \$5,000 at this time to the Chamber of Commerce for the purpose of advertising.

Motion died for lack of a second motion.

Motion made by Alderman Wilkins, seconded by Alderman Antu to give the Chamber of Commerce \$2,000 out of the Hotel/Motel Tax account for the purpose of Advertising/Promoting the 50th Annual Devine Fall Festival.

Ayes	--	Four
Nays	--	None
Absent	--	One (Alderman Ramirez)

Motion carried.

Council asked Mr. Kidd whether he wanted the \$2,000 in quarterly payments or up front. He said he preferred to have it all right now, and assured Council that the money will all be used towards advertising and promoting the Devine community.

The second order of business was to discuss and consider the Purchase of a Vehicle for the Devine Police Department.

City Council reviewed a detailed price list provided by Chief Flores on a Chevrolet Tahoe. According to Chief Flores, the vehicle presented is the same as what Medina County purchased. The total cost would be \$24,636 plus he would need to get standard molded seats, decals, and a cage. Chief Flores told Council that the light bars and radios should be ready to go because between the two outgoing vehicles, he should be able to outfit this new one. He did explain to Council that because we are buying one vehicle only, there is a possibility of some fluctuation in cost. Council asked Chief Flores if he felt \$26,000 would cover the total cost and he said that it should.

Motion made by Alderman Champion, seconded by Alderman Wilkins to approve for the Purchase of a Vehicle for the Devine Police Department, not to exceed \$26,000, and to amend the Budget.

Ayes	--	Four
Nays	--	None
Absent	--	One (Alderman Ramirez)

Motion carried.

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The third order of business was the Executive Session: Pursuant to Provision of the Open Meeting Law §551.071 through §551.076, §551.086, §551.087 Texas Government Code, (Consultation with Attorney, Deliberation regarding Real Property, Deliberation regarding Prospective Gift or Donation, Deliberation regarding Economic Development Negotiations and Personnel Matters).

- a. §551.074 Personnel Matters – Interview Candidate.
- b. §551.074 Personnel Matters – Hiring a City Administrator
- c. §551.074 Personnel Matters – Starting Date and Salary for the City Administrator.

At 6:35 p.m., Mayor Herring announced to the public that the Council would go into a Closed Session. At 7:17 p.m., Closed Session was opened to the public.

No action was taken in Closed Session.

The fourth order of business was to Reconvene into Regular Session and Consider Action, if any, on Items discussed in Executive Session.

Mayor Herring gave a brief summary of our history in hiring administrators. He explained that the last two applicants that were hired both backed down. He explained we've had some applicants come in. They also met with one applicant and asked him to come down tonight for an interview, and they are ready to take action.

Motion made by Alderwoman Champion, seconded by Alderwoman Wilkins to hire Gary Pelech as our new City Administrator starting November 15, 2010 with a salary of \$70,000 plus a car and a phone allowance to be negotiated at a later time.

Ayes	--	Four
Nays	--	None
Absent	--	One (Alderman Ramirez)

Motion carried.

There being no further business to come before the governing body, motion made by Alderman Lance, seconded by Alderwoman Antu to adjourn the meeting.

Ayes	--	Four
Nays	--	None
Absent	--	One (Alderman Ramirez)

Motion carried.

Mayor

City Secretary