



COUNCIL STUDY SESSION MINUTES

Tuesday September 13, 2022

1. Call to Order Time: 6:00p.m

Mayor Ruelas took this time to amend the agenda and add an item to **New Business**.

A. Would now be **Mabton School District Bond for Committee**.

2. Old Business

A. Discussion of Cemetery Ordinance (Fence)

There was some discussion on the current cemetery ordinance. Mayor explained the issues of rose bushes, rocks, glass vases and fences. City attorney Bill joined the conversation and explained the problem on the current ordinance not specifying fences. Mayor Ruelas explains the problem that the fences cause and the time it takes when public works goes out to do maintenance at the cemetery. Attorney Bill advises amending the current ordinance to specify fences. It was also explained that the current ordinance does prohibit the planting of trees, plants and etc. Mayor Ruelas explains the possibility of designating one area to rose bushes if families choose to do so in the memory of their loved ones instead of having them planted at the headstone. Councilmember Vera commented on her son's gravesite and having verbal permission from a previous mayor to plant a rose bush. Vera suggests having those that have their rose bushes already planted to be grandfathered in and authorizing them to stay planted. Mayor Ruelas commented on the fact that plots are not being kept up. City attorney suggests having all requests be documented. Councilmember Antonio also joined the conversation and suggested planting the rose bushes in pots so public works could remove when in the way of mowing the lawn. Councilmember Mary joined the conversation and suggests grandfathering in the existing roses bushes and also commented on public works not using the blower on the rocks on the headstones. City Clerk Sylvia also commented on the fact that doing so would blow all of the ornaments away so they have to be careful. Mayor Ruelas brought up the idea of contracting the cemetery to help public works. There were comments as to needing more help and the issues causing the delay in getting the work done.

3. New Business

A. Mabton School District Bond for Committee.

Mr. Castilleja presented the Mabton School district bond that would be on the ballot this

November. Mr. Castilleja explains the plans of eliminating the use of the portables that currently house most of the seventh and eighth grade students. The viable options to consider the old high school and the second was the new addition. Mr. Castilleja's explains the reasoning behind the decision on the addition. It was explained that the addition would include a new two-story building with 8-10 new classrooms and would provide a full-size kitchen. It was explained that the entrance would be revamped where they could have more control and safety would be improved. The current levy would expire this December and this new bond would take over. The new bond is expected to be 93 cents per 100,000. The example used was if there was a home at \$200,000, it would see an increase of about \$15.50 per month in tax. This would be about 2.61 per thousand assessed which is lower than other cities. Overall, it was explained that this would benefit kids sooner and help improve the safety.

B. Discussion of Crime Free Rental Housing & Inspection Program

There was some discussion on the program that is enforced in the city of Prosser. Councilmember Arturo and Vera commented on this and questioned if the city was already participating in this program. It was then explained that it was brought up in the past but was never adopted. Councilmember Mary explained that if the police get called out more than three times at a resident, they would get evicted. Mayor explains the reasoning in wanting to enforce this program. Chief Garcia also joined the conversation and commented on his concerns with the program.

C. Discussion of the Approval of Budget Calendar 2022

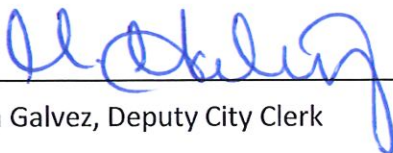
There was little discussion on the approval of the 2022 budget calendar. City treasurer Josh talks about the calendar and the available date for the budget retreat being October 15th. Time and location were also discussed. There were comments on starting at 8:00am. The location will be discussed at a later time.

4. Executive Session: Start Time: _____ End Time: _____

5. Adjournment: Time: 6:52p.m



Rachel Ruelas, Mayor



Maricela Galvez, Deputy City Clerk