

Minutes of the Garland City Council meeting held August 10, 2016 at 8:15 pm at the Garland City Building with the following council members present:

Todd Miller	Mayor
Linda Bourne	Council Member
Josh Marble	Council Member
Tom Perry	Council Member
John R Thompson	Council Member

Mayor Miller called the meeting to order. Council Member Perry gave the invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Council Member Marble.

A motion to approve the agenda was made by Council Member Marble. A second was made by Council Member Thompson with all council members present voting in favor of the motion.

A motion to approve the minutes of July 13th city council was made by Council Member Thompson. A second was made by Council Member Perry with all council members present voting in favor of the motion.

Mayor Miller asked if there were any requests for future agenda items or open comments from the public. Council Member Perry stated he would like to discuss recycling because we talked about it quite a bit but never did anything. He also stated that he would like to talk about our billboard.

Sharlet Anderson explained that she has had a lot of calls lately from residents because the dumpster at Harris Market has recently went to cardboard only. She stated that she checked with several sources and the cost for the recycling items has gone so low that it is costing the companies collecting the items money to accept it so no one is accepting recyclable items except for cardboard and that may not even last.

Mayor Miller updated the council on the billboard situation. He stated that Matt Cutler has tried to call the guy several times and he does not answer and he does not return messages so we just sent a certified letter.

Mayor Miller stated the next item on the agenda was a public hearing to discuss a property tax increase and asked for a motion to go to the public hearing.

A motion was made by Council Member Bourne to go into the public hearing for the property tax increase. A second was made by Council Member Perry. The roll call vote results are as follows:

Council Member Bourne	Yea
Council Member Marble	Yea
Council Member Perry	Yea
Council Member Thompson	Yea

Mayor Miller stated the motion passes so we will go into a public hearing.

Mayor Miller stated that we would like to hear comments from everybody whom would like to comment and to please come up to the microphone and state your name and address and we will give you two minutes.

He also explained that the property tax rate will go up by \$24 per \$100,000 of property worth. He stated that the funds from this increase will go to unfunded balances in the past which the main one is payroll and the benefits associated with that.

Jamie Munns stated that she understands we need money to run things but in a year where we have five state tax increases and property revaluations from the county that this puts a severe strain even though its only twenty five dollars. You have to consider that it is a little piece of a nickel and dime here and there and when you consider mosquito abatement wants another fifty percent increase, it is a lot.

Mayor Miller stated that this is the first tax increase we have had in at least twelve years and this was a unanimous decision amongst the council.

Jan Davenport asked about the payroll increase because the mayor said the money was going toward payroll and benefits. Mayor Miller stated almost every department has increased in payroll expenses. She asked when the last raises were and Mayor Miller explained last year and that the raises are based on merit. She commented that a lot of the people sitting behind her didn't get raises last year and don't expect to get raises this next year and we ought to look at what and who we are funding. She stated she is against the tax increase and we can work with what we've got.

Matt Cutler commented that it is not just payroll but more so the state mandated benefits like retirement and medical insurance that drives the increases.

Council Member Marble asked Sharlet to explain what the state mandated benefits are. She stated that with medical insurance the plans have to meet a certain level of benefits to qualify and a certain level of coverage has to be maintained. She stated that the city has to pay a certain percentage of the full time employees wage toward their retirement.

Mayor Miller stated the tax increase that is proposed is a total of \$40,000 for the city. Every year we set a budget and we try to live with in that budget and every year we have to take money out of reserves. He explained that almost every year we have more expenses than we do revenues. He also stated that we have an audit every year and they recommend that we raise taxes every year.

A motion to adjourn from the public hearing was made by Council Member Bourne and seconded by Council Member Thompson with all council members present voting in favor of the motion.

Mayor Miller introduce Resolution, R-16-18, Adopting the Final Tax Rate.

A motion was made by Council Member Thompson that we adopt Resolution, R-16-18, adopting final tax rates and budgets with a second being made by Council Member Perry. The roll call vote results are as follows:

Council Member Bourne	Yea
Council Member Marble	Nay
Council Member Perry	Nay
Council Member Thompson	Nay

Mayor Miller stated the motion fails.

Council Member Thompson commented that with that he would expect the citizens in the audience to come up with some ways to help us with budgets and to make the dollars go a little bit further since we aren't going to get any more money coming in. He stated we will have to make some cuts that may affect them.

Under new business was Tyson Knudsen with updates on the wastewater projects and awarding the West Factory Street Project.

Tyson stated that he had a couple of items for the council. He reported as of July 26th the contractor has started work on 1400 South, 1500 South and 325 East area around the middle school. To date they have installed six manholes and approximately 2400 feet on twelve inch sewer. He commented that the lines on 1400 South are pretty deep and work is pretty slow. They've got two crews working and are anticipating all the work to be done by the time school starts in the area. He stated that they plan to stay about thirty days ahead of construction to notify people of when they will be in their area.

He stated that at the end of August Mark plans to do another milling in the old parts of town that will be back filled and maintained through the winter and that the contractor plans for work as far into the winter as the weather allows.

Tyson stated that they have issued three field work orders which is a directive that he issues and is received by the contractor which is generally related to clarifications and things that need to be done promptly and then talked about later in a meeting like this with the recommendations of potentially preparing a change order to cover any of those changes.

He stated the first two field orders had to do with manholes sizes and affected about ten manholes for about \$6,000. The next change order was at the intersection of 1400 South and 325 East where a sewer line and a storm drain line would intersect with a price tag of about \$16,000. He stated that they have been able to save in other areas so hopefully they will be able to make it up.

Tyson explained that they opened the bids on the West Factory Rehabilitation Project yesterday and they had three bidders with the lowest being \$122,000, the middle was \$145,000 and highest was \$175,000. He stated that the lowest bid was right where the engineers estimate was. He stated he would like to review the bids and make sure all the important documents were there before he makes a recommendation.

Tyson explained that they have two amendments in front of them to vote on. The first is for the planning report work which we have already paid for, but to get reimbursed through the funding agenda we have to move it over into the contract they prefer. It is just a blind transfer for scope of services and won't cost us anything more.

He explained the second amendment has three tasks. The first is geotechnical service which involves testing services for quality of work. The other two tasks are already in the budget and are preparing a plan of operations and preparing an operations maintenance manual.

Mayor Miller asked for a motion on the first amendment.

A motion was made by Council Member Marble to vote on Professional Service Contract Amendment 1. A second was made by Council Member Perry with all council members present voting in favor of the motion.

Mayor Miller asked for a motion on amendment number 2.

A motion was made by Council Member Marble to vote on Professional Service Contract Amendment 2. A second was made by Council Member Perry with all council members present voting in favor of the motion.

Mayor Miller stated the motions pass.

Mayor Miller stated the next item on the agenda is the reports of officers, boards and committees and do to the time we are going to skip these unless anyone has anything really important.

Fire Chief Rob Johnson reported that they have had people out on the Plymouth fire for the last week.

Council Member Marble had nothing to report.

Council Member Thompson stated that we will have a preliminary Wheat and Beet report at the next council meeting. He also thanked everyone and said everyone did a really good job. Mayor Miller also added it was great.

Council Member Perry commented that we have our emergency preparedness meeting in three weeks with a 6:30 pm start time.

Mayor Miller stated that the planning and zoning meeting was canceled last week because it was Wheat and Beet Days. He also reported that Beautification Committee had their first meeting and have a project planned on August 20th.

Council Member Bourne asked Melanie from the library if she had anything. Melanie commented they will be starting Spanish classes again in September.

Mayor Miller stated the next item on the agenda is the approval of the coding for accounts payable and payroll and utility account adjustments and asked if there were any questions.

Council Member Thompson made a motion to approve the coding for payroll and accounts payable and utility account adjustments. A second was made by Council Member Marble with all council members present voting in favor of the motion.

A motion to adjourn was made at 9:26 pm by Council Member Marble and seconded by Council Member Bourne. All council members present voted in favor of the motion.



Sharlet Anderson, Recorder