

**PUBLIC HEARING
SPECIAL CALLED MEETING - BUDGET WORKSHOP**

SEPTEMBER 11, 2018

The members of City Council convened for a Public Hearing - Special Called Meeting (Regular Meeting) – Budget Workshop of the City of Bayou Vista City Council on Tuesday, September 11, 2018, at 6:30 p.m., at the Community Center, - 783C Marlin, corner of Neptune and Marlin, Bayou Vista, Texas, concerning the following items:

A quorum of the City Council was present and included the following:

Mayor:	Daniel Konyha	Present
Position 1:	Bob Althaus	Present
Position 2:	Tami Inman	Present
Position 3:	Carlos Price	Present
Position 4:	Louis Wortham	Present
Position 5:	James L. Cook, III	Present

Legal Counsel was present

1. Call Meeting To Order

Mayor Konyha called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

2. Roll Call

Roll call was taken as reflected above.

3. First Order of Business

A. Announcement by the Mayor of the presence of a quorum that the meeting had been duly called, and the notice of the meeting had been posted in the manner prescribed by law.

4. Pledge of Allegiance and Pledge to the Texas Flag

The Pledges were led by Mayor Konyha

5. Public Hearing regarding Proposed Tax Rate of \$0.4000/100

The Public Hearing opened at 6:32 p.m.

It was asked of Council how they justified the tax rate of \$.4000/100.

Mayor Konyha explained the Council had to set a ceiling tax rate which had to be proposed and would not be permitted to exceed. This is a proposed tax rate that must be advertised throughout the budget process even though the Council may determine to set the budget by using the tax rate of \$.3850/100 as last year.

Mayor Pro Tem further explained the process of tax rate is a procedural thing that has to be done for the budget process that sets the amount we cannot exceed. Then we work our budget to get a zero budget.

Resident whom attended last meeting believes Council is doing a great job of creating a budget that keeps the tax rate at \$.3850/100 and that will not require the tax increase to \$.4000/100.

Item 5 cont'd

Alderman Inman explained the numbers being worked, which are displayed on the TV monitor, are the same numbers that Council sees. The columns show both the .3850 and the .4000 and shows the different amounts allowed by the different tax rates. At the last meeting we worked at adjusting salaries and other expenditures down to remain at the .3850. I think the misconception is the advertised tax rate of .4000/100 which is the ceiling tax rate even though after executive session last meeting we tried to be clear that Council's goal is to work at .3850. But we are required to publicize the Proposed Tax Rate for each meeting.

Resident asked if our revenues fluctuate.

The Mayor explained revenue sources are Property Taxes, Sales Taxes, Franchise Fees, Court Fees and Permit Fees.

Expenditures fluctuate also?

Alderman Wortham explained Yes expenditures fluctuate more so than the revenues.

Alderman Price gave example of the expected 10% increase in windstorm insurance rate.

A resident pointed out that the Council Members are all residents of Bayou Vista as well and do not want a Tax Rate increase either.

Resident asked about Road Repairs and how much of an increase there.

Mayor Konyha explained about the special line item for Road Repairs is fixed revenue we have to allow.

Alderman Inman explained the Council is working with the County on the Bond for road repair. The Mayor and she will be meeting with Commissioner Guisti with regard to the bond money of \$400 thousand, as well as the dollar for dollar matching funds the City is submitting.

Alderman Wortham asked residents to bear in mind this is a budget imagine trying to predict how much you're going to spend on repairing your car over the next year. The City operates 7 vehicles and we don't know exactly how much we will need to spend over the next year. I think We can do what we need to do and still maintain the \$.3850/100 tax rate. We're predicting it the best we can and we won't be right, we will have to changing it over the course of the year. Next week we will set the budget and it will be set that way for the next year. We will do the best with your money that we can.

6. Citizens Comments on Agenda Items Only

No Citizen's comments.

7. Discussion – Budget Workshop

A. Budget Workshop - discuss and revise, where determined by City Council, the proposed budgeted amounts for anticipated revenues and anticipated expenditures for Fiscal Year 2018-2019 Budget – Draft 3.

Mayor Konyha explained the first column is the \$.3850/100 budget and the budget balances at \$1,069,657.00.

7. Discussion cont'd

Alderman Inman questioned why we maintain the Health Benefit line item for 2 employees who decline the insurance, if the City Attorney line item needs to be increased due to his increase in the accepted contract, if the line item for Patrol Officers is an adequate number since we are looking at adding an additional officer and is the line item for Patrol Officer Overtime still necessary with the additional officer.

Mayor Konyha explained the amount needed to be including in case one of those employees is terminated and the replacement accepts the insurance. Otherwise the City runs the risk of coming in at a deficit for that coverage. The City Attorney line item should be sufficient as we do not look to be addressing the issues handled last year that were out of the ordinary. The Patrol Officer line item is sufficient for the additional officer and the Patrol Office Overtime will still be needed due to a timing issue.

Mayor Pro Tem Cook asked if the Contingency line item change is due to the increase this year due to the monies from FEMA/Harvey. He also asked if the bulkhead line item is an overestimate.

Mayor Konyha confirmed the Contingency change due to FEMA/Harvey. He also stated the bulkhead behind the pool will be a higher amount than the others due to the difficulties caused by the pool and park area.

Alderman Price confirmed the line item for the New Car was what had been discussed last meeting concerning setting monies aside each year for future police vehicle replacements.

8. Comments

- **Citizen's Comments**

Resident stated there are concerns about short term rentals of houses and rooms here in the City. How will they be notified?

Mayor Konyha let them know he and City Secretary are working on this and will be sending certified letters notifying the homeowner or agent this is not allowed in the City of Bayou Vista.

Residents stated concern about why we have to carry and inflate the budget for insurance and why is a 911 land line at the pool necessary.

Mayor Konyha explained the 911 land line at the pool is required by the Galveston County Health Department to receive a Pool Certificate.

Resident asked where would they find out how many code enforcement issues have been handled in the last month. This inquiry comes from the problem with a neighbor where there is so much stuff in this residents yard and driveway that they are parking in the road making it difficult for traffic to move through.

Mayor Pro Tem Cook explained he had conversation with the Code Enforcement Officer today concerning these items. The resolution for this is being worked on, please have patience as we are moving forward in this matter.

A resident told the Council thank you for doing what you do.

- **Aldermen Comments**

Alderman Wortham stated he believes it may be time to require registration for those who do short term rentals.

Alderman Price said thank you for coming to all those in attendance and explained the Code Enforcement Officer left and we had a gap for training.

Alderman Inman reported she had found 4 short term rentals and suggested maybe forming a small citizen committee or possibly the Code Enforcement Officer to go on line and look for those short term rentals so that they may be addressed.

- **Mayor's Comments**

Thank you all for coming and thank you for your interest and your comments.

9. Adjournment

A motion was made by Alderman Inman, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Cook, duly put and unanimously carried, the Council adjourned at 7:53 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Lisa Mitchell – Administrative Assistant

Daniel S. Konyha, Mayor

Lisa Mitchell – City Secretary