

Town Council Minutes
August 29, 2011

STATE OF TEXAS §

COUNTY OF TARRANT §

TOWN OF PANTEGO §

The Town Council of the Town of Pantego, Texas, met in special session at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Chamber of Town Hall, 1614 South Bowen Road, Pantego, on the 29th day of August, 2011 with the following members present:

Melody Paradise
Don Surratt
Donna Arlington
Jane Barrett
Russell Brewster
Duane Smith

Mayor
Mayor Pro Tem
Council Members

constituting a quorum. Police Chief Joel McKinney, Fire Chief Tom Griffith, Public Works Director Ron Edwards and Building Inspector Chad Joyce were excused from tonight's meeting. The following staff members were present:

Sean Fox
Lindsay Wells
Fitzhugh Newsome

City Manager
City Secretary
Finance Director

SPECIAL BUDGET SESSION 6:30 P.M.

Mayor Paradise called the special budget session into order at 6:33 p.m.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

1. Second Public Hearing to consider Tax Rate of \$0.41 per \$100 valuation for the Town's 2011-2012 Fiscal Year Budget.

Mayor Paradise opened the public hearing regarding the proposed tax rate increase and no citizens came before Council to speak for or against the proposal. Mayor Paradise closed the public hearing.

Mayor Paradise mentioned that the Council will vote on the Tax Rate of \$0.41 per \$100 valuation for Fiscal Year 2011/2012 at the Town Council meetings scheduled for September 12, 2011 at 7:30 p.m. and September 26, 2011 at 7:30 p.m.

2. Second Public Hearing regarding a proposed budget for Fiscal Year October 1, 2011 through September 30, 2012.

Mayor Paradise opened the public hearing regarding the proposed budget for Fiscal Year October 1, 2011 through September 30, 2012 and no citizens came before Council to speak for or against the proposal. Mayor Paradise closed the public hearing.

Mayor Paradise mentioned that the Council will vote on the proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2011/2012 at the Town Council meetings scheduled for September 12, 2011 at 7:30 p.m. and September 26, 2011 at 7:30 p.m.

NEW BUSINESS FOR DISCUSSION, REVIEW, APPROVAL AND / OR DIRECT STAFF

3. Discuss and consider an economic initiative for the Westbury Square development.

City Manager Sean Fox updated Council on the economic development application submitted by Bomac Partners, Ltd. for the abatement of asbestos and demolition in Westbury Square previously approved by PEDC. Mr. Fox informed Council that he had spoken to PEDC attorney Jeff Moore who drafted the proposed contract between Bomac Partners, Ltd. and PEDC. He detailed the specifics of the contract including the stipulation that the Town will pay 85% of the cost of the abatement of asbestos and demolition not to exceed \$100,000 and issued a date of October 1, 2012 for the project completion and payment.

Council discussed topics related to this agenda item including the contract, construction timeline and when payment is expected.

Mayor Pro Tem Surratt made a motion to approve the agreement between PEDC and Bomac Partners, Ltd as presented and subject to any revisions deemed necessary by Town staff, Town Consultants, or attorneys. Councilmember Brewster seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

Ayes: Surratt, Arlington, Barrett, Brewster, and Smith

Nays:

Abstentions:

Mayor Paradise declared the motion passed unanimously.

4. Budget Wrap Up

Finance Director Fitzhugh Newsome requested direction from Council regarding creating an ordinance amending the current fiscal year budget to transfer \$250,000 from the General Fund to the Water/Sewer Construction Fund and transfer \$105,000 from the General Fund to the Capital Purchases Fund to fund necessary expenditures previously approved by Council. Council discussed the transfer requests and directed Finance Director Fitzhugh Newsome to prepare an ordinance detailing the transfers for approval.

City Manager Sean Fox next detailed the three remaining issues for discussion related to the proposed budget. First, when City Secretary Lindsay Wells made a presentation for Council to transition to an electronic agenda format, the offsetting budget cost savings were never updated to reflect this change. The Office Supplies budget in the General/Administrative division was decreased by \$2,000 for a new total of \$18,000.

Next, Mr. Fox discussed the Arlington Handitran program with Council currently budgeted at \$8,500 and detailed the options available to the Town including continuing the program in its current form, a cost sharing option with citizens, and opting out of the program completely. Mr. Fox also detailed a conversation he had with Bob Johnson, the Director of Handitran Services in Arlington. Mr. Johnson informed him that the City of Arlington will continue to provide the same level of service to Pantego residents at the current cost should Pantego decide to opt-out of the Handitran program. Mr. Fox ensured Council that the Town's decision to opt-out will not affect citizen participation and the Town would have the opportunity to reinstate the contract in the future should the situation change.

Bob Griffin, 2 Country Club Ct. Pantego, TX 76013 - Mr. Griffin expressed his concern that costs would increase to those citizens that utilize Handitran. Mr. Griffin is concerned about what kind of understanding the Town would have with the City of Arlington.

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Council discussed the options presented and advised staff that the Town will not participate in cost sharing with the citizens and directed City Manager Sean Fox to draft a letter informing the City of Arlington that the Town of Pantego intends to withdraw from the Handitran program in thirty days with the option to re-enroll at a later date if necessary.

Finally, Mr. Fox discussed the Community Relations Board budget currently slated at \$21,500 which would include both traditional events such as Halloween and Candy Train as well as the newly proposed Pantego Fest. Council discussed the directions given to the Community Relations Board to rethink Town events and seek sponsors for certain events and the proposed Community Relations Board budget. Council directed City Manager Sean Fox to designate \$10,000 for use by the Community Relations Board and reallocate \$11,500 as a separate line item for Pantego Fest. Mayor Paradise clarified that, of the \$10,000, \$2,500 would be designated for new teen and young adult events and the remaining \$7,500 would be for traditional Town events.

In addition, Council discussed and agreed to reduce the budget by \$8,500 for removing the Handitran expenditure currently in place.

Council discussed final budget details including PEDC expenditures, when PEDC will approve their budget for Council approval and the possibility of a joint meeting with PEDC during the next scheduled Council meeting September 12, 2011. City Manager Sean Fox confirmed that any corrections to the budget as discussed will be included in a sixth rendition of the budget for Council review prior to the next Council meeting.

Council commended the staff on the openness and transparency of the budget process this year.

Bob Griffin, 2 Country Club Ct. Pantego, TX 76013 - Mr. Griffin was impressed with how the budget sessions progressed this year and commended Director Charlie Price of PEDC for expressing his views during the PEDC meeting on August 24, 2011 on water infrastructure projects

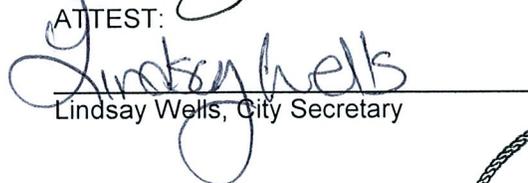
ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Paradise adjourned the budget session at 8:04 p.m.

APPROVED:


Melody Paradise, Mayor

ATTEST:


Lindsay Wells, City Secretary

