

BE IT REMEMBERED that on Tuesday, AUGUST 8<sup>th</sup>, 2017, the Riesel City Council met in a REGULAR called meeting, at 6:30 p.m. in the Riesel City Hall Meeting Room, at 104 Hwy. 6 North in Riesel, Texas, with notice of said meeting having been posted at least 72 hours in advance in accordance with Section 551, Texas Government Code.

**Call to Order:** Mayor Blasingame, called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

**Council Members Present:** Brandon Blasingame, Kevin Hogg, Jeff Tanner, Bobby Dieterich, & Jeanne Lehrmann

**Absent:** Phyllis Koester

**Employees Present:** Alisha Flanary, Jonathan Hefelfinger, & Pete Zuniga **Visitors:** Tom Flanary Jr., Linda Hogg

**BUDGET HEARING** opened at 6:30 PM: Mayor Blasingame opened the floor for a public hearing of comments regarding the 2017-2018 Operating Budget. The visitors had not had the opportunity to review the budget and had no comments at this time. Copies of the budget were handed out to the visitors at that time. With no comments, the budget hearing closed at 6:33 PM

**TAX RATE HEARING** 6:33 PM: Mayor Blasingame opened the floor to public comments regarding Riesel's 2017-2018 Proposed Tax Rate of .364347, which is the Rollback rate. Linda Hogg asked how much it was going up. Secretary Flanary explained that the current rate is .335416, which is 2.8 cents more than last year's rate and that the City of Riesel was the only city, out of 19 cities in the county, that had their overall taxable value reduced. Even with most homes in Riesel seeing increases in appraisal values and with the addition of the Dollar General Store and with the addition of all the new duplexes and homes, the city's total taxable value DROPPED because of the decline in the value of the power plant and the fact that they had reduced their coal pile to a much smaller supply, which was valued 3.5 million dollars less than the amount of last year's coal supply. So, Riesel's certified value dropped from \$58,721,263 to \$57,545,033, a difference (loss) of \$1,176,230. Tax Rate Hearing closed at 6:37 PM

**Consent Items:** Jeanne Lehrmann made a motion to approve the minutes from 7/11/17 & 7/27/2017. Kevin Hogg seconded the motion, which carried unanimously. Kevin Hogg moved to approve the payment of bills and the monthly financial reports. Jeff Tanner seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

**Visitor's Comments:** Linda Hogg asked Council who was responsible for keeping the ditches maintained on Jena Street and mentioned that the weeds were getting very tall. She also mentioned that the property next to the park, owned by the city, needed to be mowed and maintained.

**CPA:** Jeanne Lehrmann moved to appoint Alton Thiele to conduct the next city financial audit for 2017. Kevin Hogg seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

**Insurance:** Kevin Hogg made a motion to approve a renewal policy with TMLIRP for employee health insurance (Plan P85-100-5-A). Jeanne Lehrmann seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

**Rural Transit:** Kevin Hogg made a motion to nominate Phyllis Koester to run for Place 6 on the McLennan County Rural Transit Board of Directors. Jeanne Lehrmann seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

**Budget:** Discussion was held regarding the 2017-2018 Operating Budget for the Sewer, Water and General Funds. The addition of a contingency fund was added to each of the Water, Sewer and General Budgets to basically serve as an emergency line item or to handle an unforeseen expense, thus negating the need to file a budget amendment in those situations. With no public comments being made at tonight's public hearings, one more set of hearings will be held before adopting the budget. Those hearings will be held on August 29, 2017 at 6:30pm, immediately following the hearings, Council will vote on Budget and Tax Rate Adoption.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

At 6:49 PM Council convened into a closed meeting, pursuant to Section 551.074 of the Government Code (V.C.T.A.) for the City Council to deliberate the duties, evaluation, employment, and/or appointment of a public officer or employee: Police Sergeant, Pete Zuniga, annual evaluation.

At 7:02 PM Council reconvened into open session and stated that no action was taken during executive session.

**Raise:** Bobby Dieterich moved to authorize a 5% raise in Pete Zuniga's salary. Kevin Hogg seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

**Adjourn:** With no further business and with no objections, Mayor Blasingame adjourned the meeting at 7:04 PM.

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Mayor, Brandon Blasingame

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Attest: Alisha Flanary, City Secretary