

**MINUTES
of the
KEENE CITY COUNCIL**

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2020

PRESENT: Mayor Gary Heinrich, James Belz, Lisa Parrish, Robert Cooper, David Bass and Mayor Pro-Tem Gwen Beeson.

ABSENT: Rob Foster

CALLED TO ORDER: Called the regular council meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Invocation – Gary Heinrich

Pledge of Allegiance – Gary Heinrich

1. Public Comments –

Kevin Romanelli passed out a letter to the council before the meeting. Mr. Romanelli asked to table the letter and comments until the next council meeting.

2. Mayor's Comments - None

3. Consideration of City Council Minutes dated October 8th, 2020.

Councilmember Cooper made a motion to approve the City Council Minutes for October 8th, 2020. Councilmember Bass seconded the motion.

Motion carried 5-0-0

4. Discussion and possible action regarding Ordinance No. 2020-620 annual investment policy review and approval.

Tom Ross from Valley View Consulting joined the meeting by phone and presented the changes requested from the council at the last meeting. The changes added the City Secretary, as an “investment officer” in paragraph D, and removing item D paragraph 4 “Personnel Authorization to Transact Fiscal Affairs”.

Councilmember Parrish commented about the conference call that she and Finance Director, C. Williams, had on Tuesday, Oct. 20, with T. Ross. Councilmember Parrish recommended that the city rewrite the policy in lieu of simply tweaking the 25-year-old one. She felt that the current policy lacked important verbiage by not stating it would follow city policies or city ordinances, that the Ethics and Disclosures section was lacking, and that the entire policy needed reorganization. Further, since the section relating to the authorized personnel to transact fiscal affairs was being removed that it was especially important that the policy state that it would adhere to the city’s check signing policy of one elected official and one staff member. She

stated that she researched several policies from other cities and felt that the city should write a policy like Fort Worth and/or Cleburne.

The mayor suggested that we adopt this policy for now and work on the re-write for next year. He asked Councilmember Parrish if she would be interested in helping with that re-write and she agreed to do that.

Councilmember Beeson made a motion to approve Ordinance No. 2020-620 regarding the annual investment policy. Councilmember Bass seconded the motion.

Motion carried 4-1-0, Councilmember Parrish against

5. Discussion and possible action regarding amending Ordinance No. 2020-624 tax rate FY 2020-2021.

Councilmember Parrish spoke in opposition to approving the amendment because she did not agree to the wording and percentages. She stated that she had spoken with Scott Porter who had conferred with the CAD attorney, Bruce Medley, and that Porter and Medley felt the wording in the Keene city ordinance was poorly written and vague. Porter and Medley said that Section D of the ordinance was discussing the M & O rate, not revenues from year to year. Parrish stated that she agreed with Porter and Medley and that the wording should be that taxes were being raised by 3.5% and that on a \$100,000 house taxes would be raised by \$25.59. The mayor said that he was not in agreeance with Councilmember Parrish or Porter and that the city reduced the property tax rate. Thus, it would not be possible to raise taxes by \$25.59 when the city reduced the rate. Mr. Boese stated if we were to say that we only raised the tax revenue to 3.5%, that in our opinion, is not telling the citizens the full truth. The 4.34% is actually in our dis-favor, due to the new properties being added to our tax roll, we will in fact be receiving more tax revenue. Some citizens may not experience an increase on the appraisal of their property, due to a protest or other circumstances so they will show a decrease in the amount of the property taxes that they will owe. The adopted decrease in the tax rate will result in an overall increase of taxes due to the appraisal from CAD. Councilmember Parrish told the mayor they would have to agree to disagree.

Councilmember Cooper made a motion to approve amending Ordinance No. 2020-624 regarding the tax rate for the FY 2020-2021. Councilmember Bass seconded the motion.

Motion carried 4-1-0, Councilmember Parrish against

6. Department Reports:

- **Fire Department**
Chief Warner updated the council and the citizens on the Fire, EMS and Code Enforcement activity for the month of September 2020.
- **Police Department**
Chief Hunt updated the council and the citizens on the patrol and criminal activity with incident statistics and types of calls for the month of September 2020. He also presented the Animal Control activity.
- **Finance Department**

Finance Director C. Williams presented the financials for the month of September 2020.

7. Executive Session: Pursuant to Open Meetings Act, Chapter 551, Texas Government, Sections 551.071 (consultation with attorney), 551-072 (real property), 551. 073 (prospective gifts), 551.074 (personnel matters), 551.076 (securities matters), 551.087 (economic development). Executive session may be held, under the exceptions, at the end of the Regular Session, Workshop and/or Special Session, or at any time during the meeting that a need arises for the City Council to seek advice from the City Attorney as to the posted matter of the City Council Meeting.

No Executive Session

8. Reconvene into Open Session for possible action resulting from any item posted, discussed in Executive Session.

No Executive Session – No action needed

9. Discussion and requests for future items on the agenda.

None


10. Adjourn

7:18 p.m.

By: _____


Gary Heinrich, Mayor

Attest: _____


Diane Helms, City Secretary