

**MINUTES
of the
KEENE CITY COUNCIL**

Thursday, August 18, 2022

PRESENT: Mayor Gary Heinrich, Mayor Pro-Tem Gwen Beeson, Lisa Parrish, Robert Cooper, Rob Foster, Thomas Gutwa, and Phillip Jackson.

ABSENT: None.

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m.

Invocation – Councilmember Phillip Jackson

Pledge of Allegiance & Pledge to the Texas Flag – Council and Public

1. Public Comments:

- **Estevan Solis spoke about no longer being able to film the city council meetings.**

2. Mayor Comments:

- **Thanked everyone for coming to the meeting.**

3. Discuss and take action on award of a contract for the construction of sidewalk improvements on East 4th Street and South Eastern Street to JR West Texas Concrete in the amount of \$123,254.00.

- **City Manager Bernie Parker provided a brief update and progress on the project.**
- **Councilmember Robert Foster made a motion to approve an award of a contract for the construction of sidewalk improvements on East 4th Street and South Eastern Street to JR West Texas Concrete in the amount of \$123,254.00. Councilmember Lisa Parrish seconded the motion.**
- **Motion Carried (6-0-0)**

4. Discussion and possible action regarding the employee health insurance proposals for FY 2022 - 2023.

- **Director of Human Resources Natanael Drambareanu presented the benefits research along with Lockton Dunning Benefits Assistant Vice President Nelson Parrott.**
- **Councilmember Foster made a motion to approve the employee health insurance proposals for FY 2022 - 2023. Councilmember Robert Cooper seconded the motion.**
- **Motion carried (4-2-0)**
 - **(Councilmember Lisa Parrish and Councilmember Thomas Gutwa opposed.)**

5. Discuss the no-new-revenue and voter-approval tax rate calculations; take action to consider a proposed tax rate (must be a record vote) and schedule a public hearing date for the proposed tax rate and the budget.

- **Mr. Parker and Director of Finance Charles Williams provided an update on the budget process and the following steps that the council needed to take regarding the proposed tax rate and budget.**

- Councilmember Foster made a motion to approve the proposed tax rate of 0.844134 dollars. Councilmember Gwen Beeson seconded the motion.
- A roll call vote for the proposed tax rate was held, and the councilmembers voted as noted below:

Lisa Parrish (Place 1) – Yes

Rob Foster (Ward 1) – Yes

Thomas Gutwa (Place 2) – Yes

Gwen Beeson (Ward 2) – Yes

Phillip Jackson (Place 3) – Yes

Robert Cooper (Ward 3) – Yes

- Motion carried (6-0-0)
- Councilmember Phillip Jackson made a motion to approve and schedule a public hearing date for the proposed tax rate and the budget for September 15, 2022. Councilmember Foster seconded the motion.
- Motion carried (6-0-0)

6. Budget workshop for FY 2022-2023

- Director of Finance Charles Williams discussed the budget with the council.

7. Executive Session: Pursuant to the Open Meetings Act, Chapter 551, Texas Government Code, the City Council may convene into a closed, Executive Session in accordance with the following authority:

- No Executive Session held.

551.071 (consultation with the attorney)
551.074 (personnel matters)

551.072 (real property)
551.076 (security matters)

551.073 (prospective gifts)
551.087 (economic development)

Executive Session may be held, under these 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 subject matter of this City Council Meeting.

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

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

- None.

10. Meeting adjourned at 8:21 p.m.

By: Gary Heinrich

Gary Heinrich, Mayor

Attest: Jaqueline Munoz-Saldivar

Jaqueline Munoz-Saldivar, City Secretary