

**MINUTES
OF
CITY OF WHARTON
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING
SEPTEMBER 11, 2017**

Mayor Tim Barker declared a Regular Meeting duly open for the transaction of business at 7:00 P.M at City Hall 120 E. Caney Street Wharton, TX. Councilmember Russell Machann led the opening devotion and Mayor Barker led the pledge of allegiance.

Councilmember's present were: Mayor Tim Barker and Councilmembers Al Bryant, Terry Freese, Russell Machann, Don Mueller and Steven Schneider.

Councilmember absent was: None.

Staff members present were: City Manager Andres Garza, Jr., Finance Director Joan Andel, City Secretary Paula Favors, Community Development Coordinator Gwyn Teves, City Attorney Paul Webb, Police Corporal Edwin Logan Robles and Public Works Director Wade Wendt.

Visitors present were: I.O. Coleman, Jr., Pastor Janice Blair, Charlotte A. Bess, David Schroeder, Thelma Hayes, Mary A. Barnes, James Scarlett, Sr., Donna Gooden, Sandra Curtis, Carlos Cotton, P.E., with Jones and Carter, Inc. and Wharton Economic Development Coordinator Chad Odom, II.

The second item on the agenda was Roll Call and Excuses Absences. All members were present.

The third item on the agenda was Public Comments. Mr. I.O. Coleman, Jr. requested an increase in mosquito spraying on the West Side of Wharton, assistance with flood debris collection, stray animal issue and railroad crossings that needed repair. Pastor Janice Blair stated that her message was P.U.S.H. which meant pray until something happens. Ms. Blair said that now something happened to the whole City due to the flooding caused by Hurricane Harvey. She requested to know how residents would be compensated due to the disaster. Wharton Economic Development Director Chad Odom stated that WEDCo and the Wharton Chamber of Commerce would host a breakfast meeting for City of Wharton Business owners affected by the flood on Thursday, September 21st at 7:30 a.m. at the Wharton Civic Center.

The fourth item on the agenda was the Wharton Moment. Mayor Tim Barker stated that the entire City had been affected by the flood caused by Hurricane Harvey and he was proud of the first responders and City Staff who worked throughout the entire event, some even sleeping in their offices. Mayor Barker thanked all the churches and citizens that were working together as well as many volunteers from all of the country to help the residents of

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Wharton throughout this tragic event. He said his prayers were with everyone involved. Councilmember Don Mueller stated that Holy Family Catholic Church was a distribution center for supplies for flood victims and was expected to receive an additional six truckloads of donations.

The fifth item on the agenda was Public Hearing: Proposed Budget for the City of Wharton, Texas Fiscal Year October 1, 2017 to September 30, 2018. Mayor Tim Barker opened the meeting at 7:12 p.m. No comments were made. Mayor Tim Barker closed the meeting at 7:13 p.m.

The sixth item discussed on the agenda was to review and consider action on changes to the Proposed Budget for the City of Wharton, Texas Fiscal Year October 1, 2017 to September 30, 2018. City Manager Andres Garza, Jr. stated that during the August 28, 2017 regular City Council meeting he presented under separate cover a copy of the proposed budget for the City of Wharton, Texas, Fiscal Year October 1, 2017 to September 30, 2018. City Manager Garza said that this item allowed the City Council to direct the City staff to make any changes to the proposed budget after the public hearing and prior to the formal adoption, which was scheduled for September 25, 2017. After some discussion, no action was taken.

The seventh item discussed on agenda was to review and consider a request by Ms. Thelma Hayes to address the Council regarding the flood and the tax people concerning the increase taxes on her home. City Manager Andres Garza, Jr. presented a request from Ms. Thelma Hayes to address the Council regarding the flood and the tax people concerning the increase taxes on her home. Ms. Hayes stated that she had lost everything due to the recent flooding event caused by Hurricane Harvey. Ms. Hayes asked, What now? She stated that she had paid taxes on her home for forty-five years and they continued to go up. She asked when does it stop? After some discussion, no action was taken.

The eighth item discussed on the agenda was to review and consider a request for approval of variance for temporary placement of travel trailers for Hurricane Harvey Flood Disaster Victims. City Manager Andres Garza, Jr. presented a memo to him from Community Development Coordinator Gwyn Teves requesting the approval of variance for temporary placement of travel trailers for Hurricane Harvey Flood Disaster Victims. Ms. Teves stated the variance would allow residents to be able to make repairs to their homes while staying in a travel trailer on their property. After some discussion, Councilmember Russell Machann moved to approve a variance for temporary placement of travel trailers for Hurricane Harvey Flood Disaster Victims. Councilmember Al Bryant seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

The ninth item on the agenda was to review and consider a resolution of the Wharton City Council authorizing and ratifying the City Manager's action to extend vacation and pay exempt employees 50% of over time due to Hurricane Harvey. City Manager Andres Garza, Jr. stated that due to Hurricane Harvey and the flooding he was requesting City Council authorization to extend vacation time past the end of the City's fiscal year which ends September 30, 2017. City Manager Garza said that several employees had vacation cancelled and/or postponed due to the flooding event and exempt employees received overtime on an hour per hour basis in accordance with City Policy but since the City would be requesting from FEMA reimbursement

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for approximately 75% of the total cost. He said that once the funding was received the City would pay out the remaining 25%. City Manager Garza said that some of these employees had received damage to their homes and this would be beneficial to them. After some discussion, Councilmember Al Bryant moved to approve City of Wharton Resolution No. 2017-89, which read as follows:

**CITY OF WHARTON
RESOLUTION NO. 2017 – 89**

A RESOLUTION OF THE WHARTON CITY COUNCIL AUTHORIZING AND RATIFYING THE CITY MANAGER’S ACTION TO EXTEND VACATION AND PAY EXEMPT EMPLOYEES 50% OF OVER TIME DUE TO HURRICANE HARVEY.

WHEREAS, The City of Wharton has received damage from Hurricane Harvey due to flooding; and,

WHEREAS, The City of Wharton LSA exempt employees accrue overtime per City Policy; and,

WHEREAS, The City of Wharton will be requesting reimbursement for said mentioned from FEMA; and,

WHEREAS, The City Council wishes to authorize the City Manager to extend vacation past the fiscal year; and,

WHEREAS, The City Council wishes to ratify and authorize the City Manager’s action to pay exempt employees for 50% of overtime work due to the flooding event.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WHARTON, TEXAS as follows:

Section I. That the Wharton City Council hereby authorizes the City Manager of the City of Wharton to extend vacation for City employees for the City’s fiscal year.

Section II. That the Wharton City Council hereby ratifies and authorizes the City Manager’s action to pay exempt employees for 50% of overtime work due to the flooding event.

Section III. That this resolution shall become effective upon passage.

Passed, Approved, and Adopted this 11th day of September 2017.

CITY OF WHARTON, TEXAS

By: _____
Tim Barker
Mayor

ATTEST:

Paula Favors
City Secretary

Councilmember Terry Freese seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

The tenth item on the agenda was **Executive Session:** City Council may adjourn into an Executive Session in accordance with Section 551.074 of the Local Government Code, Revised Civil Statutes of Texas. Final action, decision or vote, if any with regard to any matter considered in Executive Session shall be made in Open Meeting.

A. City Managers Evaluation.

Mayor Tim Barker moved the meeting into closed session at 7:21 p.m.

The eleventh item on the agenda was to **Return to Open Meeting:** Action on items discussed in Executive Session:

A. **Review & Consider:** City Managers Evaluation.

Mayor Tim Barker returned to open session at 7:36 p.m. Mayor Barker stated that only information was received.

The twelfth item on the agenda was to review and consider appointments to the City of Wharton Boards, Commissions, and Committees:

- A. Building Standards Commission.
- B. Mayor's Committee on People with Disabilities.
- C. Plumbing and Mechanical Board.

After some discussion, no action was taken.

The thirteenth item on the agenda was to review and consider City Council Boards, Commissions and Committee Reports:

- A. Public Works Committee meeting held August 10, 2017.
- B. Parks and Recreation Committee meeting held August 28, 2017.

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After some discussion, no action was taken.

The fourteenth item on the agenda was adjournment. There being no further discussion, Councilmember Don Mueller moved to adjourn. Councilmember Al Bryant seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

The meeting adjourned at 7:38 p.m.

CITY OF WHARTON, TEXAS

By: _____
Tim Barker
Mayor

ATTEST:

Paula Favors
City Secretary