

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JERSEY VILLAGE, TEXAS, HELD ON AUGUST 21, 2023, AT 7:00 P.M. IN THE CIVIC CENTER, 16327 LAKEVIEW, JERSEY VILLAGE, TEXAS.

A. CALL TO ORDER AND ANNOUNCE A QUORUM IS PRESENT

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Warren at 7:00 p.m. with the following present:

Mayor, Bobby Warren	City Manager, Austin Bleess
Council Member, Drew Wasson	City Secretary, Lorri Coody
Council Member, Sheri Sheppard	City Attorney, Justin Pruitt
Council Member, Michelle Mitcham	
Council Member, James Singleton	
Council Member, Jennifer McCrea	

Council Member, Michelle Mitcham participated in the meeting via videoconference call.

Staff in attendance: Robert Basford, Assistant City Manager; Isabel Kato, Finance Director; Kirk Riggs, Chief of Police; Mark Bitz, Fire Chief; Abram Syphrett, Director of Innovation; Laura Capps, Human Resource Manager; and Miesha Johnson, Community Development Manager.

B. INVOCATION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

1. Prayer and Pledge by Dr. Averri LeMalle, Lead Pastor, Champion Forest Jersey Village

C. PRESENTATIONS

1. None

D. CITIZENS' COMMENTS

Citizens who have signed a card and wish to speak to the City Council will be heard at this time. In compliance with the Texas Open Meetings Act, unless the subject matter of the comment is on the agenda, the City staff and City Council Members are prevented from discussing the subject and may respond only with statements of factual information or existing policy. Citizens are limited to five (5) minutes for their comments to the City Council. *Mayor*

Rick Faircloth, 16010 Lakeview Drive, Jersey Village (713) 466-8065 – Mr. Faircloth spoke to City Council about golf carts. He made reference to a fatal golf cart accident in Town Lake, stating that he feels something like this can happen in Jersey Village. He is concerned about safety, especially for children riding in these carts. He does not feel that safety is being practiced. He noticed a cart with two (2) car seats on the backside of a cart. He mentioned that some are operating without the correct registration tags on their cart.

He also spoke to the upcoming decision on the bond election. He wants that those over 65 be exempt from any increase in taxes. He does not support including many projects into one proposition. He feels that projects should be separated into separate propositions so voters can vote on each project.

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Kimberly Henao, 15601 Singapore Lane, Jersey Village, Texas (832) 689-9878 – Ms. Henao gave her 3rd installment on the history of Jersey Village. She gave historic information about the happenings in the City in 1994.

Mayor Warren called the Consent Agenda out of order as follows:

G. CONSENT AGENDA

The following items are considered routine in nature by the City Council and will be enacted with one motion and vote. There will not be separate discussion on these items unless requested by a Council Member, in which event the item will be removed from the Consent Agenda and considered by separate action.

Each Consent Agenda item appears below with background information. Items 5 was pulled from the Consent Agenda for further discussion. Accordingly, Item 5 contains discussion information as well as Council's vote, if applicable. The vote on Item 5 is found at the end of the **Consent Agenda approval of the Minutes for the Work Session Agenda held on July 14, 2023, the Regular Session Meeting held on July 17, 2023, and the Special Session held on July 20, 2023, and July 24, 2023.**

- 2. Consider Resolution No. 2023-38, designating the Harris County Tax Assessor-Collector's Office to calculate the no-new-revenue tax rate and the voter approval tax rate in accordance with the Texas Tax Code.**

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The Texas Tax Code at Sections 26.04(c) and 26.17(e) now require an officer or an employee designated by the governing body to calculate the no-new-revenue tax rate and the voter-approval tax rate for the taxing unit after the assessor submits the certified appraised roll.

Harris County Tax Assessor-Collector's Office is qualified to calculate the no-new-revenue tax rate and the voter-approval tax rate for the City of Jersey Village in accordance with Section 26.04(c) and 26.17(e) of the Texas Tax Code.

This item is to designate the Harris County Tax Assessor-Collector's Office as the City's officer to calculate the no-new-revenue tax rate and the voter-approval tax rate for the City of Jersey Village in accordance with Section 26.04(c) and 26.17(e) of the Texas Tax Code.

RESOLUTION NO. 2023-38

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JERSEY VILLAGE, TEXAS, DESIGNATING THE HARRIS COUNTY TAX ASSESSOR-COLLECTOR'S OFFICE TO CALCULATE THE NO-NEW-REVENUE TAX RATE AND THE VOTER APPROVAL TAX RATE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE TEXAS TAX CODE.

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- 3. Consider Resolution 2023-39, adopting a policy permitting consideration of applications for depository services from banks, credit unions, or savings associations that are not doing business within the city.**

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Chapter 105 of the Texas Local Government Code establishes requirements and procedures for the City of Jersey Village (the City) to the award of one or more contracts for depository services.

The City Council must adopt a written policy permitting the consideration of applications for depository services from banks, credit unions, or savings associations that are not doing business within the city.

The City Council has determined that there are too few banks, credit unions, or savings associations doing business within the city to foster meaningful competition for depository services.

The City Council finds that adopting a policy to permit the consideration of applications for depository services from banks, credit unions, or savings associations that are not doing business within the city is in the best interest of the City for establishing a depository.

RESOLUTION NO. 2023-39

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF JERSEY VILLAGE, TEXAS, ADOPTING A POLICY PERMITTING CONSIDERATION OF APPLICATIONS FOR DEPOSITORY SERVICES FROM BANKS, CREDIT UNIONS, OR SAVINGS ASSOCIATIONS THAT ARE NOT DOING BUSINESS WITHIN THE CITY.

- 4. Consider Resolution No. 2023-40, receiving the 2023 calculations for the no-new-revenue tax rate and the voter-approval tax rate, which were calculated using the certified estimate of taxable value required by Section 26.04 (c-2) of the Tax Code.**

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The 86th Legislature passed SB2, which made substantial changes to the Tax Code. One of the major changes involves calculating the no-new-revenue tax rate (formally known as the effective tax rate) and the voter-approval tax rate (formally known as the rollback rate) based upon a certified estimate of taxable value as set out in the Tax Code at Section 26.04 (c-2).

The City of Jersey Village has designated the Harris County Tax Assessor-Collector (Harris County) to perform the calculations of the no-new-revenue tax rate and the voter-approval tax rate in accordance with Section 26.04(c) of the Texas Tax Code.

On July 27, 2023, these calculations were received by the City from Harris County and were distributed to City Council in accordance with 26.04(e).

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On August 14, 2023, the City was notified by Harris County that they discovered an error in their calculations regarding Line 3B of the 2023 HCAD Tax Rate Worksheet and the corresponding Line 10B of the State Comptroller’s Tax Rate Exemptions Partial Exemption line. However, the Tax Assessor-Collector advised that since the error was made on a worksheet that is a stand-alone report and is generated independently from normal tax roll processing, their July 25th certified estimates and the supporting recaps are correct. They went on to inform us that the error was not just a Jersey Village error but affected School Districts and many other local jurisdictions to include but not limited to the following:

Jur No	Jurisdiction
040	Harris County
041	HC Flood Control District
042	Port of Houston
043	HC Hospital District
044	HC Dept of Education
045	Lone Star College
046	Lee Jr College District
047	San Jacinto College District
048	Houston Community College
051	City of Baytown
062	City of Humble
067	City of League City
070	City of Jersey Village
075	City of Piney Point
125	The Woodlands Township
633	HC ESD 009
635	HC ESD 016
640	HC ESD 014
641	HC ESD 010
665	HC ESD 015

In consideration of this error in the calculations required by Section 26.04 (c-2) of the Texas Tax Code, the documents that the Council will need to receive under this item are as follows:

- 2023-07-25 – Tax Code 2601a1 2023 Certified Estimates
- 2023-07-27 – Section 26.04 (c-2) Calculations
- 2023-08-14 – Harris County’s email notification concerning calculation errors
- 2023-08-14 – Section 26.04 (c-2) Corrected Calculations

This item is to receive the 2023 calculations as corrected for the no-new-revenue tax rate and the voter-approval rate.

RESOLUTION NO. 2023-40

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A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JERSEY VILLAGE, TEXAS, RECEIVING THE 2023 CALCULATIONS OF THE NO-NEW-REVENUE TAX RATE AND THE VOTER-APPROVAL TAX RATE, WHICH WERE CALCULATED USING THE CERTIFIED ESTIMATE OF TAXABLE VALUE REQUIRED BY SECTION 26.04 (C-2) OF THE TAX CODE.

5. **Consider Ordinance 2023-19, adopting the utility rate study and rate calculation methods; amending the code of ordinances of the City of Jersey Village, Texas, Chapter 70, Utilities, by amending certain articles and sections of Chapter 70 to provide for amendments to water and wastewater rate schedules; providing a severability clause; providing for repeal; providing a penalty as provided by Section 1-8 of the Code; and providing an effective date.**

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

This rate study was undertaken by the City Manager to ensure the rate structure that is in place is adequate to meet the needs of the utility fund and the city in the coming years. The last rate study was completed by an outside firm in 2020, at a cost of approximately \$50,000. Since that time inflation and product costs have risen dramatically. Water and sewerage maintenance in U.S. city average, all urban consumers, seasonally adjusted Consumer Price Index (CPI) increased by 11.94% from January 2020 to January 2023.

This study incorporates the 10-year Capital Improvement Plan for the City that is already in place. We are currently utilizing Jones and Carter to assist us with an update Capital Improvement Plan for our utilities. That plan is being done in conjunction with our Impact Fee Study and should be completed in early 2024.

The study recommends a rate structure adjustment to recover the costs to provide the services and capital necessary to maintain the system.

In order to achieve the revenue projections needed to meet our projected expenditures and capital improvements the following annual adjustments are recommended.

Annual Adjustment For Each Service For All Rate Classes					
	FY24	FY25	FY26	FY27	FY28
Water Base Fee	20%	0%	0%	0%	5%
Water Volume Fee	15%	10%	10%	10%	10%
Waste Water Base Fee	20%	0%	0%	0%	5%
Waste Water Volume Fee	15%	10%	10%	10%	10%

Those adjustments would lead to the following rate amounts:

Residential Rates	FY23	FY24	FY25	FY26	FY27	FY28
Basic monthly service CHG	\$12.50	\$ 15.00	\$ 15.00	\$ 15.00	\$ 15.00	\$ 15.75
0-3,000 Gallons	\$4.97	\$ 5.72	\$ 6.29	\$ 6.92	\$ 7.61	\$ 8.37

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3,001 - 6,000 Gallons	\$6.22	\$ 7.15	\$ 7.87	\$ 8.66	\$ 9.52	\$ 10.47
6,001 - 12,000 Gallons	\$7.59	\$ 8.73	\$ 9.60	\$ 10.56	\$ 11.62	\$ 12.78
12,001 - 25,000 Gallons	\$9.50	\$ 10.93	\$ 12.02	\$ 13.22	\$ 14.54	\$ 16.00
Over 25,000 Gallons	\$14.24	\$ 16.38	\$ 18.01	\$ 19.81	\$ 21.80	\$ 23.98

Residential Sprinkler	FY23	FY24	FY25	FY26	FY27	FY28
Basic monthly service CHG	\$12.50	\$ 15.00	\$ 15.00	\$ 15.00	\$ 15.00	\$ 15.75
0 - 6,000 Gallons	\$7.59	\$ 8.73	\$ 9.60	\$ 10.56	\$ 11.62	\$ 12.78
6,001 - 19,000 Gallons	\$9.50	\$ 10.93	\$ 12.02	\$ 13.22	\$ 14.54	\$ 16.00
Over 19,000 Gallons	\$14.24	\$ 16.38	\$ 18.01	\$ 19.81	\$ 21.80	\$ 23.98

Commercial	FY23	FY24	FY25	FY26	FY27	FY28
Basic monthly service CHG	\$54.35	\$ 65.22	\$ 65.22	\$ 65.22	\$ 65.22	\$ 68.48
All Usage	\$8.37	\$ 9.35	\$ 10.28	\$ 11.31	\$ 12.44	\$ 13.69

Commercial Sprinkler	FY23	FY24	FY25	FY26	FY27	FY28
Basic monthly service CHG	\$54.35	\$ 65.22	\$ 65.22	\$ 65.22	\$ 65.22	\$ 68.48
All Usage	\$7.21	\$ 8.29	\$ 9.12	\$ 10.03	\$ 11.04	\$ 12.14

Commercial—Outside city	FY23	FY24	FY25	FY26	FY27	FY28
Basic monthly service CHG	\$424.00	\$508.80	\$508.80	\$508.80	\$508.80	\$534.24
First 3,000 gallons	\$10.60	\$ 12.19	\$ 13.41	\$ 14.75	\$ 16.22	\$ 17.85
Over 3,000 gallons	\$10.60	\$ 12.19	\$ 13.41	\$ 14.75	\$ 16.22	\$ 17.85

Commercial sprinkler— Outside city	FY23	FY24	FY25	FY26	FY27	FY28
Basic monthly service CHG	\$424.00	\$508.80	\$508.80	\$508.80	\$508.80	\$534.24
First 3,000 gallons	\$10.60	\$ 12.19	\$ 13.41	\$ 14.75	\$ 16.22	\$ 17.85
Over 3,000 gallons	\$10.60	\$ 12.19	\$ 13.41	\$ 14.75	\$ 16.22	\$ 17.85

Residential Rates	FY23	FY24	FY25	FY26	FY27	FY28
Basic monthly service CHG	\$19.46	\$23.35	\$23.35	\$23.35	\$23.35	\$24.52
0-3,000 Gallons	\$ 4.32	\$ 4.97	\$ 5.46	\$ 6.01	\$ 6.61	\$ 7.27
3,001 - 6,000 Gallons	\$4.63*	\$ 6.21	\$ 6.83	\$ 7.51	\$ 8.27	\$ 9.09
6,001 - 12,000 Gallons		\$ 7.76	\$ 8.54	\$ 9.39	\$10.33	\$11.37
12,001 - 25,000 Gallons		\$ 9.70	\$10.67	\$11.74	\$12.91	\$14.21
Over 25,000 Gallons		\$12.13	\$13.34	\$14.68	\$16.14	\$17.76

Commercial	FY23	FY24	FY25	FY26	FY27	FY28
Basic monthly service CHG	\$28.48	\$34.18	\$34.18	\$34.18	\$34.18	\$35.88

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All Usage	\$ 5.19	\$ 5.97	\$ 6.57	\$ 7.22	\$ 7.94	\$ 8.74
Commercial —Outside city	FY23	FY24	FY25	FY26	FY27	FY28
Basic monthly service CHG	\$424.00	\$508.80	\$508.80	\$508.80	\$508.80	\$534.24
All Usage	\$10.60	\$12.19	\$13.41	\$14.75	\$16.22	\$17.85

Current FY23 Wastewater Rates for Residential are anything over 3,000 Gallons at \$4.63. The study also recommends moving away from an average sewer bill, which takes water usage during the winter months and averages that usage for the purposes of calculating a sewer bill, and bills sewer costs based on everything that goes through the meter. Residential customers that have an irrigation system connected to the same water meter as their home would be charged sewer usage for all water that goes through the meter. They could avoid the sewer costs by getting a second meter solely for their irrigation system.

Council engaged in discussion about the importance of having a second meter for irrigation. It saves money because the resident is not paying for the waste water costs.

There were questions when the new rates go into effect. City Manager Bleess stated that the new rates will go into effect October 1, 2023. Additionally, it was mentioned that the City of Houston will raise rates again in April 2024 and the new rates being considered tonight are included or take into account any increases in April of 2024.

Mayor Warren stated that no one wants to pay more, but the cost of water is increasing just as all other goods are increasing. We need to continue to maintain our infrastructure to avoid issues later.

With no further discussion on the matter, Council Member Singleton moved to approve Ordinance 2023-19, adopting the utility rate study and rate calculation methods; amending the code of ordinances of the City of Jersey Village, Texas, Chapter 70, Utilities, by amending certain articles and sections of Chapter 70 to provide for amendments to water and wastewater rate schedules; providing a severability clause; providing for repeal; providing a penalty as provided by Section 1-8 of the Code; and providing an effective date. Council Member Wasson seconded the motion. The vote follows:

Ayes: Council Members Wasson, Sheppard, Mitcham, Singleton, and McCrea

Nays: None

The motion carried.

ORDINANCE NO. 2023-19

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF JERSEY VILLAGE, TEXAS; ADOPTING THE UTILITY RATE STUDY AND RATE CALCULATION METHODS; AMENDING THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF JERSEY VILLAGE, TEXAS,

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CHAPTER 70, UTILITIES, SECTION 77 TO PROVIDE FOR AMENDMENTS TO WATER AND WASTEWATER RATE SCHEDULES; PROVIDING A SEVERABILITY CLAUSE; PROVIDING FOR REPEAL; PROVIDING A PENALTY AS PROVIDED BY SECTION 1-8 OF THE CODE; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

- 6. Consider Ordinance 2023-20, amending Chapter 66, Article II, Section 66-41 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Jersey Village; providing a penalty; providing for severability; providing for publication; and providing an effective date.**

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Dave Natras, on behalf of the Dillard family that owns several buildings on Dillard Drive, reached out to the Building Official to discuss the possibility of adding “on street parking” to Dillard Drive. Currently Dillard Drive is four lanes. City staff has researched the reasoning behind the four lanes and at this point in time has not found any documentation as to why it was four lanes rather than two lanes with “on street parking.”

The building official has worked with the engineer they utilized to review these types of requests. The engineer finds no problems with changing Dillard Drive to a two-lane road with “on street parking.” City Staff, including the Assistant City Manager, the Community Development Manager and myself, have discussed this with the Building Official. We see no issues with converting an area of Dillard Drive to have “on street parking.”

I have been contacted by at least one business owner in the buildings along Dillard Drive and they are supportive of adding “on street parking.” They cite the fact the buildings are full, and parking can be limited at certain times as reasons they support the “on street parking.”

The proposal is to have 8'x20' striped spaces, 30' from the stop sign and 15' from each side of birth fire hydrants. A layout of that plan is included in the meeting packet for this agenda item.

Staff has also noticed historically people do already park on Dillard Drive, near the Social Security Administration Building. Staff feels there is no draw back to providing for “on street parking” to that part of Dillard Drive as well.

ORDINANCE NO. 2023-20

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JERSEY VILLAGE, TEXAS, AMENDING CHAPTER 66, ARTICLE II, SECTION 66-41 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF JERSEY VILLAGE; PROVIDING A PENALTY; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR PUBLICATION; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

- 7. Consider Ordinance No. 2023-23, amending the Capital Replacement Fund Balance for the fiscal year beginning October 1, 2022, and ending September 30, 2023, in the**

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amount not to exceed \$10,500 by increasing line item 07-73-6573 (Capital Outlay, Computer Equipment) by \$10,500 to replace the City’s current premises-based telephone system with a cloud hosted system; and authorizing the City Manager to enter into a contract with Nextiva, Inc.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The City’s current telephone system is a premises-based system and lacks the functionality needed to integrate with newer technologies that allow the City to grow and better serve our staff and residents.

With new technologies coming online every day, moving to a cloud hosted telephone system will enable the City to add functionality that currently is not available with our current system, such as easily integrating a chat bot feature.

After researching various options, the services of Nextiva, Inc. stood out. This company combines communication channels of voice, video, collaboration, SMS/MMS, and surveys so needed information is accessed at the right time in order to enhance experiences by producing results. They are known for their reliability, easy setup, award-winning support, and expertise. Their system is secure and scalable.

Included in the meeting packet is a quote for Nextiva’s services. It breaks down the non-recurring and recurring costs for replacing the City’s current premises-based telephone system with a cloud hosted system.

The non-recurring, one-time cost for the equipment and installation is \$10,500. The Communications Department has been saving money in the Capital Replacement Fund for several years and has accumulated \$175,000 as of budget year 2022-2023. The Budget Transfer Request for this item is to move the money from the Capital Replacement Fund savings into line item 07-73-6573 (Capital Outlay, Computer Equipment) in order to pay for the equipment and installation costs of this project.

In terms of the recurring monthly cost of \$2,270.67 along with the cost of \$889.51 for taxes/fees, these costs will be paid out of the monies currently budgeted to pay for the City’s phone services. Therefore, no additional funds are needed for the recurring costs. The taxes/fees for FCC Regulatory Fee, State E911 Surcharge, County E911, etc. are fees that the City is not excluded from paying. The quote does list State and local taxes, but those *should* all be cancelled in the final monthly billings.

Also included in the meeting packet is Nextiva Service Agreement. By approving Ordinance 2023-23, City Council is authorizing the City Manager to enter into this agreement with Nextiva, Inc.

ORDINANCE NO. 2023-23

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF JERSEY VILLAGE, TEXAS, AMENDING THE CAPITAL REPLACEMENT FUND BALANCE FOR THE FISCAL YEAR

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BEGINNING OCTOBER 1, 2022, AND ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2023, IN THE AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$10,500 BY INCREASING LINE ITEM 07-73-6573 (CAPITAL OUTLAY, COMPUTER EQUIPMENT) BY \$10,500 TO REPLACE THE CITY'S CURRENT PREMISES-BASED TELEPHONE SYSTEM WITH A CLOUD HOSTED SYSTEM; AND AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH NEXTIVA, INC.

Item 5 was removed from the consent agenda. The discussion and vote for the removed item can be found under the appropriate Consent Agenda item. The vote for the remaining items NOT removed from the Consent Agenda is as follows:

Council Member Wasson moved to approve items 1 through 4, 6 and 7 on the Consent Agenda. Council Member McCrea seconded the motion. The vote follows:

Ayes: Council Members Wasson, Sheppard, Mitcham, Singleton, and McCrea

Nays: None

The motion carried.

After processing the Consent Agenda out of order, Mayor Warren resumed the regular order of the agenda as follows:

E. FISCAL 2023-2024 MUNICIPAL BUDGET AND TAX RATE ITEMS

1. Discuss and take appropriate action concerning any final changes to the proposed 2023-2024 Municipal Budget.

Isabel Kato, Finance Director, introduced the item. Background information is as follows:

Section 102-007 of the Local Government Code provides that upon closing the public hearing on the proposed municipal budget, the governing body of the municipality shall take action on the proposed budget. In doing so, the governing body may make any changes to the budget that it considers warranted by the law that is in the best interest of the municipal taxpayers.

City Council held the public hearing on the 2023-2024 Municipal Budget on July 17, 2023, and postponed adopting the budget until August 21, 2023.

Additionally, on July 17, 2023, City Council passed Resolution No. 2023-37, setting the maximum proposed ad valorem tax rate of \$0.855245 per \$100 value, as this was the rate used to calculate revenues for the proposed budget that was the subject of the public hearing held on July 17, 2023.

Since the public hearing, on July 25, 2023, under Tax Code Section 26.01(a-1), the Harris County Chief Appraiser has provided us with an estimate of taxable property and our tax assessor has calculated the no-new-revenue tax rate and the voter-approval tax rate based upon these certified estimates as follows:

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PROPOSED TAX RATE	\$0.855245 per \$100
NO-NEW-REVENUE TAX RATE	\$0.652541 per \$100
VOTER-APPROVAL TAX RATE	\$0.767816 per \$100

Taking into consideration this updated information, this item is to provide City Council the opportunity to discuss and provide for any needed changes to the 2023-2024 municipal budget before adopting same.

Additionally, after reviewing the calculations based upon the certified estimates, Staff recommends a budget for FY 2023-2024 based upon a lower tax rate of \$0.7425 per \$100 value as opposed to the rate of \$0.855245 which was initially used for the proposed budget reviewed during the public hearing on July 17, 2023.

If City Council agrees with Staff’s recommendation, the following changes to the FY 2023-2024 Municipal Budget are required:

01-10-7201 Current Property Taxes	\$389,729
01-11-3057 Dental Insurance	\$407.68
01-12-6001 Automobile Liability	\$1,066
01-12-6003 Liability Fire & Casualty	\$4,000
01-12-6005 Surety Bonds	\$66
01-12-9760 Transfer to CIP Fund	\$320,000
01-13-3057 Dental Insurance	\$222.04
01-15-3057 Dental Insurance	\$185.64
01-16-3057 Dental Insurance	\$92.82
01-19-5057 Dental Insurance	\$258.44
01-21-3057 Dental Insurance	\$2,180.36
01-21-6003 Liability Fire & Casualty	(\$600.00)
01-23-3057 Dental Insurance	\$609.70
01-25-3057 Dental Insurance	\$1,384.88
01-30-3057 Dental Insurance	\$36.54
01-31-3057 Dental Insurance	\$222.04
01-32-3057 Dental Insurance	\$314.86
01-33-3057 Dental Insurance	\$185.64
01-38-3057 Dental Insurance	\$36.40
01-38-5052 Concert Series	\$4,000
01-39-3057 Dental Insurance	\$573.30
02-45-3057 Dental Insurance	\$145.60
02-45-6001 Insurance Vehicles	(\$4,640)
03-50-7201 Current Property Taxes	(\$7,592)
10-90-9751 Transfer from Gen Fund	\$320,000
10-91-7032 Rehab/Repair Storm Water	\$50,000
10-91-7095 Fire Station Remodel	\$220,000
10-91-7137 Sidewalk Replacement & Add	\$50,000

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10-91-7148 Decorative Street Lights	\$100,000
11-81-3057 Dental Insurance	\$389.10
11-82-3057 Dental Insurance	\$422.62
11-88-3057 Dental Insurance	\$36.40

Council engaged in discussion about the proposed changes as outlined above. Some wondered about the increase in dental costs. City Manager Bless explained that these rates did increase somewhat.

With no further discussion on the matter, Council Member McCrea moved to approve the City of Jersey Village 2023-2024 budget revisions which include a change in the General, Utility, Debt Service, Capital Improvement and Golf Course Fund. Council Member Sheppard seconded the motion. The vote follows:

Ayes: Council Members Wasson, Sheppard, Mitcham, Singleton, and McCrea

Nays: None

The motion carried.

2. Consider Ordinance No. 2023-17, adopting the City of Jersey Village municipal budget for fiscal year 2023-2024.

Isabel Kato, Finance Director, introduced the item. Background information is as follows:

Council has held the public hearings on the proposed budget for fiscal year 2023-2024 and the proposed budget has been filed with the City Secretary.

Section 102-007 of the Local Government Code requires that upon conclusion of the public hearing on the budget, the City Council shall take action on the proposed budget. In addition, a vote to adopt the budget must be a record vote.

Staff recommends that Council adopt a budget for fiscal year 2023-2024 that includes the recommended changes discussed in the previous item.

With limited discussion on the matter, Council Member Singleton moved to approve Ordinance No. 2023-17, adopting the City of Jersey Village municipal budget for fiscal year 2023-2024. Council Member Sheppard seconded the motion. The record vote follows:

Council Member Wasson:	Aye	Council Member Singleton:	Aye
Council Member Sheppard:	Aye	Council Member Mccrea:	Aye
Council Member Mitcham:	Aye		

Mayor Warren, although present, did not vote.

The motion carried.

ORDINANCE NO. 2023-17

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AN ORDINANCE APPROVING AND ADOPTING THE BUDGET OF THE CITY OF JERSEY VILLAGE, TEXAS, FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING OCTOBER 1, 2023; MAKING APPROPRIATIONS AS REFLECTED IN SAID BUDGET; MAKING CERTAIN FINDINGS AND CONTAINING OTHER PROVISIONS RELATING TO THE SUBJECT; AND PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY.

3. Conduct a separate vote to ratify the property tax increase reflected in the 2023-2024 budget adopted on August 21, 2023.

Isabel Kato, Finance Director, introduced the item. Background information is as follows:

Council has adopted a budget that will raise more total property taxes than last year's budget by \$1,006,769 a 13.55% increase from last year's budget, and of that amount \$106,816 is tax revenue to be raised from new property added to the tax roll this year.

Section 102.007(c) of the Local Government Code states that a governing body adopting a budget that requires raising more revenue from property taxes than in the previous year, must conduct a separate vote to ratify the property tax increase reflected in the newly adopted budget.

This vote must be a record vote that is in addition to and separate from the vote adopting the budget or the vote required to set the tax rate that is provided for by Chapter 26, Tax Code, or other law.

With limited discussion on the matter, Council Member Singleton moved to ratify the property tax increase of 13.55% reflected in the newly adopted municipal budget for fiscal year 2023-2024. Council Member Wasson seconded the motion. The record vote follows:

Council Member Wasson:	Aye	Council Member Singleton:	Aye
Council Member Sheppard:	Aye	Council Member McCrea:	Aye
Council Member Mitcham:	Aye		

Mayor Warren, although present, did not vote.

The motion carried.

4. Conduct Public Hearing on proposed tax rate increase.

Mayor Warren opened the public hearing at 7:24 p.m. in order to give all interested persons the right to express support for or opposition to the proposed tax rate of \$0.855245 per \$100; a rate that exceeds the lower of the voter-approval rate or the no-new-revenue rate. The tax rate that is required for the budget that was presented tonight is \$0.7425.

After opening the meeting, he called upon Isabel Kato, Finance Director to summarize the subject of the public hearing. Ms. Kato gave information outlining the proposal to set the tax rate at \$0.7425 per \$100; a rate that exceeds the lower of the voter-approval rate or the no-new-revenue rate.

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She also gave information about the error that Harris County made in the calculation, stating that the only change was a slight decrease in the no-new-revenue tax rate from \$0.652541 per \$100 to \$0.649058 per \$100. However, as noted by Harris County, since the error was made on a worksheet that is a stand-alone report and is generated independently from normal tax roll processing, their July 25th certified estimates and the supporting recaps are correct.

In completing the Finance Director's summary, Mayor Warren called upon those signing up to speak as follows:

Jim Fields, 16413 St. Helier, Jersey Village (713) 206-1184 – Mr. Fields spoke to City Council about the salaries for City employees. He pointed out that Parks and Recreation salaried are among the top five in value. He felt that we need to focus more on employees from our streets, water, and sewer departments. He made comments about how the City matches two to one for retirement. He feels it should be a one to one match. He also talked about the salaries for the police and building maintenance. He feels the increases are too much.

With no other persons signing up to speak to express support for or opposition to the proposed tax rate of \$0.855245 per \$100; a rate that exceeds the lower of the voter-approval rate or the no-new-revenue rate, Mayor Warren closed the public hearing at 7:31 p.m.

5. Discuss and consider approval of a motion to set the tax rate for debt service for tax year 2024.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Adoption of the debt service tax rate must be a separate item on the agenda for the meeting. The Council must adopt the debt service tax rate by official action and the rate must equal the calculated and described debt service rate outlined in Section 26.04 (e) (3) (c) of the Tax Code.

The staff recommends that Council adopt the debt service tax rate of \$.102215 per \$100 value for the tax year 2024.

With limited discussion on the matter, Council Member McCrea moved to approve setting the Debt Service tax rate of \$.102215 per \$100 value for the year 2024. Council Member Singleton seconded the motion. The vote follows:

Ayes: Council Members Wasson, Sheppard, Mitcham, Singleton, and McCrea

Nays: None

The motion carried.

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6. Discuss and consider approval of a motion to set the tax rate for maintenance and operation for tax year 2024.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Adoption of the maintenance and operation tax rate must be a separate item on the agenda for the meeting. The adoption of this tax rate will take place after adopting the budget for the year.

A Maintenance and Operation (M&O) tax rate of \$.640285 per \$100 value for the tax year 2024 is needed to fund the 2023-2024 Municipal Budget.

However, the Governing Body is permitted to set an M&O tax rate not higher than \$.665601, which is the Voter Approval M&O Tax Rate.

With limited discussion on the matter, Council Member Singleton moved to approve setting the Maintenance and Operation tax rate of \$.640285 per \$100 value for the year 2024. Council Member McCrea seconded the motion. The vote follows:

Ayes: Council Members Wasson, Sheppard, Mitcham, Singleton, and McCrea

Nays: None

The motion carried.

7. Consider Ordinance No. 2023-18, providing for the levy and collection of ad valorem taxes by the City of Jersey Village, Texas, for the year 2024.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Council is required to adopt the ordinance setting the tax rate for debt service; setting the tax rate for maintenance and operation; and setting the total tax rate for the year 2024.

In setting the 2024 ad valorem tax rate, the Governing Body may not set a tax rate that exceeds the voter approval rate of \$0.767816 which, if set, is effectively a 19.15 percent increase in the tax rate compared to last year.

In setting the rate, it should be noted that if a rate of \$.7425 is used it is effectively a 15.22 percent increase in the tax rate compared to last year, either one of these rates are needed to fund the 2023-2024 Municipal Budget.

All these rates exceed the no-new-revenue tax rate and the standard voter-approval tax rate, but not the unused increment voter-approval tax rate. The standard voter-approval tax rate may be adjusted by using the City's unused increment from prior years as allowed by Section 26.013 of the Tax Code. The "unused increment rate" is the difference between the adopted tax rate and the voter-approval rate accumulated over a three-year period. Using this banked unused increment rate allows us to exceed the standard voter-approval rate without automatically triggering an election.

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The vote on the ordinance setting a tax rate that exceeds the no-new-revenue tax rate must be a record vote, and at least 60 percent of the members of the governing body must vote in favor of the ordinance.

A motion to adopt an ordinance setting a tax rate that exceeds the no-new-revenue tax rate must be made in the following form:

"I move that the property tax rate be increased by the adoption of a tax rate of \$0._____ which is effectively a _____ percent increase in the tax rate."

With limited discussion on the matter, Council Member Singleton moved to approve Ordinance No. 2023-18, providing for the levy and collection of ad valorem taxes by the City of Jersey Village, Texas, for the year 2024. I further move that property taxes be increased by the adoption of a tax rate of \$0.7425, which is effectively a 15.22 percent increase in the tax rate. Council Member McCrea seconded the motion. The record vote follows:

Council Member Wasson:	Aye	Council Member Singleton:	Aye
Council Member Sheppard:	Aye	Council Member McCrea:	Aye
Council Member Mitcham:	Aye		

Mayor Warren, although present, did not vote.

The motion carried.

ORDINANCE NO. 2023-18

AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE LEVY AND COLLECTION OF AD VALOREM TAXES BY THE CITY OF JERSEY VILLAGE, TEXAS, FOR THE YEAR 2023; PROVIDING FOR THE DATE ON WHICH SUCH TAXES SHALL BE DUE AND PAYABLE; PROVIDING FOR PENALTY AND INTEREST ON ALL TAXES NOT TIMELY PAID; REPEALING ALL ORDINANCES OR PARTS OF ORDINANCES INCONSISTENT OR IN CONFLICT HERewith; AND PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY.

At this point in the agenda, Mr. Fields stated from the audience that he did not get an opportunity to speak during Public Comments. Accordingly, Mayor Warren called for a motion to allow Mr. Fields to give his Public Comment at this time.

Council Member Singleton moved to allow Mr. Fields to give his Public Comments at this time in the meeting. Council Member Wasson seconded the motion. The vote follows:

Ayes: Council Members Wasson, Sheppard, Mitcham, Singleton, and McCrea

Nays: None

The motion carried.

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Jim Fields, 16413 St. Helier, Jersey Village (713) 206-1184 - Mr. Fields wanted the residents to decide if the Employee Retirement Plan should be changed from 25 to 20 years. He is concerned about the cost of health insurance for retired staff. He mentioned that the electronic speed signs are not working properly and that streetlights are on all the time on Rio Grande. He also stated that the detention pond is largely overgrown on the County side, City shrubs are dying and need water, and there are several code violations that need to be addressed. He complained about the staff at the City Pool, stating that they are non-caring and do not pay attention to swimmers and he mentioned that on several occasions he did not receive a response when writing to City Staff with his concerns.

Mayor Warren encouraged Mr. Fields to send him an email if he does not get a response from City Staff. He also mentioned that on Code Enforcement, it is not just on City Staff. If residents know of violations they should report same to Staff with as much detail as possible.

F. CITY MANAGER’S REPORT

City Manager Bless gave his monthly report follows. Council pointed out that the golf course clubhouse build is well underway. There were questions about the city app that permits residents to report issues. City Manager Bless stated that the app is working.

1. **Monthly Fund Balance Report, Enterprise Funds Report, Governmental Funds Report, Property Tax Collection Report – June 2023, General Fund Budget Projections as of July 2023, and Utility Fund Budget Projections – July 2023**
2. **Fire Departmental Report and Communication Division’s Monthly Report**
3. **Police Department Monthly Activity Report, Staffing/Recruitment Report, and Police Open Records Requests**
4. **Municipal Court Collection Report, Municipal Court Activity Report, Municipal Court Courtroom Activity Report, Speeding and Stop Sign Citations within Residential Areas Report, and Court Proceeds Comparison Report**
5. **Public Works Departmental Status Report**
6. **Golf Course Monthly Report, Golf Course Financial Statement Report, Golf Course Budget Summary, and Parks and Recreation Departmental Report**
7. **Code Enforcement Report**

Before calling the Regular Agenda, Mayor Warren called item 5 on the Consent Agenda for discussion. Council’s discussion and vote can be found in the Consent portion of these minutes.

H. REGULAR AGENDA

1. **Consideration and approval of an Ordinance 2023-21, calling a Bond Election to be held within the City of Jersey Village, Texas; making provisions for the Conduct and the giving of Notice of the Election; and containing other provisions related thereto.**

Austin Bless, City Manager, introduced the item. Background information is as follows:

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The City Council is authorized to call a Bond Election to submit propositions to voters in the City to determine whether the City Council shall be authorized to issue bonds of the City in the amounts and for the following purposes:

- Pool/Parks for \$19,000,000
- Water/Sewer for \$15,855,000
- Road/Bridge for \$18,045,000

The City will enter into one or more Election Agreements with the Harris County Elections Administrator for election services connected to this election.

This item is to call the Bond Election, authorize the posting and publication of the Notice of Election and authorize the Election Agreement with Harris County.

Council engaged in discussion about the wording of the propositions. Some felt that they need to be broken out in more detail. City Manager Bless was concerned about changing the wording at this time given the timing, stating that any changes in the language will need to be approved by the Texas Attorney General, translated, and then uploaded into the Harris County Portal. These steps may take more time than we have in order to get the propositions on the November ballot.

Financial Advisor John Robuck stated that today is the last day to call a bond election. He also confirmed that a change in the language would need to be approved by the Texas Attorney General and given time constraints it may not be possible at this time.

There was also discussion about the pools and parks. It was discussed during the last meeting. Combining the projects provides economy of scale savings. City Manager Bless stated that combining the other items makes it easier to distribute the funds across the various projects when cost overruns are encountered. He also pointed out that having each street as a proposition is not a common practice.

Mr. Robuck pointed out that there is a limited number of words for each proposition (650 characters). However, there will be a voter information sheet that lists the projects that will be funded should the propositions pass. The Harris County deadline for bond language is August 30, 2023.

Council encouraged all residents/voters to read the voter information concerning these propositions. It was also pointed out that just because the propositions pass it does not mean that City Council will go out for bond for the entire amounts.

It was pointed out that Propositions B and C are things we need to do. Proposition A contains things that we want and things that we need. It would be nice to have them split out; however, due to time constraints with election deadlines, it may be difficult at this time.

With no further discussion on the matter, Council Member McCrea moved to approve Ordinance 2023-21, calling a Bond Election to be held within the City of Jersey Village,

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Texas; making provisions for the Conduct and the giving of Notice of the Election; and containing other provisions related thereto. Council Member Sheppard seconded the motion. The vote follows:

Ayes: Council Members Wasson, Sheppard, Mitcham, Singleton, and McCrea

Nays: None

The motion carried.

ORDINANCE NO. 2023-21

AN ORDINANCE CALLING A BOND ELECTION TO BE HELD WITHIN THE CITY OF JERSEY VILLAGE, TEXAS; MAKING PROVISIONS FOR THE CONDUCT AND THE GIVING OF NOTICE OF THE ELECTION; AND CONTAINING OTHER PROVISIONS RELATED THERETO.

2. Discuss and take appropriate action concerning the canvassing of the November 7, 2023, election results.

Lorri Coody, City Secretary, introduced the item. Background information is as follows:

Harris County has set the following schedule for canvass materials:

Monday	November 20	13 th day after ED	• Central Count Board Finalized the Official Election Results
Tuesday	November 21	14 th day after ED	• Canvass deadline for November Election

With this in mind, we will need to conduct the canvass on November 21 which is the last day to conduct the canvass especially given that we will most likely not get the final results from Harris County until late on November 20 or early on November 21, 2023.

According to the Election Code at Section 67.004(a), two members of the City Council constitute a quorum for purposes of canvassing the election.

Given that the schools are closed this week and many of you may be away for the Thanksgiving Holidays, we need to discuss if we will have a full Council for the canvass or if we will just proceed with two members as provided by Section 67.004 of the Election Code.

If we proceed with a full Council, we will need to decide if we will only perform the canvass on November 21 or if we will conduct the Regular Session City Council Meeting on this date as well as opposed to November 27, 2023, which is our current date for the August Regular Session of City Council.

This item is to provide Staff with direction as to the Council's wishes concerning the canvass of the November 7, 2023, election.

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Council engaged in discussion about which date to conduct the canvass for the November 7, 2023 Election. After discussing same, it was the consensus of Council that the canvass of the November 7, 2023, election should be held on November 21, 2023 at 6:00 p.m.

- 3. Conduct a public hearing, pursuant to Texas Government Code, Section 854.202(h)(2), for the purpose of receiving oral comments from any interested person(s) concerning the proposal to allow an eligible City of Jersey employee who is a member of the Texas Municipal Retirement System to retire and receive a service retirement benefit if the member has at least 20 years of credited service performed for one or more municipalities that have authorized eligibility.**

Mayor Warren opened the public hearing being held pursuant to Texas Government Code, Section 854.202(h)(2) for the purpose of receiving oral comments from any interested person(s) concerning the proposal to allow an eligible City of Jersey employee who is a member of the Texas Municipal Retirement System to retire and receive a service retirement benefit if the member has at least 20 years of credited service performed for one or more municipalities that have authorized eligibility at 8:14 pm.

Mayor Warren gave background information about the retirement system. We are currently a 25-year system, meaning staff can retire after 25 years of service. Health care is not included. Out of 923 cities in the TMRS Program there are 220 cities that are 25 years cities, while 703 are 20-year cities. This is the only area where Jersey Village does not fall into the majority with what other cities offer.

Laura Capps, Human Resource Manager, gave background information concerning the Retirement System. It was pointed out by Council that most cities in the area pay two to one contribution. Ms. Capps confirmed that most cities do have a two to one match. Ms. Capps explained that employees contribute 7% and the City contributes 14% of base salary. She explained the retirement process. The cost to the city will be approximately \$37,000.

With no one signing up to speak, Mayor Warren closed the public hearing being held pursuant to Texas Government Code, Section 854.202(h)(2) for the purpose of receiving oral comments from any interested person(s) concerning the proposal to allow an eligible City of Jersey employee who is a member of the Texas Municipal Retirement System to retire and receive a service retirement benefit if the member has at least 20 years of credited service performed for one or more municipalities that have authorized eligibility at 8:19 pm.

- 4. Consider Ordinance 2023-22, regarding retirement eligibility for the Texas Municipal Retirement System.**

Laura Capps, Human Resource Manager introduced the item. Background information is as follows:

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As we look to continue to be an employer of choice in the area so that we can best serve the residents and community, one idea that was looked at was our retirement option. We are with the Texas Municipal Retirement System (TMRS) and that is a fantastic program. We are currently a 25-year city, meaning that staff can retire after 25 years of service. The other option that TMRS offers is retirement after 20 years of service.

Out of 923 cities in the TMRS Program there are 220 cities that are 25 years cities, while 703 are 20-year cities. This is the only area where Jersey Village does not fall into the majority with what other cities offer.

With limited discussion on the matter, Council Member Singleton moved to approve Ordinance 2023-22, regarding retirement eligibility for the Texas Municipal Retirement System. Council Member Wasson seconded the motion. The vote follows:

Ayes: Council Members Wasson, Sheppard, Mitcham, Singleton, and McCrea

Nays: None

The motion carried.

ORDINANCE NO. 2023-22

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE CITY OF JERSEY VILLAGE EMPLOYEE RETIREMENT PLAN TO CHANGE THE CITY'S PLAN PROVISIONS FROM 25 YEARS TO 20 YEARS WITH THE TEXAS MUNICIPAL RETIREMENT SYSTEM (TMRS).

- 5. Consider Resolution No. 2023-41, addressing scheduling conflicts for the Regular Session City Council Meetings to be held in February 2024 and October 2024 in order to accommodate scheduling conflicts with 2024 Harris County election activities.**

Lorri Coody, City Secretary, introduced the item. Background information is as follows:

Back in 2015, the City came to an oral agreement with Harris County, Texas concerning the use of our facility for election activities. We agreed that the County would use the U-Shaped Meeting Room during non-presidential election activities and the Civic Center Auditorium for presidential election activities.

Given that 2024 will be a presidential election year, there are a few scheduling conflict that will need to be addressed by the City Council before we are able to confirm the use of our facility with Harris County.

First Scheduling Conflict: Early Voting will be conducted for the presidential primary election beginning February 20 through March 1, 2024, in the Civic Center Auditorium in accordance with our agreement. This will mean that the voting machines will be set up for this entire time.

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The February Regular Session City Council Meeting is currently set for February 26, 2024, beginning at 7 PM. While voting will just be shutting down at 7 PM, there will still be after hour activity and the security of the machines will need to be maintained preventing the use of the U-Shaped Meeting Room for this Regular Session City Council Meeting.

I see the following solutions to the February 26, 2024, conflict:

1. We could move the February 26, 2024, Regular Session Council Meeting to February 12, 2024, keeping in mind that this move would be only three weeks' time away from the January 22, 2024, Regular Session City Council Meeting; or
2. We could begin the February 26, 2024, Regular Session City Council at 5:30 pm or 6:00 pm in the U-Shaped Meeting Room with a meeting end time of no later than 7:00 pm in order to keep voting equipment secure, keeping in mind that there would only be oral recordings of the meeting activities; or
3. We could hold the February 26, 2024, Regular Session City Council Meeting in the Fire Department Training Room, keeping in mind that this room only holds about 30 people and there would only be oral recordings of the meeting activities; or
4. We could hold the February 26, 2024, Regular Session City Council Meeting in the Fire Department Bay Area provided that the weather is agreeable; keeping in mind that there would only be oral recordings of the meeting activities.

Second Scheduling Conflict: Early Voting will be conducted for the presidential election beginning October 21 through November 1, 2024, in the Civic Center Auditorium in accordance with our agreement. This will mean that the voting machines will be set up for this entire time.

The October Regular Session City Council Meeting is currently set for October 21, 2024, beginning at 7 PM. While voting will just be shutting down at 7 PM, there will still be after hour activity and the security of the machines will need to be maintained preventing the use of the U-Shaped Meeting Room for this Regular Session City Council Meeting.

To resolve this conflict, we could move the October 21, 2024, Regular Session Council Meeting to October 14, 2024 (Four (4) weeks from the September 16, 2024, Meeting).

Council engaged in discussion about the best scheduling plan moving forward. Some suggested we could use the U-Shaped room and have attendees enter and exit through the hallway doors by the restrooms. Some were concerned that not having the meeting in the Civic Center means that there will be no recordings. Having the meeting on February 12 permits recording.

It was the consensus of Council to set the February 26, 2024 Regular Session City Council Meeting for February 12, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. and to set the October 21, 2024 Regular Session City Council Meeting for October 14, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.

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With no further discussion on the matter, Council Member Singleton moved to approve Resolution No. 2023-41, addressing scheduling conflicts for the Regular Session City Council Meetings to be held in February 2024 and October 2024 in order to accommodate scheduling conflicts with 2024 Harris County election activities. Council Member McCrea seconded the motion. The vote follows:

Ayes: Council Members Wasson, Sheppard, Mitcham, Singleton, and McCrea

Nays: None

The motion carried.

RESOLUTION NO. 2023-42

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JERSEY VILLAGE, ADDRESSING SCHEDULING CONFLICTS FOR THE REGULAR SESSION CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS TO BE HELD ON FEBRUARY 2024 AND OCTOBER 2024 IN ORDER TO ACCOMMODATE THE 2024 HARRIS COUNTY ELECTION ACTIVITIES.

The internet connection with Council Member Mitcham was lost at 8:31 p.m. Accordingly, she no longer participated in the rest of the meeting.

- 6. Consider Ordinance 2023-24, amending the General Fund Budget for the fiscal year beginning October 1, 2022, and ending September 30, 2023, in the amount not to exceed \$105,000 by increasing line item 01-39-6598 (Misc Equipment) \$55,000, increasing line item 01-33-6580 (Building and ground improvement) \$50,000, decreasing line item 01-39-3001 (Salaries) by \$55,000 and decreasing line item 01-33-3001 (Salaries) by \$50,000 to cover for the purchase of robotic mowers and to upgrade the employee gym located at the fire department; and authorizing the City Manager to purchase the equipment.**

Robert Basford, Assistant City Manager, introduced the item. Background information is as follows:

Due to staffing vacancies experienced throughout this fiscal year we are currently on pace to finish with a surplus in category 30 in two divisions. There is an opportunity to complete two projects with this surplus within their respective divisions.

The first is to purchase robotic mowers to assist the Parks Department with their mow schedule, allowing us to incorporate project days within our operating schedule. These mowers would be purchased from Husqvarna (buyboard contract 706-23) in the amount of \$41,119.87. This mower has been beta tested on the golf course and has produced desirable results. This project would also come with running power and building a docking station for the robots' protection while charging.

The second project would be a complete renovation of the employee gym located at the fire department. The equipment has reached the end of its life span and this project fits

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the needs of the fire department's growing staff while also addressing another goal to provide excellent benefits to our employees. We would upgrade the treadmill, elliptical, add a stepper, add another power rack, and upgrade free weights/benches. The power rack would be purchased from Jacked Up Brands (sole source) in the amount of \$4,270.25 to match the existing rack and the remaining equipment would be purchased from Advanced Exercise (buyboard contract 665-22) in the amount of \$40,802.33. We also plan to add a few accessories, a tv and a speaker to complete this project.

The remainder of the money would be for minor expenses that are required to complete the process but is within the purchasing authority of the Department Heads or City Manager. It is for such things like painting the workout room, building small huts and a pad for the mowers, solar power items for the mowers, etc.

Council engaged in discussion about how the workout room will help improve employee health. It was also pointed out that the mowers are a great idea since it automates this task providing more time for employees to engage in critical thinking tasks. Assistant City Manager Basford explained the various equipment to be purchased. The original workout equipment that has lasted for many years was donated and second hand. The equipment is for all employees. It is a popular benefit.

With no further discussion on the matter, Council Member Singleton moved to approve Ordinance 2023-24, amending the General Fund Budget for the fiscal year beginning October 1, 2022, and ending September 30, 2023, in the amount not to exceed \$105,000 by increasing line item 01-39-6598 (Misc Equipment) \$55,000, increasing line item 01-33-6580 (Building and ground improvement) \$50,000, decreasing line item 01-39-3001 (Salaries) by \$55,000 and decreasing line item 01-33-3001 (Salaries) by \$50,000 to cover for the purchase of robotic mowers and to upgrade the employee gym located at the fire department; and authorizing the City Manager to purchase the equipment. Council Member Sheppard seconded the motion. The vote follows:

Ayes: Council Members Wasson, Sheppard, Singleton, and McCrea

Nays: None

The motion carried.

ORDINANCE NO. 2023-24

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF JERSEY VILLAGE, TEXAS, AMENDING THE GENERAL FUND BUDGET FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING OCTOBER 1, 2022, AND ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2023, IN THE AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$105,000 BY INCREASING LINE ITEM 01-39-6598 (MISC EQUIPMENT) \$55,000, INCREASING LINE ITEM 01-33-6580 (BUILDING AND GROUND IMPROVEMENT) \$50,000, DECREASING LINE ITEM 01-39-3001 (SALARIES) BY \$55,000 AND DECREASING LINE ITEM 01-33-3001 (SALARIES) BY \$50,000 TO COVER FOR THE PURCHASE OF ROBOTIC MOWERS AND TO UPGRADE THE

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EMPLOYEE GYM LOCATED AT THE FIRE DEPARTMENT; AND AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO PURCHASE THE EQUIPMENT.

I. MAYOR AND COUNCIL COMMENTS

Pursuant to Texas Government Code § 551.0415, City Council Members and City staff may make a reports about items of community interest during a meeting of the governing body without having given notice of the report. Items of community interest include:

- Expressions of thanks, congratulations, or condolence;
- Information regarding holiday schedules;
- An honorary or salutory recognition of a public official, public employee, or other citizen, except that a discussion regarding a change in the status of a person's public office or public employment is not an honorary or salutory recognition for purposes of this subdivision;
- A reminder about an upcoming event organized or sponsored by the governing body;
- Information regarding a social, ceremonial, or community event organized or sponsored by an entity other than the governing body that was attended or is scheduled to be attended by a member of the governing body or an official or employee of the municipality; and
- Announcements involving an imminent threat to the public health and safety of people in the municipality that has arisen after the posting of the agenda.

Council Member Sheppard: Council Member Sheppard stated that the increases for salaries that were included in the budget are based upon salary surveys and the market. It is Council's desire that salaries for City Staff start at mid-range in order to be competitive in the market and to hire and retain competent and qualified individuals.

Council Member Wasson: Council Member Wasson agrees with the statements made by Council Member Sheppard concerning salaries. He added it is more expensive to replace a worker than it is to compensate fairly. He reminded all that school starts Monday, the first official football game is on the 24th, and he encouraged all residents to abide by the school zones.

Council Member Singleton: Council Member Singleton also mentioned that school is starting, so he encouraged all the be careful of students walking. He also mentioned that it is very dry and be extra careful so as not to start fires. He cautioned residents from comparing city departments and their importance to residents and the Council based upon one's salary because the setting of salaries is based upon the surveys and the market.

Council Member McCrea: Council Member McCrea had no comments.

Mayor Warren: Mayor Warren encouraged all to read his newsletter this month as it supports the salary increases and explains why. Residents have high expectations for the services and we are able to maintain those high expectations with highly qualified staff.

J. RECESS THE REGULAR SESSION

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Mayor Warren recessed the Regular Session to Convene into Executive Session pursuant to the Texas Open Meetings Act, Government Code Section 551.087 Deliberation Regarding Economic Development Negotiations, Sections 551.072 – Deliberations about Real Property and 551.071 – Consultations with Attorney at 8:43 p.m.

K. EXECUTIVE SESSION

- 1. Pursuant to the Texas Open Meeting Act Section 551.087 Deliberation Regarding Economic Development Negotiations, Section 551.072 Deliberations about Real Property, and Section 551.071 Consultations with Attorney a closed meeting to deliberate information from a business prospect that the City seeks to locate in Jersey Village TIRZ Number 2 and economic development negotiations, including the possible purchase, exchange or value of real property, related thereto.**

L. ADJOURN EXECUTIVE SESSION AND RECONVENE REGULAR SESSION

Mayor Warren adjourned the Executive Session at 10:15 p.m., and reconvened the Regular Session, stating that no final actions, decisions, or votes were had during the Executive Session.

M. ADJOURN

There being no further business on the agenda the meeting was adjourned at 10:15 p.m.



Lorri Coody, TRMC, City Secretary