

Special Meeting
THURSDAY, October 20, 2011
6:00 P.M.

A Special Meeting of the Anahuac City Council was held in the Council Chambers of Anahuac City Hall located at 501 Miller Street, Anahuac, Texas on Thursday, October 20, 2011 at the above noted time.

There were present:

Sue Hawthorne	Mayor
Cheryl Sanders	Mayor Pro Tem
Danny Thompson	Councilman
Hall Whitley	Councilman
Miguel Anderson	Councilman
Linda Palmer	Councilwoman
Richard Ferguson	City Attorney
Lance Nauman	City Administrator
Heather N. Waller Spann	City Secretary

Those not present:

Richard Baker	City Attorney
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Guest:

Tammy Hale

Special Meeting

At 6:00 p.m. Mayor Hawthorne called to order the Special Meeting.

Mayor Hawthorne gave the invocation; Councilman Whitley led the Pledge of Allegiance to the American and Texas Flags.

There were not any comments from the audience.

Mrs. Tammy Hale requested the council to consider blocking the roads for the Veterans Day parade on November 12, 2011. She included in her request the parade will start on Willcox and Texas Avenue, left on Miller, left on South Main and finally ending at the American Legion Hall. Council reviewed the information and Councilwoman Sanders made motion and Councilman Anderson seconded. All were in favor. The motion carried to block the above roads for the Veterans parade on November 12, 2011.

The council held a discussion on the 2010 – 2011 Municipal Court activity and the Municipal Judge's duties and compensation. Council also received a copy of Judge Riley's resignation at this time.

Council discussed the proposed changes of the Anahuac Volunteer Fire Department agreement. A motion was made by Councilwoman Sanders to approve the amended agreement; Councilman Anderson seconded the motion; all were in favor and the motion carried.

Mr. Nauman told the council of Bruce Corner resignation as City of Anahuac Fire Marshal.

Discussion was held about the recent legislation changes to the qualifications for the City Fire Marshal. Chambers County approached the city with the opportunity for us to use its services as Fire Marshal. Councilwoman Palmer made a motion to adopt an agreement similar to the one that Beach City has

with Chambers County. Councilwoman Sanders seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion carried.

Mayor Hawthorne presented flyers that Anahuac Elementary fifth grade students created showing what they would like to see in the City of Anahuac.

Council discussed authorizing City Secretary Heather N. Waller Spann signature authority on the city's financial accounts. Councilman Thompson made the motion and Councilwoman Sanders seconded; all were in favor and the motion carried.

Council discussed when they would like to set a workshop date to discuss various codes and ordinances. The date was suggested was January 7, 2012. Councilman Anderson made the motion to hold the workshop on January 7, 2012 and Councilwoman Sanders seconded. All were in favor and the motion carried.

Councilman Anderson left the meeting at 6:52 p.m.

Mr. Nauman presented to council with the idea of possibly increasing the solid waste service rates. He explained that Waste Management previously had gone up on its rates and that he is suggesting that the City bring its rates up to reflect Waste Management's increase. After council discussed the matter, Councilwoman Sanders made a motion to raise the solid waste rates as recommended by Administrator Lance Nauman and Councilman Whitley seconded. The motion carried with all in favor.

Discussion moved to the proposed contract on new water meters. After clarifying a few specifics, Councilwoman Sanders made a motion to approve going forward on a contract with Mueller water meters. Councilman Whitley seconded. All were in favor and the motion carried.

The accounts payable process was discussed by council to allow bills to be paid by staff without council approval. Mr. Nauman recommended that bills be paid every two weeks instead of holding them until the regular monthly council meeting. Council indicated that perhaps the Mayor or Mayor Pro-tem look over the bills before being paid. Councilwoman Sanders made the motion to have bills paid every two weeks and Councilman Thompson seconded. The motion carried with all in favor.

Council discussed granting the City Administrator permission to seek a RFP for a new outside auditing firm. Councilman Thompson made a motion and Councilwoman Sanders seconded; the motion carried with all in favor.

Council also discussed giving the City Administrator permission to seek a RFP for a new outside bookkeeping firm or software program. Councilwoman Sanders made a motion and Councilwoman Palmer seconded. The motion carried with all in favor.

Accounts payable were discussed by council. Councilwoman Sanders made a motion to pay the invoices presented to them; Councilwoman Palmer seconded. All were in favor and the motion carried.

Council discussed the Bookkeepers Report from August 2011. Councilwoman Sanders made a motion to approve the report; Councilman Whitley seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion carried.

Council reviewed and discussed the minutes from the past meetings listed:

Special Meeting on August 18, 2011

Special Meeting on September 8, 2011

Special Meeting on September 12, 2011

Special Meeting on September 19, 2011

Special Meeting on September 27, 2011

Public Hearing on October 3, 2011

Public Hearing and Special Meeting on October 6, 2011

Suggestions on future minutes from council were for the minutes to not be as detailed as these were and the few corrections that needed to be made before they became official. Councilwoman Sanders made the motion to approve the minutes with changes and Councilman Whitley seconded the motion. Motion carried with all in favor.

Mr. Nauman gave his reports on what is happening throughout the City.

Mr. Nauman noted with the Belton Lane drainage project the City may incur some expense to move a gas meter and that with this project a citizen is going to lose a 150 year-old Live Oak tree. The City will also be shutting down the road and diverting traffic for two days in the future at some point during this project.

Mr. Nauman wanted to highlight that the new water tower is now up and Rain for Rent's tanks are full, the pump is working and the City should be getting water by the 26th of the month.

Mr. Nauman also wanted the council to be aware that the current utility billing program does not have enough scales to input water rates. The City has been losing \$7,000 to \$9,000 a month just on the residential billing. The City asserted a claim with their general liability office because of this matter.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Sanders to adjourn the meeting and Councilwoman Palmer seconded. All were in favor and the meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Sue Hawthorne, Mayor
City of Anahuac

Heather N. Waller Spann, City Secretary
City of Anahuac