

**THE CITY OF CISCO
CITY COUNCIL, SPECIAL CALLED MEETING
September 19, 2017**

**CISCO, TEXAS §
EASTLAND, COUNTY §**

The City Council of the City of Cisco met in a special called *session* at the Cisco City Hall in Cisco as scheduled, and notice was posted 72 hours in advance and prior to the meeting.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

MAYOR	JAMES KING
COUNCILMEMBER PLACE I	JASON WEGER
COUNCILMEMBER PLACE II	DENNIS CAMPBELL
COUNCILMEMBER PLACE III	WILLARD JOHNSON
COUNCILMEMBER PLACE IV	RANDY BOLES
COUNCILMEMBER PLACE V	TAMMY DOUGLAS
COUNCILMEMBER PLACE VI	CHRIS JOHNSON

PERSONNEL PRESENT:

CITY MANAGER	DARWIN ARCHER
CITY SECRETARY	TAMMY OSBORNE

PERSONNEL ABSENT:

Guests: Peggy Ledbetter, Tammy Archer, Cheryl Howerton, Randy Johnson, Walter Fairbanks, David York, Paul Smith, Nathaniel Bitterman, Curtiss Yates, Bryson Nix, Josh Wasson, Dustin Ferguson, Tammy Pettitt, Timothy Pettitt, Justin Mena, Isaac Bethea, Simon Fuentes, Stephen Forester, Ronnie Johnson, Travis Reid, John Diers, Shannon Thompson, Richard Harrison, Anthony Koch, Brandon Moore, Cecil Tedford, Skyler Raines, Fred Bridges, Mark McGill, Mac Teague, Connie McAlister, J.R. McAlister, Andy Porter, Kari Porter, Janella Jarvis, Mike McGough, Noland Lathem Timothy Yates, Timber Curtis, Blake McDowell, Shy Eisen, Ken McCulloch, Judy Posey, Robert Johnston, Kassie Eaker, Curtis Shelton, Teresa Slaughter, Jay Slaughter, Janet McGough, Glen McGough, Gregory McAuley, Mary Rains, Kari Thompson, Linsey Master, Connie Vick, Donnie McDowell, Butch Petree, Darla Tiner, Jason Tiner, Paul Sellers, Jimmy Yowell, Frank Spangler

I. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:

Mayor King called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

II. PLEDGES

- A. Pledge of Allegiance
- B. Pledge to the Texas Flag

III. INVOCATION:

Councilmember Douglas gave the invocation.

IV. CITIZEN-VISITOR COMMENTS:

Many citizens addressed the Council regarding the tax rate, with comments about the burden the higher rate would place on tax payers, and alternatives to lower the proposed tax rate. Speakers included: Judy Posey, J.R. McAlister, Teresa Slaughter, Richard Harrison, Shay Eisen, Blake McDowell, William Eudy, Timber Curtis, Mike McGough, and Tammy Pettitt.

Chief Walter Fairbanks spoke about the Fire Department and made a plea to not do away with the previously budgeted additional firefighter position.

Financial Director, Peggy Ledbetter requested that the Council passed the previously proposed budget saying that she and the City Manager had worked diligently on the budget and had made every available cut to maintain full function of the city and keep the tax rate as low as possible.

Water Treatment Plant Supervisor, Randy Johnson, also spoke saying that he did not want to see any city staff cut due to budgetary restrictions. The city operates with very few employees and he feels that all of them are essential.

Sean Schaefer declared that he thought the budget to the Economic Development Corporation should be looked at more closely. He felt that they were overfunded for their needs and some of that money could go back to the city.

Both Jane Nichols and Lindsey Masters spoke of the accomplishments of the Economic Development Corporation and outlined ways in which they have benefited the city.

V. THE CITY COUNCIL MAY DISCUSS AND/OR TAKE ACTION ON ANY OF THE FOLLOWING AGENDA ITEMS:

A. Consider and Discuss Ambulance Service Contract.

Mr. Archer presented data from area ambulance service contracts. He said most of those indicate that a paramedic must be on every call and also specified a percentage of time to respond to all calls. Councilmember Campbell inquired if there were any financial ramifications if those contract requirements were not met to which Mr. Archer answered no, but failure to uphold the terms of the contract could result in breach of contract. Councilmember Douglas asked what options were available if we did not sign the contract. Mr. Archer commented that we would have to find another provider for service or continue to use the Eastland Memorial Hospital service with likely increased response times. Councilmember C. Johnson remarked that since time was running out, he was of the opinion that the city should just sign the contract as is and seek alternatives for the future. Councilmember W. Johnson noted that he thought that was simply giving in to their demands without receiving any relief for the Council's complaints or concerns.

Motion was made by Councilmember Douglas to offer the cooperative \$43,550.00 as a negotiated contract amount and add a provision for an 8 minute response time, second was made by Councilmember Campbell. Motion prevailed by the following vote:

Ayes: Councilmembers: Weger, Campbell, W. Johnson, Boles, Douglas, C. Johnson, King
Nays: None/Motion Carries
Voted: 7 to 0
Absent:

B. Consider and Discuss 2017-2018 Budget.

Mayor King opened discussion saying that the previously voted amendment doing away with the additional firefighter position was not reflected in the budget provided in the packets.

Each Councilmember discussed various ways to cut funds from the budget to lower the tax levy, including options to close the pool, not contribute to the library, cut funds from the street improvement fund, lower the payment to the Cemetery Association, cut seasonal employees, lower the contribution to contingency funds, cut the Code Enforcement Officer position, and cut funding to the Eastland County Crisis Center. Mayor King took votes for each suggestion made.

Motion was made by Councilmember Weger to reduce contribution to the contingency fund by \$70,000.00, second was made by Councilmember Campbell. Motion prevailed by the following vote:

Ayes: Councilmembers: Weger, Campbell, W. Johnson, Boles, King
Nays: Douglas, C. Johnson/Motion Carries
Voted: 5 to 2
Absent:

Motion was made by Councilmember Boles to not open the pool for the summer of 2018 in order to lower expenditures, second was made by Councilmember Douglas. Motion prevailed by the following vote:

Ayes: Councilmembers: Weger, Campbell, W. Johnson, Boles, Douglas, C. Johnson, King
Nays: None/Motion Carries
Voted: 7 to 0
Absent:

Motion was made by Councilmember Douglas to cut funding to the library, second was made by Councilmember W. Johnson. The vote was as follows:

Ayes: Councilmembers: W. Johnson, Boles, Douglas
Nays: Weger, Campbell, C. Johnson, King/Motion Fails
Voted: 3 to 4
Absent:

Motion was made by Councilmember Douglas to cut \$40,000.00 from the street improvement fund. Motion died for lack of a second.

Motion was made by Councilmember Douglas to lower the payment to the Cemetery Association by \$3,000.00. Motion died for lack of a second.

Motion was made by Councilmember C. Johnson to cut the Code Enforcement Officer position from the budget. Motion died for lack of a second.

Discussion of cutting funding to the Crisis Center was withdrawn by Councilmember C. Johnson as it was brought to the attention of the Council that a contract had already been signed with that entity.

C. Consider and Discuss 2017-2018 Tax Levy.

There was no discussion on this item.

D. Consider and Discuss Long Range Planning.

No action was taken on this item.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made by Councilmember Boles to adjourn, second made by Councilmember Weger. Motion passed unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 8:08 p.m.

ATTEST:

Tammy Osborne, City Secretary

James King, Mayor
