

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE  
CITY OF PRAIRIE VIEW OF WALLER COUNTY, TEXAS  
CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL CALLED MEETING  
SEPTEMBER 28, 2015**

**Call to Order**

Mayor Jackson called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

**Certification of Quorum**

Roll Call of Quorum was certified by City Secretary Janie Willman.

The following City Council Members were present:

Mayor Frank Jackson  
Council Member Jonathan Miller  
Council Member / Mayor Pro Tem Jonathon Randle  
Council Member Marie Herndon  
Council Member Herbert Thomas  
Council Member Paulette Matthews-Barnett

Also present were City Secretary Janie Willman, City Attorney Paula Alexander, and City Financial Advisor J.J. Johnson.

**Invocation**

Council Member Thomas performed the invocation.

**Citizens Comments**

LaVaughn Mosely addressed the City Council regarding the history of the City's payments to the Prairie View Volunteer Fire Fighting Association. He asked the City Council to cease the \$750 monthly contribution until reporting and transparency are provided. He requested follow-up about Prairie View Police Officer Penny Goodie's conduct in relation to Ms. Sandra Bland and asked why Officer Goodie is not on Administrative Leave until the review of her conduct is completed.

**Conduct a Workshop Meeting on  
Prairie View Volunteer Fire Fighting Association Funding**

**Consider, and if deemed appropriate, adopt a Funding Agreement with the Prairie View Volunteer Fire Fighting Association authorizing the City of Prairie View to Pay a Monthly Payment in the amount of \$750 to retire debts for construction of the Fire Station and provide for expansion of services.**

City Council Member Herndon indicated it is a conflict of interest for Mayor Jackson as the Fire Chief and as Mayor to engage in discussion. City Council Member Herndon

interposed her objection to Mayor Jackson engaging in discussion and making a presentation on this matter.

Mayor Jackson clarified that he was going to step down from the dais and ask Mayor Pro Tem Randle to chair the meeting while he made a presentation.

Mayor Jackson stepped down from the dais to make a presentation. He asked Mayor Pro Tem Randle to chair the meeting during his presentation. Mayor Jackson made a detailed presentation to the City Council detailing the history of the Prairie View Volunteer Fire Fighting Association as well as the Emergency Services District creation.

Following extensive discussion by the City Council, the City Council took action.

Motion was made by Council Member Randle and seconded by Council Member Thomas to adopt a funding agreement with the Prairie View Volunteer Fire Fighting Association authorizing the City of Prairie View to pay a monthly payment in the amount of \$750 to retire debts for construction of the fire station and provide for expansion of services, with change in the agreement to reflect that monthly reports are to be submitted to the City.

Council Member Miller	Yes
Council Member Randle	Yes
Council Member Herndon	Opposed
Council Member Thomas	Yes
Council Member Barnett	Yes

Motion passed by majority vote.

### **Fiscal Year 2015-2016 Budgetary and 2015 Property Tax Matters**

**Consider and take a record vote on an Ordinance approving and adopting the City of Prairie View's General Budget for the Fiscal Year 2015-2016 and making appropriations for the City for such year as reflected in said budget; establishing the procedure for intra-budget transfers and containing other provisions related to the subject.**

Council Member Barnett stated objections to City Financial Advisor J.J. Johnson's continuing provision of information to the City Council on a last minute basis; information on which the City Council has to make decisions.

There was extensive discussion about the amount of raises being proposed for some individual employees. Mr. Johnson clarified that 5 percent increases total are proposed

for each department based on individual evaluations by the respective department heads determining the actual distribution.

Council Member Barnett asked that increases not be given to persons who have not yet met their first employment anniversary with the City.

City Financial Advisor J.J. Johnson indicated maintaining the current tax rate would help the City during its upcoming bond rating review in November. He explained that adopting a current tax rate of \$0.73049 will also allow the City to have a contingency of approximately \$14,600 for the City Council's discretionary use throughout the upcoming fiscal year. Mr. Johnson also noted that he had to factor in a reduction in legal fees and the street maintenance sales tax.

Council Member Herndon indicated adoption of a tax rate equal to the current tax rate of \$0.73049 would not allow a reduction to the City's taxpayers. She also noted the City needs to be competitive from a tax rate perspective to attract businesses. She stated the taxpayers need to have some relief.

Council Member Randle indicated he prefers to use the current tax rate versus reducing the tax rate one year and increasing the tax rate the next year based on the prevailing tax valuations at the time. He noted it is dangerous not to have a contingency fund and prefers to see the City demonstrate savings through reduction in expenditures. He hopes to be able to discount [the tax rate this year and provide] a return to taxpayers based on increasing sales taxes in this year and the next.

Mayor Jackson noted that the City Council should keep in mind that future economic development can provide relief to the ad valorem tax rate. He further noted that the City still has infrastructure needs to be addressed. He expressed pride that the City's taxpayers stepped up to enhance the City's infrastructure.

Following City Council discussion, the City Council took action.

### **CITY COUNCIL RECORD VOTE**

Motion by Council Member Herndon for the ratification of the tax rate of \$0.342124 or the rollback rate for payment of debt service as reflected in the budget. The motion died for lack of a second.

Motion by Council Member Randle and second by Council Member Thomas to ratify a tax rate of \$0.374066 for payment of debt service as reflected in the budget.

The members of the governing body voted on the tax rate for payment of debt service as reflected in the budget. Voting went as follows:

FOR:                    Council Member Jonathan Miller  
                             Council Member Jonathon Randle  
                             Council Member Herbert Thomas  
                             Council Member Paulette Barnett

AGAINST:             Council Member Marie Herndon

### **CITY COUNCIL RECORD VOTE**

Motion by Council Member Randle and second by Council Member Thomas to ratify a tax rate of \$0.356424 to fund maintenance and operations expenditures as reflected in the budget.

The members of the governing body voted on the ratification of the tax rate to fund maintenance and operations expenditures as reflected in the budget. Voting went as follows:

FOR:                    Council Member Jonathan Miller  
                             Council Member Jonathon Randle  
                             Council Member Herbert Thomas  
                             Council Member Paulette Barnett

AGAINST:             Council Member Marie Herndon

### **CITY COUNCIL RECORD VOTE**

Motion by Council Member Randle and second by Council Member Thomas to adopt the Ordinance approving and adopting the City of Prairie View Fiscal Year 2015-2016 Budget for the City of Prairie View.

Motion by Council Member Barnett and second by Council Member Randle to amend the main motion by having the new hires wait to complete their first year anniversary before they receive their pay increase.

The members of the governing body voted on the amendment to the main motion. Voting went as follows.

FOR:                    Council Member Jonathan Miller  
                             Council Member Jonathon Randle  
                             Council Member Marie Herndon  
                             Council Member Herbert Thomas  
                             Council Member Paulette Barnett

The members of the governing body then voted on the main motion.

The members of the governing body voted on the approval and adoption of the Fiscal Year 2015-2016 Budget as follows:

FOR:                    Council Member Jonathan Miller  
                             Council Member Jonathon Randle  
                             Council Member Herbert Thomas  
                             Council Member Paulette Barnett

AGAINST:            Council Member Marie Herndon

### **ORDINANCE NO. 2015-0928-A**

AN ORDINANCE APPROVING AND ADOPTING THE CITY OF PRAIRIE VIEW, TEXAS, GENERAL BUDGET FOR THE YEAR 2015-2016; MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE CITY FOR SUCH YEAR AS REFLECTED IN SAID BUDGET; ESTABLISHING THE PROCEDURE FOR INTRA-BUDGET TRANSFERS; AND CONTAINING OTHER PROVISIONS RELATING TO THE SUBJECT.

**Consider and take a record vote on an Ordinance providing for the Levy and Collection of ad valorem taxes for the City of Prairie View, Texas for the year 2015; providing for the date on which such taxes shall be due and payable; providing for penalty and interest on all taxes not timely made; providing for Severability, and Repealing all other ordinances or parts of ordinances inconsistent or in conflict therewith.**

- A. Debt Service
- B. Maintenance and Operations

### **CITY COUNCIL RECORD VOTE**

Motion by Council Member Randle and second by Council Member Thomas to approve a tax rate of \$0.374066 for payment of debt service.

The members of the governing body voted to approve a tax rate of \$0.374066 for payment of debt service. Voting went as follows:

FOR: Council Member Jonathan Miller  
Council Member Jonathon Randle  
Council Member Herbert Thomas  
Council Member Paulette Barnett

AGAINST: Council Member Marie Herndon

### **CITY COUNCIL RECORD VOTE**

Motion by Council Member Randle and second by Council Member Thomas to approve a tax rate of \$0.356424 to fund maintenance and operations expenditures.

The members of the governing body voted to approve a tax rate of \$0.356424 to fund maintenance and operations expenditures. Voting went as follows:

FOR: Council Member Jonathan Miller  
Council Member Jonathon Randle  
Council Member Herbert Thomas  
Council Member Paulette Barnett

AGAINST: Council Member Marie Herndon

### **CITY COUNCIL RECORD VOTE**

Motion by Council Member Randle and second by Council Member Miller that the property tax rate be increased by adoption of a total tax rate of \$0.73049 which is effectively a 0.050965% (percentage by which proposed rate exceeds the effective rate) increase in the tax rate.

Voting went as follows:

FOR: Council Member Jonathan Miller  
Council Member Jonathon Randle  
Council Member Herbert Thomas  
Council Member Paulette Barnett

AGAINST: Council Member Marie Herndon

### **CITY COUNCIL RECORD VOTE**

Motion by Council Member Miller and second by Council Member Randle for adoption of the Ordinance for Tax Year 2015 for the City of Prairie View, Texas.

Voting went as follows:

FOR: Council Member Jonathan Miller  
Council Member Jonathon Randle  
Council Member Herbert Thomas  
Council Member Paulette Barnett

AGAINST: Council Member Marie Herndon

### **ORDINANCE NO. 2015-0928-B**

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PRAIRIE VIEW, TEXAS, PROVIDING FOR THE LEVY AND COLLECTION OF AD VALOREM TAXES OF THE CITY OF PRAIRIE VIEW, TEXAS, FOR THE YEAR 2015; PROVIDING THE DATE ON WHICH SUCH TAXES SHALL BE DUE AND PAYABLE; PROVIDING FOR PENALTY AND INTEREST ON ALL TAXES NOT TIMELY PAID; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; AND REPEALING ALL OTHER ORDINANCES OR PARTS OF ORDINANCES INCONSISTENT OR IN CONFLICT HEREWITH.

**Department Head Reports**

Reports were submitted.

**Future Agenda Items**

There was no new business conducted nor future agenda items scheduled.

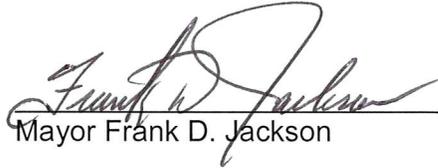
**Adjourn**

Motion by Council Member Randle and second by Council Member Thomas to adjourn the City Council Meeting at 8:43 p.m.

Council Member Miller	Yes
Council Member Randle	Yes
Council Member Herndon	Yes
Council Member Thomas	Yes
Council Member Barnett	Yes

Motion passed by unanimous vote.

Approved this 17<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2015.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor Frank D. Jackson

ATTEST:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Janie Willman, City Secretary