

**MINUTES OF THE
REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TYLER, TEXAS
August 8, 2007**

A regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Tyler, Texas, was held Wednesday, August 8, 2007 at 9:00 a.m. in the Council Chamber, City Hall, Tyler, Texas, with the following present:

Mayor: Joey Seeber
Mayor Pro Tem: Chris Simons
Council Members: Nathaniel Moran
Donald Sanders
Ralph Caraway
Steve Smith
Charles Alworth

City Manager: Bob Turner
Deputy City Manager: Mark McDaniel
City Attorney: Gary Landers
Deputy City Attorney: Steve Kean
Assistant City Attorney: Deborah Pullam
Airport Manager: Davis Dickson
Business Service Manager: ReNissa Wade
Development Services Engineer: Michael Wilson
Chief Financial Officer: Daniel Crawford
City Fire Chief: Neal Franklin
City Librarian: Chris Albertson
Director of Parks and Recreation: John Webb
Director of Solid Waste: Dan Brotton
Manager of Water Quality and Production: Mitch Marable
Manager/Water Utilities Business Office: Joan Roberson
Director of Utilities & Public Works: Greg Morgan
Traffic Engineer: Kirk Houser
City Clerk: Cassandra Brager

INVOCATION

The Invocation was given by Councilmember Caraway.

AWARDS

A-1 Service Awards

30 years

Bill T. Goecking

July 19, 1977 to July 19, 2007

Bill T. Goecking went to work for the City of Tyler on July 19, 1977 as a Patrolman in the Police Department. He was promoted to Police Sergeant on December 9, 1993, the position he now holds. We are pleased to present Bill with a 30 year service pin for his many years of service with the City of Tyler.

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25 years

Et Prem

July 19, 1982 to July 19, 2007

Et Prem went to work for the City of Tyler on July 19, 1982 as a Laborer in the Water Department. He was promoted to Equipment Operator on July 8, 1991, the position he now holds. We are pleased to present Et with a 25 year service pin for his many years of service with the City of Tyler.

20 years

P. Richard Drew

July 16, 1987 to July 16, 2007

P. Richard Drew went to work for the City of Tyler on July 16, 1987 as a Police Officer in the Police Department. He was promoted to Police Sergeant on January 24, 1995 and on November 19, 1997 he was promoted to Police Lieutenant. On January 3, 2002 his title was changed to Sergeant, the position he now holds. We are pleased to present Richard with a 20 year service pin for his many years of service with the City of Tyler.

Aureliano G. Viramontes

July 16, 1987 to July 19, 2007

Aureliano G. Viramontes went to work for the City of Tyler on July 16, 1987 as a Laborer in the Solid Waste Department, the position he now holds. We are pleased to present Aureliano with a 20 year service pin for his many years of service with the City of Tyler.

These employees represent over 95 years of service with the City of Tyler.

A-2 New Employees

The following employees were hired by the City of Tyler during the month of July 2007.

We would like to take this opportunity to welcome these new employees.

Linda Watson	Secretary	Airport
Courtney Gipson	PS Telecommunicator II	Police
Robert Rodriguez	Traffic Marker	Traffic
Matthew Knight	Residential Equipment Operator	Solid Waste
Sandra Roy	Bus Driver	Transit
Cindy Turbeville	Senior Clerk	Engineering Services-Streets

A-3 Request that the City Council consider hearing a presentation from Keep Tyler Beautiful about their recent recognition from Keep Texas Beautiful.

Krystie Boyett – Stated that the Keep Texas Beautiful Board held its 40th annual conference July 10th -13th in San Antonio where Keep Tyler Beautiful was recognized State wide for their work Keeping Texas Beautiful. Keep Tyler Beautiful received the Keeping Texas Beautiful gold star affiliate status for the first time this year. The Keep Tyler Beautiful Board also received the sustained excellence award and the Governors Community Achievement award in the category for cities with populations of 50,000 – 100,000.

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Mayor Seeber – Thanked the Keep Tyler Beautiful Board for the wonderful work that has been done within the City of Tyler.

PRESENTATIONS

P-1 Request that the City Council receive a presentation of the fiscal year 2007–2008 Proposed Budget, then consider voting to place the proposed property tax rate on the September 26, 2007 City Council Agenda as an action item and scheduling public hearings on the proposed budget and proposed property tax rate to occur during the August 22, 2007 and the September 12, 2007 City Council Meeting. (Proceed as recommended)

Mayor Seeber – Stated that this budget may be the one he is most proud of because in his 12 years of service with the City the budget is a culmination of commitments that the City began making 12 to 13 years ago. The City promised three things to the tax payers:

1. Eliminate general obligation bond debt
2. Reduce property tax rate by 63% over the last 12 years
3. Pay cash for capital improvements with the ½ cent sales tax.

Bob Turner, City Manager - Stated that the combined maintenance and operations and debt service property tax rate proposed for Fiscal Year 2007-2008 is \$.1990 cents per \$100 of assessed property tax value. This proposed rate represents a 2.5 cent decrease in the overall property tax rate for the City. Although all general obligation bonds do not completely mature until 2010, early payoff of debt is programmed for the coming year. To ensure adequate reserves, working capital or fund balances for major operating funds have been set at 15 percent (or 54 days) of programmed expenditures.

No water or sewer rate adjustments are proposed, but minor rate adjustments are recommended in the area of Solid Waste to fund Code Enforcement operations and align with costs for premium “pack-out” services.

Expenditures

Expenditures proposed for Fiscal Year 2007–2008 include a total of 22 new positions, 13 of which are public safety related and driven by growth (police recruits, public service officers, tele-communicators and school crossing guards). Full year funding for 12 new firefighter positions added during Fiscal Year 2006-2007 is also provided. Remaining new positions programmed provide operational or organizational efficiencies, expand development initiatives, and respond to citizen expressed needs – which remains the number one tenant of our “Blueprint” for governance. These positions include a Recreation Specialist, Redevelopment Specialist, City Trainer, Solid Waste Foreman, Assistant City Attorney, Rose Garden Groundskeeper and three Code Enforcement Officers.

For a second year, a four percent salary increase is recommended for civil service employees, while civilians would be eligible for a four percent increase depending upon performance. Other pay adjustments programmed include:

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- Police step/assignment pay/shift differential adjustments;
- A Fire reorganization plan that will result in step adjustments;
- New assignment pay for Fire technical rescue; and,
- Certification pay for Code Enforcement, Traffic and Vehicle Equipment Services.

No adjustments to benefits are proposed at this time, but steps are being taken to account for long term liabilities associated with retiree health insurance coverage pursuant to GASB 45 reporting requirements (mandated and effective Fiscal Year 2009-2010). To address annual required contributions to fund this actuarial based liability, and keep pace with rising health care costs, multi-year premium increases are anticipated for all employees and retirees beginning in Fiscal Year 2008-2009.

In order to enhance operational effectiveness, minor organizational realignments are programmed:

- Replacement of Two Key Leaders and Associated Realignment of Business Units
- Shift of Project Engineer and Public Construction Inspectors to Development Services
- Relocation of Neighborhood Services Department
- Reorganization of Transit Operations
- New Urban Forestry Division in Parks Created with Former Median Crew and Arborist

The new Environmental Services/Code Enforcement Department will provide an enhanced level of effort to address most major nuisance and zoning code violations. Not only are three new code enforcement officers being added to provide more proactive services, but a code enforcement task force will be created that incorporates the help from other field personnel and citizens groups in identifying and monitoring potential violations.

Many capital projects are programmed on a pay-as-you-go basis using non-Half Cent funding for General, Utility or Solid Waste improvements. Among projects included are Phase II of Adaptive Control Signaling (on the West and South Loop, Troup Highway), a 150 percent increase in funding for the annual street overlay program, fire truck replacement, an additional outdoor warning siren, significant park enhancements, major City Hall renovations, a pilot WiFi project in the downtown area and regular vehicle/truck replacement and plant improvements.

In order to fund contemplated major expansion of the City's water and sewer systems, it is anticipated that revenue bonds may be sold over a three year period with a half year's interest payment programmed for Fiscal Year 2007-2008. Depending upon cost, it is also recommended that 12 park restrooms be replaced within one to three years using Half Cent program.

Mark McDaniel, Deputy City Manager – Gave a brief presentation of the funds within in the budget.

Councilman Simons – Stated that the budget was remarkable.

Councilman Smith – Stated that there was some creative stuff in the budget.

Mayor Pro Tem Simons made the motion; seconded by Councilman Smith; motion carried 7-0; approved as presented.

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RESOLUTIONS

- R-1 Request that the City Council consider adopting a Resolution approving the issuance of Tyler Health Facilities Development Corporation Revenue Bonds to finance and refinance certain projects for East Texas Medical Center Regional Healthcare System.**

(Res. R-2007-25)

Councilman Alworth made the motion with a note that this does not create an obligation on the part of the City, this is just an IRS requirement; seconded by Councilman Smith; motion carried 7-0; approved as presented.

MISCELLANEOUS

- M-1 Request that the City Council consider ratifying staff action authorizing payment to Boren – Scott Title Company in the amount of \$265,393.60 for acquisition of right-of-way for Grande Boulevard Phase 2. ©**

Councilman Smith made the motion; seconded by Councilman Moran; motion carried 7-0; approved as presented.

- M-2 Request that the City Council consider awarding the contract for the 2007 Asphalt Overlay Program, Capital Improvement Project Number 07-03-432-2630, to the low bidder – Simon Traylor & Sons, Incorporated, in the base bid amount of \$279,936.75. ©**

Councilman Alworth made the motion; seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Simons; motion carried 7-0; approved as presented.

CONSENT AGENDA

(These items are considered to be routine or have been previously discussed, and can be approved in one motion, unless a Council Member asks for separate consideration of an item).

- C-A-1 Request that the City Council consider ratifying the award of a quote for the 2006 Community Development Block Grant Sidewalk Project in the amount of \$12,770 to Johnson Construction. ©**

Councilman Moran made the motion; seconded by Councilman Alworth; motion carried 7-0; approved as presented.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

Mayor – Senior All Stars from Rose Capital East won and are going to nationals in Maine.

NO EXECUTIVE SESSION PLANNED

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ADJOURNMENT

Councilman Alworth made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:05 a.m.; seconded by Councilman Caraway; motion carried 7-0; meeting adjourned.

**JOSEPH O. SEEBER, MAYOR OF
THE CITY OF TYLER, TEXAS**

A T T E S T:

CASSANDRA BRAGER, CITY CLERK