

CITY OF VAN ALSTYNE

MINUTES

City Council Special Called Meeting

Van Alstyne Community Center

262 N. Preston Ave

AUGUST 18, 2017

5:30 P.M.

Members present: Mayor Larry Cooper, Brad Clough, Teddie Ann Salmon, Robert Jaska, Lee Thomas and Suzon Crowell.

Staff present: Frank Baker, Jennifer Gould, Tim Barnes, Judy Kimzey and Ryan Dockery.

AGENDA.

1. Call to Order. *Mayor Cooper called the meeting to order at 7:26pm.*

PUBLIC HEARING.

2. Conduct a Public Hearing to hear comments for or against the proposed 2017 tax rate of \$0.663198 per \$100 of value and fiscal year 2017 – 2018 budget for the City of Van Alstyne. *The Public Hearing opened at 7:26pm. Tom Hynds, Sherley Houx, Vicky Cupit, Monica Herrera and Billy Plake expressed appreciation and support for the Library. Billy Plake also expressed concern for ideas expressed at a recent workshop meeting that Van Alstyne is not a first-class city and we need to learn to live with less to keep costs down. Mr. Plake also advised that senior citizens do not feel the effects of a tax increase so it should not be a concern. Teddie Ann Salmon invited Teen Council members to show the audience their signs in support of the Library. The teens expressed gratitude for the books and programs offered at the Library. Paul Kirley suggested that salaries should be more clearly defined and information on salary increases and bonuses should be added. Mr. Kirley also advised that EDC funds should not be used for the bike path. Judy Smith expressed gratitude for the library programs. Kaaren Teuber asked if the City Manager is going to have a salary increase and if so, how much. Frank Baker advised that the proposed budget includes an increase of three percent for City Manager which is the same given to all other employees. There being no further comments, the hearing closed at 7:53pm.*

OPEN MEETING.

3. Discussion and action regarding a proposed 2017 property tax rate and take a record vote. *Discussion was held regarding IT services, legal services, EMS/Fire staffing, decreased appraisal values from 2016 to 2017 and the tax rate. Frank Baker proposed decreasing the tax rate to \$0.635138 and removing \$40,626 from the administration departments contract services for digitizing permanent records and reducing the administration departments transfers out line item, earmarked for saving funds, from \$27,566.06 to \$10,310.65 to allow for the reduced tax rate. Robert Jaska made a motion to propose a tax rate of \$0.635138. Teddie Ann Salmon seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously. Suzon Crowell made a motion to revoke the prior proposed tax rate of \$0.663198. Robert Jaska seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.*
4. Adjournment. *Lee Thomas made a motion to adjourn at 8:57pm. Teddie Ann Salmon seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.*

Larry Cooper, Mayor

ATTEST:

Jennifer Gould, City Clerk