

**MINUTES**  
**City Council Special Called Meeting**  
Van Alstyne City Hall  
152 N. Main Drive

**SEPTEMBER 18, 2018**  
**6:30 P.M.**

Members present: Mayor Steve Riley, Ryan Neal, Marla Butler, Robert Jaska, Lee Thomas and Suzon Crowell.

Staff present: Lane Jones, Jennifer Gould, Ryan Dockery and Steve White.

AGENDA

1. Call to Order. *Mayor Riley called the meeting to order at 6:30pm*
2. Pledges of Allegiance. *US and Texas.*

PUBLIC HEARINGS

3. Conduct a Public Hearing to hear comments for or against the proposed 2018 tax rate of \$0.595932 per \$100 of value for the City of Van Alstyne. *The Public Hearing opened at 6:31pm. David Hips clarified that the County tax rate went down. There being no further public comment the hearing closed at 6:32pm.*

REGULAR AGENDA (NON-CONSENT)

4. Consider and take any action necessary regarding removal and/or appointment of members of the Planning and Zoning Commission. *No action taken.*
5. Consider and take any action necessary regarding removal and/or appointment of members of the Van Alstyne Economic Development Corporation Board of Directors. *David Hips addressed City Council advising that after hearing a complaint at the last meeting, phone logs were reviewed, and no calls were received at the EDC office from the complainant or his wife as stated. Mr. Hips questioned why City Council is not addressing issues recently uncovered regarding the CDC yet are vindictive toward EDC. Jodi Carr addressed City Council and spoke to the need for Council to support appointed board members, adding that current EDC board members are a fine group of productive citizens and the most trained volunteer board in the City. Ms. Carr questioned the lack of outrage over the CDC's disregard for the law, the blatant bias shown against the EDC and favoritism toward the CDC, the lack of training of City Council members and the spread of hate and lies by new people. Ms. Carr listed the accomplishments of the current EDC board and asked City Council to put the mean-spirited evilness behind us and allow the board to remain intact so that it may continue along its successful path. Marla Butler advised that comments and opinions are welcome but to make accusations against one group while putting the other on a pedestal is not acceptable. Coming up to the microphone and trashing City Council is not a good idea. Mrs. Butler clarified that regardless of what actually occurred, if a customer feels they were not addressed, that is a problem however that is not the problem today. Information that has come to light cannot be divulged this evening however, Marla Butler made a motion to remove existing board members of the EDC Board of Directors and have Jodi Carr report to the City Manager until a new board is put in place. Ryan Neal seconded the motion. Suzon Crowell suggested it is not for the City Council to take sides and it is sickening and a vindictive witch hunt as this is the third time this has come before the City Council. Robert Jaska, speaking on behalf of the CDC*

*expressed concern for the words vindictive and attack being used in relation to the EDC as both speakers this evening have attacked the CDC. Suzon Crowell's worksheet was perceived as an attack. The CDC has reviewed the worksheet as well as their attorney and CPA, nothing was done wrong. Mr. Jaska asked that the accusations stop. Each corporation should take care of their own business. Mr. Jaska questioned how everyone on the EDC knows about Mrs. Crowell's questions of the CDC to which Mrs. Crowell advised she shared the sheets but asking questions is not vindictive. Mrs. Crowell expressed favor for CDC looking into her questions. The only action not taken is to answer the questions as she was unaware that they were reviewed. Mr. Jaska advised that during a City Council meeting, CDC President Chris Dorak did advise that the questions were reviewed, and no wrong actions were taken by the CDC. Lee Thomas spoke in support of the EDC and CDC but does not appreciate being chastised as this is not a situation where EDC is being picked on over CDC. There are reasons for this action. Marla Butler restated the motion made, Ryan Neal seconded the motion and the motion passed with Marla Butler, Ryan Neal, Robert Jaska and Lee Thomas in favor and Suzon Crowell opposed.*

#### EXECUTIVE SESSION

*In accordance with Chapter 551 of the Texas Government Code (Open Meetings Law), the City Council may meet in a closed Executive Session pursuant to applicable laws.*

6. All items below for Executive Session:

Pursuant to the following designated sections of Texas Government Code, Annotated, Subchapter 551, the Council will enter into executive session to discuss the following items:

- a) Section 551.087 [Economic Development Negotiations] regarding the Mantua Development.
- b) Section 551.071 [Consultation with Attorney] regarding the Mantua Development and financing districts/tools.

*City Council recessed into executive session at 6:58pm.*

*City Council reconvened into open session at 8:05pm.*

#### OPEN MEETING

7. Consider and take any action necessary as a result of executive session. *As relates to executive session agenda item a, no action taken. As relates to executive session agenda item b, Robert Jaska made a motion to authorize the City Manager to execute a professional services agreement with the Mantua developer. Ryan Neal seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.*
8. Adjournment. *Mayor Riley adjourned the meeting at 8:07pm.*

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Steve Riley, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Jennifer Gould, City Clerk