

CITY OF GONZALES, TEXAS
SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING
GONZALES MUNICIPAL BUILDING 820 ST. JOSEPH STREET
VIA TELEPHONE CONFERENCE
LIMITED IN PERSON ATTENDANCE AVAILABLE
AGENDA –SEPTEMBER 3, 2020 6:00 P.M.

NOTICE is hereby given that, pursuant to Section 551.045 of the Texas Government Code and the March 16, 2020 order by the Governor of the State of Texas, the City Council will hold a special called meeting on Thursday, September 3, 2020 at 6:00 p.m., via teleconference in accordance with Governor Abbott's order.

This meeting notice, agenda and agenda packet are posted online at www.gonzales.texas.gov.

In accordance with Governor Abbott's Executive Order 29 issued on July 2, 2020 every person attending the meeting shall wear a face covering over the nose and mouth unless the person is under 10 years of age or has a medical condition or disability that prevents wearing a face covering.

On March 16, 2020, Governor Abbott suspended several provisions of the Texas Open Meetings Act for the duration of his statewide declaration of disaster, including the new requirement (added by H.B. 2840 last legislative session) that the public has a right to speak on agenda items. This DOES NOT apply to statutorily-mandated public hearings, such as zoning and similar hearings. The Governor has since clarified his intent and stated that citizens should be allowed to offer comments by other means.

In person attendance by the public will be limited to 14 which is 50% capacity of the room less Council Members and required staff and should be separated by at least six (6) feet from other groups attending the meeting together. A temporary suspension of certain provisions of the Open Meetings Act to allow telephone or videoconference public meetings has been granted by Governor Greg Abbott. These actions are being taken to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 by avoiding meetings that bring people into a group setting and in accordance with Section 418.016 of the Texas Government Code.

Citizens wishing to offer comments on the posted agenda items may email their comments at least two hours prior to the start of the meeting and the comments will be read into the record during the time allocated for citizen comments. Emails may be sent to citysecretary@gonzales.texas.gov and must include the name of the citizen

The public toll-free dial in number to participate in the telephone conference is hosted through FreeConferenceCall.com.

Toll-free call in number: **1-844-854-2222**

When asked for an access code enter **348787#**

It is not necessary to announce yourself when you join the teleconference.

A recording of the telephone conference will be made and will be available to the public in accordance with the Open Meetings Act upon written request.

CALL TO ORDER, INVOCATION, AND PLEDGES OF ALLEGIANCE

HEARING OF RESIDENTS

This time is set aside for any person who wishes to address the City Council. Each person should fill out the speaker's register prior to the meeting. Presentations should be limited to no more than 3 minutes. Individuals not able to attend due to space limitations may email the City Secretary at least two (2) hours prior to the meeting.

PUBLIC HEARING

Citizens are invited to provide public comments on the following matters:

The City Council of the City of Gonzales has approved a preliminary tax rate of \$0.3511, which exceeds the lower of the no-new revenue or voter-approval tax rate, and that if adopted, would increase the total tax revenues from properties on the tax roll in the preceding tax year by 3.88%.

- 1.1 **Public Hearing** for citizen input regarding the use of City Funds for Fiscal Year beginning October 1, 2020 and ending September 30, 2021. This budget will raise more total property taxes than last year's budget by \$246,843 or 17.78% and of that amount \$8,961 is tax revenue to be raised from new property added to the tax roll this year.

DISCUSSION

- 2.1 Presentation, discussion and deliberation on the Proposed Budget for the Fiscal Year Beginning October 1, 2020 and Ending on September 30, 2021, including the 2021 proposed Ad Valorem Tax Rate and Amendments to the Fiscal Year 2019-2020 Budget.

ACTION ITEMS

- 3.1 Discuss, Consider & Possible Action Approving **Resolution #2020-83** Approving the Amendment of the Job Description and Position Classification for the Chief Executive Officer for the Economic Development Corporation to Economic Development Director and Amend Duties.

CLOSED SESSION

- 4.1 Pursuant to Section 551.071 of the Texas Government Code, the City of Gonzales will consult in closed session with its attorney to receive legal advice regarding pending or contemplated litigation, a settlement offer, or matter in which the duty of the attorney to the governmental body under the Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct of the State Bar of Texas clearly conflicts with this chapter", to include the following matters:
 - a. In Re Estate of J. B. Wells litigation
 - b. Patricia Bennett and Gloria Knight v. City of Gonzales, Texas Cause No. 27,500
 - c. A Guerra Enterprise LLC D/B/A Holiday Inn Express & Suites Cause No. 27,591
 - d. Utility Billing Issues

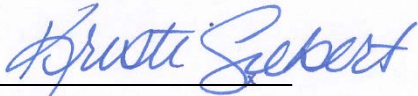
RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

- 5.1 Discuss and Consider any Action Resulting from Closed Session as Necessary
- 5.2 Discuss, Consider & Possible Action Approving **Resolution #2020-84** Authorizing the City Manager to execute a Professional Services Agreement for a Utility Rate Study.

ADJOURN

EXECUTIVE SESSION: The City Council reserves the right to discuss any of the above items in Executive Closed Session if they meet the qualifications in Sections 551.071, 551.072, 551.073, 551.074, 551.076, 551.087, of Chapter 551 of the Government Code of the State of Texas.

CERTIFIED as posted by 4:30 p.m. on August 31, 2020. I further certify that the following News Media were properly notified of the above stated meeting: Gonzales Inquirer.



Kristi Gilbert, Administrative Services Director/City Secretary