

**CITY OF GONZALES, TEXAS  
CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
MINUTES –AUGUST 19, 2020**

The Regular Meeting of the City Council was held on **August 19, 2020** at 12:00 p.m. via teleconference **pursuant to Section 551.045 of the Texas Government Code and in accordance with the March 16, 2020 order by the Governor of the State of Texas.**

The meeting notice, agenda and agenda packet were posted online at [www.gonzales.texas.gov](http://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](mailto:citysecretary@gonzales.texas.gov) and must include the name of the citizen.*

**CALL TO ORDER, INVOCATION AND PLEDGE**

Mayor Kacir called the meeting to order at 12:03 p.m. and a quorum was certified.

<b>Attendee Name</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Status</b>
Connie L. Kacir	Mayor	Present in person
Gary Schroeder	Council Member, District 1	Present in person
Tommy Schurig	Council Member, District 2	Present in person
Bobby O'Neal	Council Member, District 3	Present in person
Dan Blakemore	Mayor Pro Tem/Council Member, District 4	Present in person

**STAFF PARTICIPATING:**

City Manager Tim Patek, Administrative Services Director/City Secretary Kristi Gilbert, Finance Director Laura Zella, Street Supervisor Todd Renschel.

## HEARING OF RESIDENTS

None were signed in to speak

The Mayor moved the order of the agenda to conduct closed session first.

## CONVENE INTO CLOSED SESSION:

The Council convened into executive session at 12:05 p.m.

### 3.1 PURSUANT TO TEXAS GOVERNMENT CODE, ANNOTATED, CHAPTER 551, SUBCHAPTER D:

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 Guerra Enterprise LLC D/B/A Holiday Inn Express & Suites Cause No. 27,591

## RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

Reconvene into Open Meeting at 12:06 p.m. No closed session was conducted.

## ACTION ITEMS

- 1.1 Discuss, Consider and Possible Action Approving **Resolution #2020-69 [Renumbered to Resolution #2020-82]** Authorizing the City Manager to Execute an Agreement for Election Services with Gonzales County for the November 3, 2020 General Election, Postponed from the May 2, 2020 General Election.

### **ACTION: Items 1.1**

### **APPROVED**

Council Member O'Neal moved to approve **Resolution #2020-82** Authorizing the City Manager to Execute an Agreement for Election Services with Gonzales County for the November 3, 2020 General Election, Postponed from the May 2, 2020 General Election. Council Member Schurig seconded the motion. Mayor Kacir called for a roll call vote. For: Unanimous. The motion passed 5 to 0.

## WORKSHOP

- 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.

Mayor Kacir stated she would like to see the Council evaluate budget expenditures on a quarterly basis throughout the budget year to determine if projects are on track. Mayor Kacir proposed to include expenditures of approximately \$365,000 for the road project on Saint Lawrence between Fair and Hopkins with an increased transfer from an enterprise fund to balance the budget.



City Manager Tim Patek stated that there would be additional monies included in the budget for attorney fees and IT services. Mr. Patek presented information on contracting street sweeping services and eliminating a currently vacant position to cover the costs.

Mayor Pro Tem Blakemore asked staff to review capital projects and enterprise accounts on a quarterly basis with presentation to the City Council.

Mayor Kacir stated the proposed tax rate was an increase of 1.31 cents which equates to \$1.09 on a \$100,000 property. Mayor Kacir asked that administration educate staff on the tax rate and begin an initiative to educate citizens on the financial effect of the tax rate. Mayor Kacir stated that it is critical to break out the taxing units, so citizens understand how much is allocated to the city utilizing an actual tax bill as an example. Mayor Kacir stated the hospital was proposing a two-cent increase and the county is proposing a 1.5 cent increase. Mayor Kacir stated she is not criticizing other taxing entities as they each know what is necessary to run their organization. Council Member O'Neal stated educating the public was important as well.

Council Member Schroeder stated he is always opposed to higher taxes and they have been raised repeatedly over the last several years. Mr. Schroeder stated he was okay with a little increase, but there had been substantial increases over the last several years.

Mayor Pro Tem Blakemore asked Council Member Schroeder how he proposed to pay for necessary items if there was not an increase.



Mayor Kacir asked what rate Council Member Schroeder would like to adopt. Further discussion was held on the tax rate.

## ADJOURN

On a motion by Council Member O'Neal and a second by Council Member Schurig, the meeting was adjourned at 1:10 p.m.

Approved this 10<sup>th</sup> day of September 2020.

  
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Connie Kacir, Mayor

  
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Kristi Gilbert, City Secretary  
CITY OF GONZALES  
  
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COME AND TAKE IT  
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