

**CITY OF GONZALES, TEXAS
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
MINUTES – SEPTEMBER 14, 2023**

The regular meeting of the City Council was held on **September 14, 2023**, at 6:00 p.m. at the Gonzales Municipal Building, 820 St. Joseph Street. This was an OPEN MEETING, open to the public, subject to the open meeting laws of the State of Texas and, as required by law, was duly posted, at the Gonzales Municipal Building, giving notice of time, date, place, and agenda thereof. The meeting notice, agenda and agenda packet were posted online at www.gonzales.texas.gov.

CALL TO ORDER, INVOCATION, AND PLEDGES OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Sucher called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and a quorum was certified.

Attendee Name	Title	Status
Steve Sucher	Mayor	Present
Joseph Kridler	Council Member, District 1	Present
Sherri Koepf	Council Member, District 2, Mayor Pro Tem	Present
Lorenzo Hernandez	Council Member, District 3	Present
Ronda Miller	Council Member, District 4	Present

STAFF PARTICIPATING:

Tim Crow-City Manager, Kristina Vega-City Secretary, Laura Zella-Finance Director, Erica Leopold-Administrative Assistant, Gayle Autry-Police Chief, Tammy West-Police Lt., Susan Sankey-Economic Development Director, Tiffany Hutchinson-Padilla-Main Street Director, & Marland Mercier-Water/Wastewater Superintendent.

CITY EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Announcements of upcoming City Events-Mayor Sucher reminded the community of the upcoming events for the community.
- Announcements and recognitions by the City Manager- City Manager Crow commended the Police Chief for the job well done on securing the GPAWs agreement and on a job well done on the National Night Out project organization. City Manager Crow commended Ralph Camarillo and staff on the cleaning of the RV spots along the river along with Todd Remschel and staff on the tree trimming throughout the park and the city.
- Announcements and recognitions by the Mayor- Mayor Sucher acknowledged city employees and departments for their engagement and events within the community. Mayor Sucher honored the memory of Everett Deschner and Thomas “Tommy” Cox.
- Recognition of actions by City employees-None
- Recognition of actions by community volunteers- Mayor Sucher acknowledged community members that are involved in many positive community efforts.

HEARING OF RESIDENTS

Bob Burchard spoke regarding JB Wells Park profit versus loss information that he has gathered and gave handouts to City Council.

James Lawrence spoke in favor of the sale of the Lynn Theater.

Thomas Enriquez spoke regarding a job well done by the city staff for the upkeep of the city, and regarding the housing situation in the community.

Mayor Sucher gave applause to the city crews for their hard work around the city.

Mayor Sucher presented a proclamation to the Daughters of Republic, dedicating the week of September 17-23, 2023, as Constitution Week honoring the two hundred and thirty sixth anniversary of the drafting of the Constitution of the United States of America by the Constitutional Convention.

BUDGET AND TAX RATE ITEMS

- 1.1 Discuss, Consider & Possible Action on **Ordinance #2023-10** Approving the Operating Budget for the City of Gonzales and the Gonzales Economic Development Corporation for the Fiscal Year Beginning October 1, 2023 and Ending September 30, 2024; Renewing the City's Financial Policy, Investment Policy, and Budget Contingency Policy

ACTION: Item 1.1

APPROVED

Council Member Kridler moved to approve **Ordinance #2023-10** Approving the Operating Budget for the City of Gonzales and the Gonzales Economic Development Corporation for the Fiscal Year Beginning October 1, 2023 and Ending September 30, 2024; Renewing the City's Financial Policy; Investment Policy, and Budget Contingency Policy. Council Member Koepp seconded the motion. Mayor Sucher called for a roll call vote. For: Kridler, Koepp, Hernandez, and Sucher. Against: Miller. The motion passes 4 to 1.

- 1.2 Discuss, Consider & Possible Action Approving **Resolution #2023-93** to Ratify the Property Tax Revenue Increase Reflected in the Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Budget as required by Texas Local Government Code Section 102.007 when adopting a budget that will require raising more revenues from property taxes than in the previous year.

ACTION: Item 1.2

APPROVED

Council Member Koepp moved to approve **Resolution #2023-93** to ratify that the property tax rate be increased by the adoption of a tax rate of 0.2938, which is effectively a 0.96 percent increase in the tax rate (Percentage by which the proposed tax rate exceeds the No-New Revenue tax rate). Council Member Kridler seconded the motion. Mayor Sucher called for a roll call vote. For: Kridler, Koepp, and Sucher. Against: Hernandez and Miller. The motion passes 3 to 2.

- 1.3 Discuss, Consider & Possible Action on **Ordinance #2023-11** Approving the 2023 Ad Valorem Tax Rate and Levy of Assessed Valuation of All Taxable Property Within the Corporate Limits of the City of Gonzales, Texas

ACTION: Item 1.3

APPROVED

Council Member Koepp moved to approve **Ordinance #2023-11** Approving an ad valorem tax rate of \$0.1635 on each \$100 of assessed valuation of taxable property for general city purposes and to pay the current maintenance and operations expenses of the City of Gonzales, for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, and to adopt Ordinance No. 2023-11, fixing and levying the same for a total tax of \$0.2938 on each \$100 of assessed valuation. I move that the property tax rate be increased by the adoption of a tax rate of

0.2938, which is effectively a 0.96 percent increase in the tax rate. (Percentage by which the proposed tax rate exceeds the No-New Revenue tax rate). I move to approve an ad valorem tax rate of \$0.1303 on each \$100 of assessed valuation of taxable property for the purpose of creating an Interest and Sinking Fund with which to pay the interest and principal of the valid and outstanding indebtedness, and related fees of the City of Gonzales, for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, and to adopt Ordinance No. 2023-11, fixing and levying the same for a total tax of \$0.2938 on each \$100 of assessed valuation. I move that the property tax rate be increased by the adoption of a tax rate of 0.2938, which is effectively a 0.96 percent increase in the tax rate. (Percentage by which the proposed tax rate exceeds the No-New Revenue tax rate). Council Member Kridler seconded the motion. Mayor Sucher called for a roll call vote. For: Kridler, Koepp, and Sucher. Against: Hernandez and Miller. The motion passes 3 to 2.

- 1.4 Discuss, Consider & Possible Action on **Resolution #2023-94** Authorizing and Adopting the Investment Policy for the City of Gonzales

ACTION: Item 1.4

APPROVED

Council Member Kridler moved to approve **Resolution #2023-94** Authorizing and Adopting the Investment Policy for the City of Gonzales. Council Member Miller seconded the motion. Mayor Sucher called for a roll call vote. For: Unanimous. The motion passes 5 to 0.

- 1.5 Discuss, Consider & Possible Action on **Ordinance #2023-12** Adopting the City of Gonzales Rate and Fee Schedule and for various city services; consolidating those fees for convenience

ACTION: Item 1.5

APPROVED

Council Member Koepp moved to approve **Ordinance #2023-12** Adopting the City of Gonzales Rate and Fee Schedule and for various city services; consolidating those fees for convenience. Council member Kridler seconded the motion. Mayor Sucher called for a roll call vote. For: Kridler, Koepp, Hernandez, and Sucher. Against: Miller. The motion passes 4 to 1.

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

The Consent Agenda is considered self-explanatory and will be enacted by the Council with one motion. There will be no separate discussion of these items unless they are removed from the Consent Agenda upon the request of the Mayor or a Councilmember.

- 2.1 **Minutes** - Approval of the minutes for the August 10, 2023 Regular Meeting, August 14, 2023 Workshop & September 7, 2023 Special Called Meeting
- 2.2 Discuss, Consider & Possible Action on **Resolution #2023-95** Declaring Certain City Property Surplus and Authorizing the Sale of Said Property in the manner most advantageous to the City of Gonzales
- 2.3 Discuss, Consider & Possible Action on **Resolution #2023-85** Approving Type B Economic Development Agreement between the Gonzales Economic Development Corporation and the City of Gonzales, Texas Authorized Pursuant to Section 505.158 of

the Texas Local Government Code for State Grant Matching Funds for the Airport Runway Lighting Project in the amount of \$145,000.00-Second Reading

- 2.4 Discuss, Consider & Possible Action on **Resolution #2023-96** Approving a Type B Economic Development Project and Performance Agreement by and Between the GEDC and ButlerWood, Inc.-First Reading
- 2.5 Discuss, Consider & Possible Action on **Resolution #2023-97** Authorizing the City Manager to Enter into an Agreement with Gonzales Paws and Whiskers, Inc.
- 2.6 Discuss, Consider & Possible Action on **Resolution #2023-98** Authorizing the City Manager to Enter into an Agreement with Gonzales Dog Adoptions
- 2.7 Discuss, Consider & Possible Action on **Resolution #2023-99** Authorizing the Expenditure in an amount not to exceed \$3,000.00 to Norma's House, Gonzales Regional Children's Advocacy Center, Inc. from the Restricted Use Municipal Court Child Safety Fund
- 2.8 Discuss, Consider & Possible Action on **Resolution #2023-100** Authorizing the City Manager to Execute an Agreement between the City of Gonzales and Gonzales County Senior Citizens Association, Inc.
- 2.9 Discuss, Consider & Possible Action on **Resolution #2023-101** Authorizing the City Manager to Execute an Agreement between the City of Gonzales and Preservation Gonzales, Inc. for Historical Preservation
- 2.10 Discuss, Consider & Possible Action on **Resolution #2023-102** Authorizing the City Manager to Execute an Agreement between the City of Gonzales and Gonzales Crystal Theater, Inc. for Historical Preservation and the Encouragement, Promotion, Improvement, and Application of the Arts
- 2.11 Discuss, Consider & Possible Action on **Resolution #2023-103** Authorizing the City Manager to Execute an Agreement between the City of Gonzales and The Edwards Association for Historical Preservation
- 2.12 Discuss, Consider & Possible Action on **Resolution #2023-104** Authorizing the City Manager to Execute an Agreement between the City of Gonzales and Gonzales County Restoration Association dba Gonzales Pioneer Village for Historical Preservation
- 2.13 Discuss, Consider & Possible Action on **Resolution #2023-105** Authorizing the City Manager to Execute an Agreement between the City of Gonzales and Gonzales Chapter Daughters of the Republic of Texas for Historical Preservation

ACTION: Items 2.1 through 2.13

APPROVED

Council Member Koepp moved to approve the consent agenda Items 2.1 through 2.13. Council Member Miller seconded the motion. Mayor Sucher called for a roll call vote. For: Unanimous. The motion passed 5 to 0.

RESOLUTION

- 3.1 Discuss, Consider & Possible Action on **Resolution #2023-106** Approving an Administrative Services Agreement by and Between the GEDC and City of Gonzales, Texas

ACTION: Item 3.1

APPROVED

Council Member Miller moved to approve **Resolution #2023-106** approving an Administrative Services Agreement by and Between the GEDC and City of Gonzales, Texas. Council Member Hernandez seconded the motion. Mayor Sucher called for a roll call vote. For: Unanimous. The motion passed 5 to 0.

- 3.2 Discuss, Consider & Possible Action on **Resolution #2023-107** Approving a Performance Agreement with HUB CITY Revitalization, LLC and Approving the Execution of a Commercial Contract – 510 St Paul

ACTION: Item 3.2

APPROVED

Council Member Miller moved to approve **Resolution #2023-107** Approving a Performance Agreement with HUB CITY Revitalization, LLC and Approving the Execution of a Commercial Contract – 510 St Paul. Council Member Koepp seconded the motion. Mayor Sucher called for a roll call vote. For: Miller, Koepp, Kridler and Sucher. Against: Hernandez. The motion passed 4 to 0.

- 3.3 Discuss, Consider & Possible Action on **Resolution #2023-108** Authorizing the Appointments and Reappointments to the Airport Advisory Board, Gonzales Convention & Visitors Bureau, Gonzales Economic Development Corporation, Gonzales Golf Course Advisory Board, JB Wells Park Advisory Board, Gonzales Library Board, Main Street Advisory Board, Museum Advisory Board, Planning & Zoning Commission, and Zoning Board of Adjustment & Sign Control Board

CONVENE INTO CLOSED SESSION:

The Council convened into closed session at 6:36 p.m.

CLOSED SESSION

The Council convened into closed session regarding agenda item 3.3 Board Appointments 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”, and Section 551.074 of the Texas Government Code, the City of Gonzales will consult in closed session to deliberate the appointment, employment, evaluation, reassignment, duties, discipline, or dismissal of a public officer or employee.

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

The Council convened into open session at 6:58 p.m.

Discuss, Consider & Possible Action regarding matters discussed in closed session, and/or other actions necessary or recommended related to such discussions in closed session.

ACTION: Item 3.3

APPROVED

Council Member Koepp moved to approve **Resolution #2023-108** Authorizing the Appointments and Reappointments to the Airport Advisory Board, Gonzales Convention & Visitors Bureau, Gonzales Economic Development Corporation, Gonzales Golf Course Advisory Board, JB Wells Park Advisory Board, Gonzales Library Board, Main Street Advisory Board, Museum Advisory Board, Planning & Zoning Commission, and Zoning Board of Adjustment & Sign Control Board. Council Member Miller seconded the motion. Mayor Sucher called for a roll call vote. For: Unanimous. The motion passed 5 to 0.

- 3.4 Discuss, Consider & Possible Action on **Resolution #2023-109** Authorizing the City Manager to Execute Addendum Two to the Agreement with Frontier Access, LLC (Frontier Waste Solutions) For Solid Waste Collection and Disposal Services Providing For a Residential, Commercial, and Industrial Unit Fuel Cost Adjustment Increase in the Amount of 5.7%

ACTION: Item 3.4

APPROVED

Council Member Miller moved to approve **Resolution #2023-109** Authorizing the City Manager to Execute Addendum Two to the Agreement with Frontier Access, LLC (Frontier Waste Solutions) For Solid Waste Collection and Disposal Services Providing For a Residential, Commercial, and Industrial Unit Fuel Cost Adjustment Increase in the Amount of 5.7%. Council Member Hernandez seconded the motion. Mayor Sucher called for a roll call vote. For: Unanimous. The motion passed 5 to 0.

- 3.5 Discuss, Consider & Possible Action on **Resolution #2023-110** Authorizing the Nomination of Candidates for Positions to be Filled on the Gonzales Central Appraisal District Board of Directors

ACTION: Item 3.5

POSTPONED

Council Member Kridler moved to postpone **Resolution #2023-110** Authorizing the Nomination of Candidates for Positions to be Filled on the Gonzales Central Appraisal District Board of Directors. Council Member Koepp seconded the motion. Mayor Sucher called for a roll call vote. For: Unanimous. The motion passed 5 to 0.

- 3.6 Discuss, Consider & Possible Action **Resolution #2023-111** Authorizing the City to waive certain costs associated with remedying a leak and bringing three properties into compliance under the City's Water and Wastewater Utilities

ACTION: Item 3.6

APPROVED

Council Member Koepp moved to approve **Resolution #2023-111** Authorizing the City to waive certain costs associated with remedying a leak and bringing three properties into compliance under the City's Water and Wastewater Utilities. Council Member Miller seconded the motion. Mayor Sucher called for a roll call vote. For: Unanimous. The motion passed 5 to 0.

ORDINANCES

- 4.1 Discuss, Consider & Possible Action on **Ordinance #2023-13** Approving the City of Gonzales' Texas Municipal Retirement System Benefits Authorizing: (1) An Increase to the Employee Contribution Rate; (2) Non-Retroactive Repeating COLAS, For Retirees and

Their Beneficiaries Pursuant to TMRS Act §853.404(f) and (f-1), AND (3) ANNUALLY ACCRUING UPDATED SERVICE CREDITS

ACTION: Item 4.1

APPROVED

Council Member Koepp moved to approve **Ordinance #2023-13** Approving the City of Gonzales' Texas Municipal Retirement System Benefits Authorizing: (1) An Increase to the Employee Contribution Rate; (2) Non-Retroactive Repeating COLAS, For Retirees and Their Beneficiaries Pursuant to TMRS Act §853.404(f) and (f-1), AND (3) ANNUALLY ACCRUING UPDATED SERVICE CREDITS. Council Member Kridler seconded the motion. Mayor Sucher called for a roll call vote. For: Unanimous. The motion passed 5 to 0.

- 4.2 Discuss, Consider & Possible Action on **Ordinance #2023-14** Repealing Chapter 8 Offenses and Nuisances, Article 8.500 Curfew for Minors of the City of Gonzales Code of Ordinances

ACTION: Item 4.2

APPROVED

Council Member Miller moved to approve **Ordinance #2023-14** Repealing Chapter 8 Offenses and Nuisances, Article 8.500 Curfew for Minors of the City of Gonzales Code of Ordinances. Council Member Kridler seconded the motion. Mayor Sucher called for a roll call vote. For: Unanimous. The motion passed 5 to 0.

STAFF/BOARD REPORTS

- 5.1 Finance Director provided feedback on any questions regarding:
- Financial Reports for funds as of August 31, 2023
 - Cash & Investment by Fund as of August 31, 2023
- 5.2 City Manager, Tim Crow provided a brief update to the City Council on the following:
- Timeline on Capital Improvement and Departmental Projects
 - Recently Completed Projects
 - Projects Currently in Process
 - Upcoming Projects

CITY COUNCIL REQUESTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Requests by Mayor and Councilmembers for items on a future City Council agenda
- Announcements by Mayor and Councilmembers
- City and community events attended and to be attended
- Continuing education events attended and to be attended

No requests or announcements were made.

ADJOURN

On a motion by Council Member Kridler and second by Council Member Koepp, the meeting was adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

Approved this 12th day of October, 2023.



Kristina Vega, City Secretary



Mayor Pro Tem, Sheri Koopp