

Julie Masters, Mayor  
Charles Suderman, Mayor Pro Tem  
Sean Skipworth  
Walter Wilson

**MINUTES**  
City of Dickinson  
**CITY COUNCIL**  
**SPECIAL WORKSHOP**  
**MEETING**

Wally Deats  
Louis Decker  
William H. King III  
Chris Heard, City Administrator

**August 25, 2020**

The Dickinson City Council met in a duly called and announced **SPECIAL WORKSHOP MEETING** on **Tuesday, August 25, 2020, at 6:00 p.m.** In accordance with order of the Office of the Governor issued March 16, 2020, the City Council of the City of Dickinson, Texas conducted the meeting by telephone and video conference in order to advance the public health goal of limiting face-to-face meetings (also called “social distancing”) to slow the spread of the Coronavirus (COVID-19). The meeting was held for the purpose of considering the following items:

**ITEM 1.) CALL TO ORDER AND CERTIFICATION OF A QUORUM**

Mayor Masters called the meeting to order at 6:15 p.m. City Secretary Alun Thomas called roll and certified a quorum. Council Members present were as follows: Mayor Julie Masters, Mayor Pro-Tem Charles Suderman, and Council Members Sean Skipworth, Walter Wilson, Wally Deats, Louis Decker, and William H. King, III. Also present were City Administrator Chris Heard and Finance Director Penny Hunter.

**ITEM 2.) PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION CONCERNING:** Development of the 2020-2021 Budget for the City of Dickinson.

City Administrator Chris Heard introduced the item, saying that he has sent Council documents for this evening’s meeting. He explained the effect of Senate Bill 2 on the budget process and what the tax notification will consist of. Mr. Heard provided Council with the approximate tax increases that would be borne by property owners in the city if his proposed tax rate is adopted, informing Council that the average house in Dickinson is about \$165,000, and a one-penny increase in ad valorem tax increases such a property’s tax burden by approximately \$25/year. He remarked that the City could easily increase its tax rate while still remaining competitive with League City, which would then increase the City’s revenue.

Mr. Heard said that he sees the City’s budget as a plan; if more money comes in than is expected, more money can be spent on certain line-items. In response to a question from Council about employee raises for the next fiscal year, Mr. Heard said that there is easily capacity in the budget for a 5% raise for employees – he budgeted \$5.3 million for salaries when only \$5 million is needed – but he recommends Council wait “until the dust settles” later in the fiscal year to decide whether to actually increase salaries. He reminded Council that the following fiscal year (FY 2021-2022), the City might lose a lot of sales tax, and Mayor Masters added that the City might incur large costs later this week due to Hurricane Laura.

Council Member Deats asked that Council be provided with executive summary sheets for budget discussions, to enable councilmembers to more quickly identify changes and key data. Mr. Heard said that he has been trying, but that he is barely even able to get the numbers for the budget at the moment; Mr. Heard is looking at the front side of the books, while Finance Director Penny Hunter is looking at the back side. Mr. Heard said that the process is more difficult this year because the City has a new mayor and several new councilmembers coming in November. Council Member Wilson disagreed, saying that this Council is the one to produce this budget, and that the City must have a budget by the end of September.

Mr. Heard reminded Council that there is extra spending capacity in the budget, so if the City needs extra funds, it has access to them. Mayor Masters said that she did not want Council to consider employee raises today, because the City might not be able to afford those raises in March, April, or May of 2021. Council Member Suderman said that candidates for City Council should be included on the budget discussions. Council Member King said that he is concerned with improving the condition of the City's streets. Mr. Heard concluded the discussion by noting the steep decline (of approximately \$177,000) in expected annual revenue from the Dickinson Municipal Court.

**ITEM 3.) ADJOURN**

Council Member Deats made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:14 p.m., and Council Member King seconded the motion. There being no discussion, Mayor Masters called for the vote.

**VOTE:**

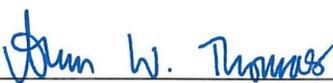
6 AYES (Suderman, Skipworth, Wilson, Deats, Decker, King)

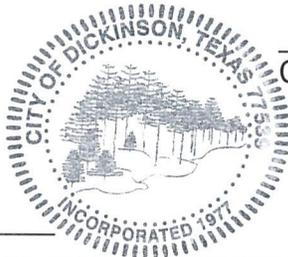
0 NAYS

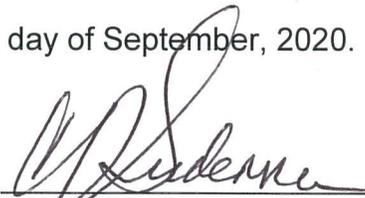
**MOTION PASSED**

**PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED** this the 8th day of September, 2020.

**ATTEST:**

  
Alun W. Thomas, City Secretary



  
Charles Suderman, Mayor Pro Tem