

**MINUTES  
REGULAR MEETING  
SEPTEMBER 11, 2023**

The City Council of the City of Navasota, Grimes County, Texas met at the City Council Chambers, Room No. 161, located at 200 E. McAlpine Street at 6:00 p.m., Navasota, Texas on the above date with the following being present:

**Bernie Gessner, Mayor Pro-Tem, Place # 1  
Pattie Pederson, Councilmember, Place # 2  
Josh M. Fultz, Councilmember, Place # 3  
Bert Miller, Mayor, Place # 4  
James Harris, Councilmember, Place # 5**

Thus constituting a quorum.

**STAFF PRESENT:** Jason Weeks, City Manager; Susie M. Homeyer, City Secretary; Jose Coronilla, Director of Streets and Sanitation; Jason Katkoski, Fire Chief/EMC; Michael Mize, Police Chief; Peggy Johnson, HR Director; Rayna Teicheira, Economic Development Director; Jennifer Reyna, Public Works Director; Pat Gruner, Navasota Municipal Judge; Cary Bovey, Legal Counsel; Jon McKay, Graduate Engineer; Ryan Kendricks, Parks and Recreation Manager; Michelle Savensky, Executive Administrative Assistant; Lupe Diosdado, Development Services Director; Edwin Sandoval, Project Manager; Hattie Wells, Permit Clerk; Xavier Adam, Investigator; Evette Butler, Grants Coordinator; Mark Butler, Police Officer; Lindsey Cox, Library Clerk; Swank Backhus, Investigator; Ricarda Sanchez, Utility Technician; Ethan Tyler, Police Officer; and Officer Byrd.

**VISITORS:** Connie Clements, Deborah Richardson, Mac Vaughn, John Sanders, Jennifer Ramirez, Ashley Falco VerSchurr, Betsy Lehnert, JoAnn Meyer, Ed Murphy, Dia Copeland, Mackey Wells, Angela Wells, Ken Stevens, Jenny Macka, Jill Conlin, Norma Mason, Jessica Krouse, Karley Finley and Isabella Price.

**THE ITEMS ON THE AGENDA WERE TAKEN UP IN DUE ORDER AS FOLLOWS:**

1. Mayor Bert Miller called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.
2. Invocation was given by Mac Vaughn. The City Council, staff members and visitors then recited the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag and the Texas Flag which was led by the Boy Scout Troup # 101.
3. Remarks of visitors: JoAnn Meyer addressed the City Council about the new proposed water rates and the quality of the water.

4. Staff report:

- a) Mayor Bert Miller proclaimed September 11<sup>th</sup> as a day of service and remembrance in Navasota.
- b) Peggy Johnson, H. R. Director, introduced the following new employees: Swank Backhus, Investigator; Dan Xavier Adam, Investigator; Ricardo Sanchez, Utility Technician; Lindsey Cox, Library Clerk and Edwin Sandoval, Project Manager.
- c) Peggy Johnson, H. R. Director, recognized Hattie Wells, Permit Clerk, for five years of dedicated service to the City of Navasota.
- d) Jon MacKay, Graduate Engineer, gave an update on the CIP projects.
- e) There was not an update on Boards and Commissions.
- f) Councilmember and staff informed the audience about upcoming events.

5. A public hearing was held on the proposed budget for the City of Navasota for Fiscal Year 2023-2024. Mayor Bert Miller opened the public hearing at 6:28 p.m. City Manager Jason Weeks went over the majority of the budget. The Executive Team went over their individual budgets with the City Council. With no comments from the public, Mayor Bert Miller closed the public hearing at 7:12 p.m.

6. Mayor Pro-Tem Bernie Gessner moved to approve the first reading of Ordinance No. 1029-23, for the City of Navasota's Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Budget, seconded by Councilmember Josh Fultz. The following votes were recorded by a show of hands:

**AYES: Mayor Bert Miller, Mayor Pro-Tem Bernie Gessner, Councilmember Josh Fultz, Councilmember Pattie Pederson and Councilmember James Harris**

**NAYS: None**

**ABSTAIN: None**

Mayor Bert Miller announced that the motion carried.

7. A public hearing was held on the proposal to adopt the tax rate for Fiscal Year 2023-2024. Mayor Bert Miller opened the public hearing at 7:16 p.m. City Manager Jason Weeks read the following statement: This tax rate will raise more taxes for maintenance and operations (M&O) than last year's tax rate. The tax rate will effectively be raised by 3.03 percent and will raise taxes for maintenance and

operations on a \$100,000 home by approximately \$-27.90. With no other comments from the public, Mayor Bert Miller closed the public hearing at 7:19 p.m.

8. Mayor Pro-Tem Bernie Gessner moved that the property tax rate be increased by the adoption of a tax rate of \$0.5221, which is effectively a 2.67 percent increase in the tax rate and approve the first reading of Ordinance No. 1030-23, establishing the tax rate of \$0.5221 per \$100 assessed valuation for Fiscal Year 2023-2024, seconded by Councilmember Pattie Pederson. The following votes were recorded by a show of hands:

**AYES: Mayor Bert Miller, Mayor Pro-Tem Bernie Gessner, Councilmember Josh Fultz, Councilmember Pattie Pederson and Councilmember James Harris**

**NAYS: None**

**ABSTAIN: None**

Mayor Bert Miller announced that the motion carried.

9. Councilmember Pattie Pederson moved to approve the ratification of a property tax revenue increase of \$268,455 for FY 2023-2024, seconded by Councilmember Josh Fultz and with each Councilmember voting AYE, the motion carried.

10. Mayor Pro-Tem Bernie Gessner moved to approve the first reading of Ordinance No. 1032-23, amending the Code of Ordinances, Appendix A, "Fee Schedule", Article A13.000 adopting the revised Republic Services sanitation rates for the City of Navasota, Texas with an effective date of February 1, 2024, seconded by Councilmember Josh Fultz and with each Councilmember voting AYE, the motion carried.

11. Councilmember Pattie Pederson approved the first reading of Ordinance No. 1031-23, amending the Code of Ordinances, Appendix A "Fee Schedule" Article A5.000 adopting the revised water, gas and sewer monthly rates for the City of Navasota, Texas with an effective date of October 1, 2023 and with each Councilmember voting aye, the motion carried.

12. Councilmember Josh Fultz moved to appoint Pattie Pederson to the Arts Council of Brazos Valley Board as a representative from the City of Navasota, seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Bernie Gessner and with each Councilmember voting AYE, the motion carried.

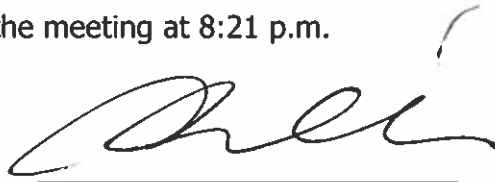
13. Mayor Pro-Tem Bernie Gessner moved to approve Change Order No. 1 for the Airport Hanger Utilities Extension project in the amount of \$1,000.00, seconded by Councilmember Josh Fultz and with each Councilmember voting AYE, the motion carried.

14. Mayor Bert Miller moved to appoint Deborah Richardson, Dia Copeland, Ashley Falco VerSchurr, Brenda Willams and Jared Patout to the Charter Review Committee, seconded by Councilmember Josh Fultz and with each Councilmember voting AYE, the motion carried.

15. Councilmember Josh Fultz moved to approve a credit to the Chrisitan Community Services utility account in the amount up to \$200.00 per month beginning October 1, 2023 and ending September 30, 2024, seconded by Councilmember James Harris and with each Councilmember voting AYE, the motion carried.

16. Mayor Pro-Tem Bernie Gessner moved to approve the minutes and expenditures for August 2023 and the Municipal Court Report for August 2023, seconded by Councilmember Josh Fultz and with each Councilmember voting AYE, the motion carried.

17. Mayor Bert Miller adjourned the meeting at 8:21 p.m.



**BERT MILLER, MAYOR**

**ATTEST:**



**SUSIE M. HOMEYER, CITY SECRETARY**

