

YOLANDA FORD
Mayor

VASHAUNDRA EDWARDS
Councilmember at Large Position No. 1

CHRIS PRESTON
Mayor Pro Tem
Councilmember at Large Position No. 2



CHERYL STERLING
Councilmember District A
JEFFREY L. BONEY
Councilmember District B
ANTHONY G. MAROULIS
Councilmember District C
FLOYD EMERY
Councilmember District D

CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

The City Council of the City of Missouri City, Texas, met in special session on **Tuesday, June 23, 2020**, at the City Hall, Council Chamber, 1522 Texas Parkway, Missouri City, Texas, 77489, at **6:00 p.m.** to consider the following.

Due to the COVID 19 Disaster and the Center for Disease Control's recommendation regarding social distancing measures, the Mayor, City Council, City Staff members, and members of the public were not physically present during this meeting. The meeting was made possible through the cloud-based video conferencing platform Zoom.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Ford called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Those also present: Mayor Pro Tem Preston, Councilmembers Edwards, Sterling, Boney, Maroulis and Emery; Interim City Manager Atkinson, Assistant City Manager Martel, City Attorney Iyamu, City Secretary Jackson, Director of Financial Services Portis, Budget and Financial Reporting Manager Alexander, Accounting Technician Su, Director of Communications Walker, Police Chief Berezin, Radio System Manger Pahl, Recognition & Compliance Program Coordinator Murray, Fire Chief Campbell, and Deputy Court Administrator West.

2. DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE ACTION

(a) Presentation of the Fiscal Year 2021 proposed budget.

Interim City Manager Atkinson provided overview of the presentations scheduled for today and addressed follow up questions from yesterday's proposed budget presentations.

Fire Chief Campbell provided an overview of the department's mission, vision, FY 2020 accomplishments, FY 2021 goals, proposed budget, and supplemental requests. Councilmember Emery asked if the supplemental requests have been prioritized. Fire Chief Campbell stated he submitted a submittal letter which prioritized the requests; and, he will ensure City Council was provided a copy of the letter.

Councilmember Emery asked how the funds from Harvey were utilized. Director of Financial Services Portis stated the funds were used to reimburse the City. Councilmember Emery asked if they go back in the general fund. Director of Financial Services Portis stated that was correct; however, the revenue was accounted for in 2019.

Deputy Court Administrator West provided an overview of the department's mission, vision, FY 2020 accomplishments, FY 2021 goals, and proposed budget, the special revenue fund for municipal courts. Councilmember Emery requested further detail on the court payment methods. Deputy Court Administrator West responded with those methods such as the drop box, a phone system to pay by phone, web based payment system, pay in person, by mail and the use of a public computer in the lobby to pay their fees.

Councilmember Maroulis questioned the striping at Municipal Court and the Police Department. Interim City Manager Atkinson stated he would follow up with Staff and provide City Council with a response on a later date.

Police Chief Berezin provided an overview of the department's mission, vision, FY 2020 accomplishments, FY 2021 goals, proposed budget, and the special revenue fund for police. Councilmember Maroulis asked about the commercial vehicle inspections and the possibility of expanding the division. Police Chief Berezin stated there were no plans on expanding as the primary focus was to make sure they have resources for in progress calls. Mayor Pro Tem Preston stated he was aware that several of the officers were training handling crisis situations and asked if the department has looked into hiring a mental health officer. Police Chief Berezin stated he was not looking at hiring one mental health officer but working to ensure all police officers were trained with mental crisis. Mayor Ford stated that during previous budget sessions, there was reference to a dispatcher up north who would handle mental health crisis calls. Police Chief Berezin stated he was down a few dispatchers and there were four dispatchers who would be going through the training. Recognition & Compliance Program Coordinator Murray stated that per their state recognition system, all of the public safety employees were required to have some type of mental health training and due to COVID, some of the plans were placed on hold. Councilmember Emery asked about the succession planning. Police Chief Berezin discussed the FBI academy process and executive level training.

(b) Discuss Police Department policies relating to the use of force.

Mayor Ford stated she requested that this item be placed on the agenda so that the police chief may provide an overview of use of force within the department. Police Chief Berezin went over the eight questions the City was asked by the public as follows:

1. Does Missouri City ban chokeholds and strangleholds?
 - Yes, per the federal definition of BAN, as it is to be used only when deadly force would be justified.
2. Does Missouri City require de-escalation?
 - Yes, when possible officers are expected to de-escalate.
3. Does Missouri City require warning before shooting?
 - No, there is no requirement to provide a warning before discharging their firearm.
4. Does Missouri City exhaust all other means before shooting?
 - Refer to answer for question # 2.
5. Does Missouri City have a duty to intervene?
 - Yes, all police officers are expected to uphold the law, regardless of whom is breaking the law.
6. Does Missouri City ban shooting at moving vehicles?
 - No, there is not a ban on shooting at moving vehicles.
7. Does Missouri City require a use of force continuum?
 - Yes, Missouri City has an established use of force continuum.
8. Does Missouri City require comprehensive reporting?
 - Yes, use of force incidents are documented.

Mayor Ford asked that he work with the Communications Department so that a news release may be sent out to the public.

3. ADJOURN

The special City Council meeting adjourned at 7:19 p.m.

Minutes PASSED AND APPROVED this the 6th day of July 2020.

Maria Jackson, City Secretary