**MINUTES**

**FRITCH CITY COUNCIL CALLED SESSION**

**TUESDAY AUGUST 1, 2017**

**SFISD BOARD ROOM 540 EAGLE DRIVE FRITCH, TEXAS**

**5:30 P.M.**

1. **Call to order.** Meeting was called to order by Mayor Kelly Henderson at 5:33 p.m. Councilmembers present: Richard Hein, Dwight Kirksey, Denise Campbell and Arlin Audrain. Absent: Tom Ray. City Employees present: Drew Brassfield, Cindy Cook, Stephanie Davidson, Houston Gass, Brody Crupe and Ed Adamson.
2. **Budget workshop.** One of the main topics of discussion was medical insurance for the employees. City Manager Brassfield visited with other city managers and discussed the issue with Underwood Law Firm. On the surface, quotes from First Care looked great. However, from a historical standpoint, insurance companies tend to go up a great deal in the next year. TML is a risk pool and the rerate came back approximately $94 per person per month higher because of the loss ratio. Once we requested options, TML gave us four other options with various deductibles and out of pocket expenses. City Manager Brassfield discussed the advantages of First Care as opposed to TML. The City would be able to choose a defined contribution and the employees would have several choices as how the money was applied. Councilmember Campbell asked about the difficulty in returning to TML if the City was not satisfied with First Care. City Manager Brassfield said you have to jump through lots of hoops which make it really hard to change. He also stated that he wanted the employees to have options but at the same time we must be responsible to the taxpayers. Since TML is an experienced based plan we can expect better rates when we have a better loss ratio. Mayor expressed that TML is a tried and true plan as opposed to a plan made for profit. Option 2 with TML was ultimately chosen instead of switching to First Care. The cost will be $499.46 per employee per month.

Council also discussed moving park expenses back to Parks Department. In the previous budget year, no money was set aside for park expenses. The mowing of the parks was absorbed into the Water Department. Other topics were: How much of the budgeted $600,000 had been spent on water repairs this year, capital improvements in the Fire Department such as concreting the parking lot and purchasing a specialized extractor for cleaning bunker gear, ever increasing costs of dispatch calls and frustration with dispatch service, expenses of EMS service and complaints of the service, SBA lease buyout and whether it will come to pass, needed park projects such as better playground equipment, water sprinkler controls and benches and the requested $20,000 previously given to the City for park projects. It was noted that there are some grants available for park projects.

Management also discussed the possibility of giving a 3% raise to all employees. Some of the questions brought up concerning raises were: Will the raises be tied to evaluations? Will there be a set time of employment before an employee is eligible for a raise? What is the Handbook policy on raises?

For the Police Department, the Council also discussed the need for another vehicle since the Charger is not running and the need for better software. Chief Gass said that Cop Sync is not working as it should and other local departments have switched to a program put out by Tyler Technologies which is quite costly.

Members of the Council expressed the need for more street improvement but stated that water system repairs would continue to be the number one focus. Mayor Henderson stated that we need a plan where one road is repaired each budget year. He also said that in 1999, there was a plan to repair one road on each side of highway 136 each year. Somewhere along the way, this plan was abandoned. Councilmember Audrain stated that we need to include funds for pot hole repair. Republic Trash Service has stated that the rates will increase effective October 1, 2017 so our rates will have to increase. Mayor Henderson said each of the services should be self-sufficient. Council discussed the possibility of having our own trash service but the city is locked into a contract with Republic until 2021. Councilmember Campbell suggested that a five year projection should be worked up showing the cost for dumpsters, two trash trucks, payroll expenses for a driver and landfill costs.

Mayor Henderson said that we should move the amount of left over funds from this budget year set aside for capital improvement on the water system to a reserve account and include it in the new budget.

1. **Discuss tax rate.** The effective tax rate for 2017 is $0.699213/$100 valuation. Council discussed keeping the same rate as adopted last year which is $0.712625/$100 valuation. This rate would raise an additional $9,000.00.
2. **Adjourn.** Motion to adjourn made by Mayor Pro Tem Hein. Second made by Councilmember Campbell. Vote 4/0.

 **READ, PASSED AND APPROVED on this \_\_\_\_\_ day of\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, 2017.**

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 **Mayor W. Kelly Henderson Cindy Cook, City Secretary**