A meeting of the Hutchins City Council was held on Monday, September 18, 2023, at 6:30 p.m. at Hutchins City Hall – Council Chamber, 321 N. Main St., Hutchins, Texas, at which time the following items were discussed and considered.

REGULAR SESSION

A. CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Vasquez called the meeting order at 6:30 p.m. and declared a quorum.

1. Roll Call: Members present – Mayor Vasquez, Councilmember Elmore, Councilmember Campbell, Councilmember Didehbani, and Councilmember Odom.

2. Invocation: The invocation was presented by Mayor Pro Tem Nichols.

3. Pledge of Allegiance: Councilmember Didehbani led the Pledge of Allegiance

B. CITIZEN COMMENTS

Felix Madrigal spoke regarding the need for council members to speak into microphones during meetings.

C. PRESENTATIONS

1. Park Pavilion
   Presented by: Robert McWayne, Interim Director of Public Works

   Interim Director of Public Works presented additional park pavilion pricing. The discussion included slab vs. overlay, the options for restoring the existing slab, pavilion size, seating including rubber-coated picnic tables, lighting, signage, and the need to update the ordinance for park use, fines and offenses. The council directed staff to proceed with a new slab with buried poles, a 60 x 60 pavilion, fifteen (15) rubber coated tables, and the need for a topographical study.

2. Update on Palestine Railroad Improvements Project
   Presented by: Guy Brown, EDC Director

   EDC Director Guy Brown informed the council that during preliminary discussions
with Union Pacific regarding the survey and study of the UP Right of Way, the city’s consultants were informed that the city would be responsible for reimbursement of UP engineering and personnel costs related to reviewing and approving the city’s planned activities related to this project, and a Reimbursement Agreement would need to be signed. Those costs are estimated to be $25,000. HEDC Director Brown recommended the city suspend the project and evaluate alternative options to relieve railroad wait time on Palestine St. The council agreed to suspend the project.

D. REGULAR AGENDA

1. Discuss and consider City Charter Election.
   Presented by: Steve Nichols, Councilmember

Mayor Pro Tem Nichols suggested the item be brought forward for discussion and submitted to a review panel. City Attorney Joe Gorfida advised that the Charter review process would need to be started over again and would require a fifteen (15) member committee including the selection of new members. Mr. Gorfida explained the advantages of home rule that allows a city to create new rules not addressed by statute; and requires a population of at least 5,000. Mr. Gorfida updated the council on the changes to annexation since the last time the city had a charter election. The current draft charter document would need to be updated and the next available election would be in May. He reminded the council that the deadline to call the election is in January or February and it would be a tight timeline to organize a new charter committee and begin to meet and review the charter before the call of the election. If the election fails, the city will have to wait at least three (3) years before calling another charter election. The council agreed to move forward with the charter process and directed the city attorney to amend the proposed charter.

2. Discuss and consider Ordinance 2023-1183 OF THE CITY OF HUTCHINS, TEXAS, LEVYING AD VALOREM TAXES FOR THE YEAR 2023-2024, AT A RATE OF $0.630082 PER ONE HUNDRED DOLLARS ($100.00) ASSESSED VALUATION ON ALL TAXABLE PROPERTY WITHIN THE CORPORATE LIMITS OF THE CITY AS OF JANUARY 1, 2023, TO PROVIDE REVENUES FOR CURRENT EXPENSES AND INTEREST AND SINKINGFUND REQUIREMENTS; PROVIDING FOR DUE AND DELINQUENT DATES TOGETHER WITH PENALTIES AND INTEREST; AND DECLARING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.
   Presented by: Maria Joyner, Director of Finance

Mayor Pro Tem Nichols made the motion seconded by Councilmember Campbell to move that the property tax rate be increased by the adoption of a tax rate of $.630082, which is effectively a 13.79 percent increase in the tax rate and, therefore, I further move that Ordinance No. 2023-1183 be approved on first reading. All in favor, the motion carried 5-0.

Presented by: Cynthia Olguin, City Secretary

Mayor Pro Tem Nichols made the motion seconded by Councilmember Odom to approve Resolution R2023-1139. All in favor, the motion carried 5-0.

E. EXECUTIVE SESSION

1. The City Council will convene into executive session pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 551.071(1)(A) to discuss the following with the City Attorney: Paul Hobin c. City of Hutchins, Texas, and Fire Chief Stacey Hickson; No. 3:23-cv-1298-L.

The council convened into Executive Session at 7:25 p.m.

F. RECONVENE INTO REGULAR SESSION

1. Take any action as a result of the Executive Session.

Mayor Vasquez reconvened into Regular Session at 7:49 p.m. No action taken as a result of the Executive Session.

G. ITEMS OF COMMUNITY INTEREST

City Secretary Olguin announced the items of community interest.

H. ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Pro Tem Nichols made the motion seconded by Councilmember Elmore to adjourn the meeting at 7:51 p.m. All in favor, the motion carried 5-0.

PASSED AND APPROVED BY THE HUTCHINS CITY COUNCIL AT A REGULAR MEETING HELD ON THE 2nd DAY OF OCTOBER 2023.

APPROVED:

[Signature]
Mario Vasquez, Mayor

ATTEST:

[Cynthia Olguin, City Secretary]

[City of Hutchins, Dallas County, Texas]