...Controversial Minutes

(Continued from front page)

They were adamant that not only was this issue never brought up for a vote and would not have passed had it been, it was not an acceptable item for a consent agenda item and would have had to have been listed in the regular agenda.

The paragraph in question regards the consent agenda. This paragraph from the original minutes is below.

A. Consent Agenda: (Items 1-3)

SECTION 3:

Minutes of the meeting November 27, 2017, Monthly Code Enforcement Officers Monthly Animal report, Control Officers report. Council Member Alexander made the motion to approve the Consent Agenda, seconded by Council Member Munoz. Motion passed.

The paragraph of the minutes of this meeting currently in the "book" is below.

A. Consent Agenda: (Items 1-4) Minutes of the meeting

SETTING SALARY FOR THE MAYOR OF THE CITY OF ROBERT LEE

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ROBERT LEE, TEXAS:

A stipend of \$15,000 per year is hereby set for the mayor of the City of Robert Lee. The stipend will be paid monthly to the mayor of the City of Robert Lee.

This pay goes into effect at the beginning of the term of office for the next mayor

SECTION 1: A salary of \$750 per month is hereby set for the mayor of the City of Robert Lee.

November 27, 2017, **Mayor** Pay & Stipend Ordinance, Code Enforcement report, Animal Control Officers report. Council Member Alexander made the motion to approve the Consent Agenda, seconded by Council Member Munoz. Motion passed.

The minutes currently in the "book" refer to an ordinance. Mayor Casey explained the ordinance was prepared, but never presented for a vote following the recommendation in 2016. The ordinance does not have a number, nor does it list an effective date. In the minutes of Council Members quote an ordinance which had been given the number 1310. The original ordinance, along with copies of all minutes are under the City of Robert Lee Investigation tab at ObserverEnterprise.com. They are also in this issue below and on

An investigation by law enforcement these discrepancies is currently ongoing.

When speaking to current council members regarding the the meeting on July 22, 2019, July 22, 2019, vote to award the stipend and increased salary to the current mayor, it became apparent council members did have the City of Robert Lee's best interests at heart. threatened with a lawsuit if they did not award the pay directed by the minutes currently in the "book", they realized legal fees to fight the lawsuit could very well exceed the \$48,000 in question.

The Robert Lee City Council met in special session on August 18, 2016: Mayor Leroy Casey presided. Council members Present: Janie Munoz, Joe Longoria, Roger Alexander, Jeanette Meeks. Absent: Toni Rainwater. City Staff present: Kay Torres, and Linda Barrera. Sign in sheet is on file.

The purpose of this special meeting was a workshop to prepare the fiscal year budget beginning October 1, 2016 and ending September 30, 2017.

General Revenue Fund: Proposed tax rate was discussed and proposed to be set at \$.460000 per \$100 valuation resulting in a 7.72% increase from last year tax rate. Kay Torres requested consideration of a merit raise for Brenda Martinez, Administrative Assistant. Proposed budget will include a 6% merit raise from \$11.33 to \$12.00 hr.

Upgrade to USTI System Technology to include Cash Receipt module. Quoted price, which includes a onetime license fee and annual support fees, is \$2,580. Consideration was given to adding credit card

processing; however, will be considered next year.

Council discussed adding a Mayor "stipend" to be paid to the Mayor in addition to the Mayor salary. Council members were in agreement to add \$15,000 year to the proposed budget and asked the City Secretary to inquire with the auditor regarding the "stipend".

City secretary requested approval to have a housekeeper come in to clean the office at estimated cost of \$1,025 year and to add cost for an exterminator at \$85.00 quarterly.

City secretary also discussed with council that the Animal Control and Code Enforcement Officer is running for county commissioner and depending on the outcome of that election the officer may resign from

ter Utility Fund: Proposed budget includes an increase in Capital Improvement fund \$30,000 for water replacement. Capital Improvement fund also includes repairs to the spillway and cost of moving the portable building from the Landfill to the Water Plant to set up for office & lab. Line item added for Utility System Contractor, Ricky Royall. Health Insurance, and TMRS, and Payroll includes Linda Barrera 12 months, John Tamez 9 months, and Cayateno Carrera 6 month. The remaining months paid from Sewer Fund.

Sewer Utility Fund: Rate increase was discussed. Line item added for Utility System Contractor, Ricky Royall. Health Insurance, and TMRS, and Payroll include John Tamez 3 months, and Cayateno Carrera 6 month. The remaining months paid from Water Fund. Blower repairs and or rebuilds. Lift station

Sanitation Fund: Proposed budget include income/expenses of the Convenience Center, minimal cost for the post-closure care of the landfill, and income/expense of the trash service.

Next budget workshop scheduled for August 25, 2016.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 9:47 p.m.

Kay Joves y Torres, City Secretary

Proposed Ordinance

of the City of Robert Lee.

The Robert Lee City Council met in <u>special session on August 25, 2016</u>: Mayor Leroy Casey presided, Council members Present: Janie Munoz, Roger Alexander, and Jeanette Meeks. Absent: Toni Rainwater and Joe Longoria. City Staff present: Kay Torres, Brenda Martinez, and Linda Barrera. Sign in sheet is on file.

Regular Business

The purpose of this special meeting was a workshop to prepare the fiscal year budget beginning October 1, 2016 and ending September 30, 2017

General Revenue Fund:

Discussion and budget consideration of a Mayor "stipend" to be paid to the Mayor in addition to the Mayor salary was moved to the Water Fund budget.

General proposed budget considered final. Proposed budget will be presented at September council

Water Utility Fund:

Consideration of a Mayor "stipend" to be paid to the Mayor in addition to the Mayor salary was discussed. Council members were in agreement to add \$15,000 year to the proposed budget and asked the City Secretary to inquire with the auditor regarding the "stipend". City Secretary reported that upon conversation with the City Auditor and information received from the Texas Municipal League regarding the "stipend" that it was not recommended and may violate the common law doctrine of incompatibility. Following discussion council members expressed support and appreciation to Mayor Casey for his service and commitment of all his efforts to the City. The "stipend" was removed but the \$15,000 remained in Payroll Services. Council considered adding overtime pay to the budget instead of employees earning compensation time in lieu of overtime pay. Council was in agreement to a trial run for this year budget and will add \$3,000 plus payroll taxes to the proposed budget. At such time the \$3,000 is exhausted, council will re-visit this issue. Proposed budget considered final with these changes and will be presented at September council

Sewer Utility Fund: Council considered adding overtime pay to the budget instead of employees earning compensation time in lieu of overtime pay. Council was in agreement to a trial run for this year budget and will add \$2,000 plus payroll taxes to the proposed budget. At such time the \$2,000 is exhausted, council will re-visit this issue. Proposed budget considered final with these changes and will be presented at September

Sanitation Fund: Proposed budget considered final. Proposed budget will be presented at September council meeting.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned.

Kay Jorner
Kay Torres, City Secretary

Leroy Casey, Mayor

Original August 25, 2016 Minutes

August 18, 2016 Minutes

The Robert Lee City Council met in <u>special session on August 25, 2016</u>: Mayor Leroy Casey presided. Council members Present: Janie Munoz, Roger Alexander, and Jeanette Meeks. Absent: Toni Rainwater and City City Council Members Present: Voy: Torres Repda Martinez, and Linda Barrera. Sign in sheet is on file. Joe Longoria. City Staff present: Kay Torres, Brenda Martinez, and Linda Barrera. Sign in sheet is on file.

Regular Business:

The purpose of this special meeting was a workshop to prepare the fiscal year budget beginning October 1, 2016 and ending September 30, 2017.

General Revenue Fund:

Discussion and budget consideration of a Mayor "stipend" to be paid to the Mayor in addition to the Mayor

General proposed budget considered final. Proposed budget will be presented at September council

Water Utility Fund:

Consideration of a Mayor "stipend" to be paid to the Mayor in addition to the Mayor salary of \$750 was discussed. Council members were in agreement to add \$15,000 year to the proposed budget and asked the City Secretary to inquire with the auditor regarding the "stipend". City Secretary reported that upon conversation with the City Auditor and information received from the Texas Municipal League regarding the support and Following discussion for his service and commitment of all his efforts to the City. The "stipend" of \$15,000 remained in Payroll Services. Council considered adding overtime pay to the budget instead of employees earning compensation time in lieu of overtime pay. Council was in agreement to a trial run for this year budget and will add \$3,000 plus payroll taxes to the proposed budget. At such time the \$3,000 is exhausted, council will re-visit this issue. Proposed budget considered final with these changes and will be presented at September council

Sewer Utility Fund: Council considered adding overtime pay to the budget instead of employees earning compensation time in lieu of overtime pay. Council was in agreement to a trial run for this year budget and will add \$2,000 plus payroll taxes to the proposed budget. At such time the \$2,000 is exhausted, council will re-visit this issue. Proposed budget considered final with these changes and will be presented at September council meeting.

Sanitation Fund: Proposed budget considered final. Proposed budget will be presented at September council meeting.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned.

Kay Jorres Kay Torres, City Secretary

Leroy Carey, Mayor

New August 25, 2016 Minutes