

MINUTES

Notice is hereby given that the City of Combes Commissioners met in a Workshop at 6:00 pm to 7:00 pm followed by a Regular Session at 7:00 pm Monday, September 9, 2024 at Combes Municipal Complex, 21626 Hand Road, Combes Texas to consider the following;

Public comments may be e-mailed to agutierrez@townofcombes.com by the meeting date at 4:00 pm.

Budget Workshop 6:00 pm-7:00 pm

1- Second Budget Workshop: Proposed Budgets for Fiscal Year October 1, 2024-September 30, 2025.

Regular Meeting began at 7:00 pm

Mayor Silvestre Garcia requested roll call.

1. Roll Call.

By City Administrator Aida Gutierrez

Mayor Silvestre Garcia – Present

Mayor Pro Tem Mary David- Present

Commissioner Olga H Montes- Present

Commissioner Ann Forbes- Present

Commissioner Carlos Cordova- Present

Commissioner Jose J Herrera – Present

Mayor Silvestre Garcia acknowledged with all the commissioners presents; a quorum established -moves on to the next item on the agenda.

2. Invocation & Pledge of Allegiance.

Commissioner Olga H Montes led the invocation.

Commissioner Carlos Cordova led the pledge of allegiance.

3. Public Comments: At this time, any person with business before the Council not scheduled on the agenda may speak, or any person may speak on any item on the agenda for a maximum of three (3) minutes. No formal action can be taken on these items. Action for Approval or Disapproval

Mayor Silvestre Garcia informed the city council at this time, there are 0 (zero) person with business before the council not scheduled on the agenda to speak or on any item on the agenda for a maximum of three (3) minutes and asks to move to the next agenda item.

4. Public Hearing-City of Combes Budgets for Fiscal Year October 1, 2024-September 30, 2025.

Action for Approval-Open Public Hearing.

Action for Approval-Closing Public Hearing.

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Mayor Silvestre Garcia asked for a motion to open Public Hearing. Commissioner Olga H Montes made a motion to open Public Hearing. Seconded by Commissioner Ann Forbes. All in favor. Motion passed due to unanimous vote.

The City Administrator Aida Gutierrez explained to the city council and public that only the General Fund will be on a balanced budget. It will assist in the process of lowering Fire Protection, Garbage fees and Tax Rates from .73 to .70, this will also assist in hiring additional maintenance personnel. The water works will have a surplus revenue for the purpose of lowering fees in general for services for citizens. A special meeting (workshop) will be scheduled for September 15, 2024 and be open to the public.

Mayor Silvestre Garcia asked for any comments and/or discussion. With no further comments and/or discussion Mayor Silvestre Garcia asked for a motion to close Public Hearing.

Mayor Pro Tem Commissioner Mary David made a motion to close Public Hearing. Seconded by Commissioner Jose J Herrera. All in favor. Motion passed due to unanimous vote.

5. Consideration and Possible Action of Ordinance No.2024-5 To Adopt Budget for Fiscal Year October 1, 2024-September 30, 2025, for General, Waterworks/Wastewater, Tu Salud Si Cuenta, Police Special Funds, making appropriations for the support of the City of Combes.

Action for Approval or Disapproval of.

Mayor Silvestre Garcia asked for a motion to approve Consideration and Possible Action of Ordinance No.2024-5 To Adopt Budget for Fiscal Year October 1, 2024-September 30, 2025, for General, Waterworks/Wastewater, Tu Salud Si Cuenta, Police Special Funds, making appropriations for the support of the City of Combes.

Commissioner Olga H Montes made a motion to approve Consideration and Possible Action of Ordinance No.2024-5 To Adopt Budget for Fiscal Year October 1, 2024-September 30, 2025, for General, Waterworks/Wastewater, Tu Salud Si Cuenta, Police Special Funds, making appropriations for the support of the City of Combes. Seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Commissioner Mary David. All in favor. Motion passed due to unanimous vote.

6. Consideration and Possible Action to ratify the property tax revenue increase as per Budget October 1, 2024-September 30, 2025. Local Government Code Section 102.007.

Action for Approval

The City Administrator Aida Gutierrez explained to the city council that this item is required per Texas Local Government Code 102.007 to adopt a budget and requires to obtain an individual vote from commissioners plus an additional vote if passed.

Mayor Silvestre Garcia asked for a motion to approve Consideration and Possible Action to ratify the property tax revenue increase as per Budget October 1, 2024-September 30, 2025. Local Government Code Section 102.007.

Commissioner Olga H Montes made a motion to approve Consideration and Possible Action to ratify the property tax revenue increase as per Budget October 1, 2024-September 30, 2025. Local Government Code Section 102.007. Seconded by Commissioner Ann Forbes. All in favor. Motion passed due to unanimous vote.

Vote all for:

Commissioner Olga H Montes

Mayor Pro Tem Commissioner Mary David

Commissioner Jose J Herrera

Commissioner Ann Forbes

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Commissioner Carlos Cordova

Mayor Silvestre Garcia asked for a motion - All in favor. Motion passed due to unanimous vote.

7. Public Hearing-City of Combes Proposed Tax Rate .70 (.430000/Maintenance & Operation, .270000/Interest & Sinking) for 2024

Action for Approval-Open Public Hearing.

Action for Approval-Closing Public Hearing

Mayor Silvestre Garcia asked for a motion to open Public Hearing. Mayor Pro Tem made a motion to open Public Hearing. Seconded by Commissioner Ann Forbes. All in favor. Motion passed due to unanimous vote. The City Administrator Aida Gutierrez explained to the city council that as per the Budget workshop the total revenue

8. Consideration and Possible Action to Vote on Tax Rate for 2024 City of Combes.

Action for Approval or Disapproval of.

Mayor Silvestre Garcia asked for a motion to approve Consideration and Possible Action to Vote on Tax Rate for 2024 City of Combes. Commissioner Olga H Montes made a motion to approve Consideration and Possible Action to Vote on Tax Rate for 2024 City of Combes. Seconded by Commissioner Carlos Cordova. Mayor Silvestre Garcia asked for any discussion and/or comments. With no discussion and/or comments Mayor Silvestre Garcia calls for Votes.

Votes For:

Commissioner Olga H Montes

Mayor Pro Tem Commissioner Mary David

Commissioner Jose J Herrera

Commissioner Ann Forbes

Commissioner Carlos Cordova

Mayor Silvestre Garcia asked for a motion All Favor. Motion passed due to unanimous vote.

9. Consideration and Possible to Adopt Ordinance No. 2024-6 An Ordinance levying Ad Valorem Taxes for use and support of the Municipal Government of the City of Combes, Texas for the 2024-2025 Fiscal Year.

Action for Approval or Disapproval of.

Mayor Silvestre Garcia asked for a motion to approve Consideration and Possible to Adopt Ordinance No. 2024-6 An Ordinance levying Ad Valorem Taxes for use and support of the Municipal Government of the City of Combes, Texas for the 2024-2025 Fiscal Year.

Commissioner Olga H Montes made a motion to approve Consideration and Possible to Adopt Ordinance No. 2024-6 An Ordinance levying Ad Valorem Taxes for use and support of the Municipal Government of the City of Combes, Texas for the 2024-2025 Fiscal Year. Seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Commissioner Mary David. All in favor. Motion passed due to unanimous vote.

10. Consideration and Possible Action of City of Harlingen Fire Contract for fiscal year October 1, 2024, to September 30, 2025.

Action for Approval or Disapproval of.

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The City Administrator Aida Gutierrez explained to the city council that the Harlingen Fire Contract is \$164,560.00 (One hundred Sixty-four thousand five hundred sixty dollars) and quarterly payments are \$41,137.55 (Forty-one thousand one hundred thirty-seven dollars and fifty-five cents). The amount is based on the city's gross tax value of \$.10 (ten cents). Workshop will be scheduled to determine how commercial and residential residents will be invoiced.

Mayor Silvestre Garcia suggested for City of Combes to have their own Fire Department.

The City Administrator Aida Gutierrez recommended for item to be placed on the agenda on a later date, and research the process of obtaining a Fire Department.

Mayor Silvestre Garcia asked for a motion to approve the Harlingen Contract. Commissioner Olga H Montes made a motion to approve the Harlingen Contract. Seconded by Commissioner Ann Forbes. All in favor.

Motion passed due to unanimous vote.

11. Consideration and Possible Action of a Combes Event Committee Policy for fiscal year October 1, 2024, to September 30, 2025.

Action for Approval or Disapproval of.

The City Administrator Aida Gutierrez explained the guidelines used for a City Event Committee. It is subject to several key policies and regulations revolving around transparency and public accessibility. The aspects:

1. Texas Open Meetings Act: Ensures that meetings of governmental bodies, including city event committees, are open to the public. An agenda is required to be posted at least 72 hours in advance, detailing the date, time, place and subjects to be discussed.
2. Committee Structure and Roles: Event committees typically have specific roles such as administrative, logistics, marketing, and finance. Each committee is responsible for different aspects of event planning and execution.
3. Public Participation: Committee must allow for public participation and provide reasonable notice of meeting. This ensures that community members can attend and provide input on event planning and decision.
4. Documentation and Transparency: All decisions and discussions during the committee meetings must be documented and made accessible to the public. This includes minutes of meetings and any official communications.

At this time all meetings and events must be placed on a halt due to current event committee having no structure. TML (Texas Municipal League) and the City Counsel Judge Gilberto Hinojosa were contacted to assist with confirmation of policies and regulations where it was found the current event committee is non-compliant. The City Administrator Aida Gutierrez is in the process of obtaining a policy to obtain structure and bring to the city council at next regular meeting.

Mayor Silvestre Garcia asked for a motion to acknowledge the report. Commissioner Olga H Montes made a motion to approve the report. Seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Commissioner Mary David. All in favor. Motion passed due to unanimous vote.

12. Consideration and Possible Action for Hair event for Combes Senior Citizens and provide coupons during the Healthy Aging & Wellness FIESTA hosted by Cameron County Public Health September 19, 2024, 10:30 am to 1:30 pm.

Action for Approval or Disapproval of.

The City Administrator Aida Gutierrez explained that the Community Health Worker Ms. Raquel Chavez who is present at the meeting was able to bring an event sponsored by the Cameron County Public Health for the community senior citizens. The event will host different vendors with health information. Per request of

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citizens asking for free haircuts, it was recommended that during the event coupons would be made available if approved for citizens to get a free haircut at a Free Haircut for Seniors Event to be held quarterly.

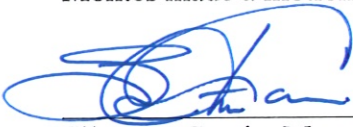
Mayor Silvestre Garcia asked for a motion to approve the Consideration and Possible Action for Hair event for Combes Senior Citizens and provide coupons during the Healthy Aging & Wellness FIESTA hosted by Caméron County Public Health September 19, 2024, 10:30 am to 1:30 pm

Commissioner Olga H Montes made a motion to approve Consideration and Possible Action for Hair event for Combes Senior Citizens and provide coupons during the Healthy Aging & Wellness FIESTA hosted by Cameron County Public Health September 19, 2024, 10:30 am to 1:30 pm. Seconded by Commissioner Ann Forbes. All in favor. Motion passed due to unanimous vote.

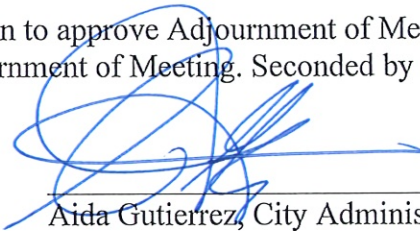
13. Adjournment of Meeting.

Action for Approval or Disapproval of.

Mayor Silvestre Garcia asked for a motion to approve Adjournment of Meeting. Commissioner Olga H Montes made a motion to approve Adjournment of Meeting. Seconded by Commissioner Jose J Herrera.



Silvestre Garcia, Mayor



Aida Gutierrez, City Administrator