# Minutes
Regular Session of the Breckenridge City Commission
August 17, 2020 – 5:30 PM
Breckenridge City Offices Commission Chambers
105 North Rose Avenue, Breckenridge, Texas 76424

**Those Present**: Bob Sims, Mayor; Tom Cyprian, Mayor Pro-Tem; David Wimberley, Commissioner; Heather Robertson- Caraway, Interim City Manager of Administration / City Secretary; Houston Satterwhite, Interim City Manager of Operations / Public Works Director; Stacy Harrison, Public Services Director; Calvin Chaney, Fire Chief; Bacel Cantrell, Police Chief; Brant Thurmond; Anfernee D. Chachere, Breckenridge American; Noemi Durán, Lee Olsen and Kevin Simmons

**Those Absent**: Commissioner Russell Blue and Commissioner Rob Durham

1. **Call to Order:** Mayor Bob Sims at 5:32 PM

2. **Public Testimony:** None

3. **Discuss and consider acting on offer of financial assistance from Breckenridge Industrial Foundation**

Commissioner Wimberley proposed we accept the financial assistance to appoint an Interim City Manager through Strategic Government Resources and see how it works out for us. He stated he would like to see someone with ties to Breckenridge fill the position. Kevin Simmons and Lee Olson, representing the Breckenridge Industrial Foundation, explained they want to help, if we want to accept the help is up to us. The City Commission will still oversee what needs to be done. Commissioner Wimberley stated he thinks Houston Satterwhite and Heather Robertson-Caraway have been asked to do too much. Simmons stated that the money is being offered as a donation for the purpose of an Interim City Manager.

Commissioner Russell Blue arrived @ 5:42 PM

Simmons stated the offer is for an Interim City Manager through Strategic Government Resources and if you don't want the offer then we'll pull it offer off the table. Wimberley stated he wants all departments to be evaluated and make changes where they are needed; the department heads, I believe, are extremely underpaid. Robertson-Caraway and Satterwhite explain that the employees pay rates are extremely low and that must change if we ever hope to stop the constant employee turnover. Simmons stated the person coming in would be looking into the departments and see how and what needs to change. Also, we would require a committee be formed to choose the individual to fill the position; that committee to be made up of myself, Lee here and from the City Commission Mayor Bob Sims and Commissioner David Wimberley.

Commissioner Wimberley made a motion to contact Ron Hollifield from Strategic Government Resources to help in finding an Interim City Manager, seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Cyprian. When the motion was put to vote, it prevailed as follows: Ayes: Sims, Cyprian, Wimberley and Blue. Nays: None. Absent: Durham

4. **Budget Discussion**

Commissioner Rob Durham arrived @ 5:53 PM

Interim City Manager of Administration / City Secretary Heather Robertson-Caraway distributed information on the proposed budget calculations. The tax rate proposed is 1.12229%. The utility bill is

proposed to be increased by an overall monthly amount of $10.00 to help balance budget. Robertson-Caraway stated with increase on utility bill rates we should have a small reserve this next year. Interim City Manager of Operations Houston Satterwhite stated the working staff needs the salary increase not the Department heads. The workers are making a lot less than surrounding towns. We have a serious *turnover due to pay scale. Commissioner Wimberley wants something to change before he leaves as* Commissioner. Commissioner Durham stated people are going to be upset and not understand why the changes had to take place. Robertson-Caraway explained the deficit in our tax base. Also, the pandemic has caused some issues with people not paying their utility bills. We were blocked from being able to charge late fees and perform disconnections by the State and Federal Declarations. Durham said we must explain to our community why the changes must take place. Robertson-Caraway explained water customers are behind and this is causing revenue to be low and we have discovered some water theft issues. Texas Department of Emergency Management (TDEM) have provided 20% of the Cities allotted federal grant funds. We can use these funds to help customers affected by the pandemic to pay their past due water bills. There will be advantages for our community like a free dump a month at the Convenience Station and a discount on the sewer charge for people with an irrigation system.

No Motion Needed

5. **Request to approve the calculations of the 2020 Effective Tax Rate**

Commissioner Wimberley made a motion to approve the calculations of the 2020 Effective Tax Rate, seconded by Commissioner Blue to adjourn the meeting. When the motion was put to vote, it prevailed as follows: Ayes: Sims, Cyprian, Wimberley, Durham and Blue. Nays: None. Absent: None

6. **Request to consider discussing tax rate and take a record vote**

Commissioner Wimberley "I move that the property tax rate be increased by the adoption of a tax rate of *$1.12229*, which is effectively a .953408 percent increase in the tax rate," seconded by Commissioner Blue to adjourn the meeting. When the motion was put to vote, it prevailed as follows: Ayes: Sims, Cyprian, Wimberley, Durham and Blue. Nays: None. Absent: None

7. **Items from City Commission not requiring formal action**

None

8. **Adjourn**

Mayor Pro Tem Cyprian made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Wimberley to adjourn the meeting. When the motion was put to vote, it prevailed as follows: Ayes: Sims, Cyprian, Wimberley, Durham and Blue. Nays: None. Absent: None

**Meeting closed at 6:25 PM**

**ATTEST**

**Heather Robertson- Caraway, CCCII, TRMC**
**Interim City Manager of Administration / City Secretary**

**Bob Sims,**
**Mayor**

THE CITY OF BRECKENRIDGE SEAL TEXAS