

MINUTES OF DECEMBER 11, 2023, REGULAR MEETING

On this, the 11th day of December 2023, beginning at 6:00 p.m., the City Council convened in regular session in the City Council Room. The meeting being open to the public and notice of said meeting having been given as prescribed by Chapter 51 of the Government Code with the following being present and in attendance to wit:

Mayor Joe Davis, Council Members Jill Cromwell, Ray Dickson, C.W. Ivey, Leslie Ivy, Melisa McIntosh, Mollie Moffitt and Woody Richardson. Employees present were City Secretary Cindy Woodard, Fireman Nick Narvaez, Public Works Director Junior Casas, Municipal Court Judge David Aleman, Police Chief Rex Plant, Officer Eric Gruwell and Water Clerk Marla Green. Citizens present were Kim Cloyd, Viki Woodard, Clifford and Cindy Banner.

Absent: Ed Bailey

CALL TO ORDER AND INVOCATION

Mayor Davis called the regular meeting to order and noted a quorum present. He welcomed all in attendance and asked Alderman Richardson to voice the invocation. The following items were presented.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Viki Woodard asked who is responsible for the flags out at the cemetery and when new one will be put up. She also asked about the junked vehicles on the outside of the fence across the street from her house and what is being done about them.

APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

The consent agenda items were presented for approval: the regular meeting minutes from November 13, 2023, accept collections and pay expenditures for November 2023. Alderwoman Moffitt moved to approve the consent agenda items, seconded by Alderman Richardson. The vote was unanimous in favor.

CEMETERY ASSOCIATION QUARTERLY REPORT ON ACTIVITIES

Randy Phillips was not present, so no report was given.

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS ON MONTHLY ACTIVITIES

Public Works Director Junior Casas reported they are replacing stop and yield signs. He has Lone Wolf Graphics resurfacing the old ones to save money. They are still doing some street patching and Alderwoman Cromwell asked about a new street patching material they had seen at the TML meeting that is used to fill potholes. Casas reported this product was expensive and they get more for the money with the asphalt material. He had a walk through with the engineer for the Noel Street project on what lines will have to be moved out of the street. He reported that

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O.K. Tire has closed and they are now using Jim's Tire service out of Wellington for the large equipment tires and Love's for the larger trucks.

Municipal Court Judge David Aleman presented his written monthly report.

Fireman Nick Narvaez presented his written report to the council. He reported they are still waiting on the insurance company for the water tanker truck that was damaged in August.

Police Chief Rex Plant introduced the new officer Eric Gruwell. He is working on updating the police policy. He asked about getting the roof and ceiling at the animal shelter looked at since it leaks each time it rains. He discussed getting rid of several guns that are in evidence and how they can be sold back to a licensed dealer. He would also like the council to consider locking the city park at night.

City Secretary Woodard reminded everyone the City Christmas party is on Thursday. She reported they have an angel tree in the hallway for the home delivered meals recipients if anyone would like to help.

OLD BUSINESS

MOTION TO REMOVE THE TABLED ITEMS FROM THE TABLE

Alderwoman Cromwell moved to remove the tabled items from the table, seconded by Alderwoman McIntosh. The vote was unanimous in favor.

DISCUSS IMPLEMENTING EXPENDITURE & INVENTORY POLICY

Sample expenditure and inventory policies were presented for review. Alderwoman Ivy moved to review and bring back to the council in January for approval, seconded by Alderwoman Cromwell. The vote was unanimous in favor.

NEW BUSINESS

RATIFY HIRING POLICE OFFICERS

Police Chief Plant reported in addition to hiring Eric Gruwell, he has also hired Cassie Crandell who will start on the 18th. She will be performing administrative work until she can retest and be reinstated with TCOLE. Alderwoman Ivy moved to ratify hiring Eric Gruwell and Cassie Crandell as police officer, seconded by Alderman Ivey. The vote was unanimous in favor.

APPROVE PAYMENT FOR NEW TRASH TRUCK FROM AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN FUNDS AND DISTRIBUTION OF REMAINING BALANCE

City Secretary Woodard reported the trash truck expense was \$257,316.00 which leaves \$17,180 in the ARP funds that were earmarked to purchase the truck. There is also \$43,948 in the sanitation truck fund that was being saved for the trash truck purchase. Public Works Director Casas discussed applying for the Regional Solid Waste Management Grant and using the remaining funds to purchase a skid steer. He would get some figures together for the next

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meeting. Alderwoman McIntosh moved to approve the payment of the truck from the American Rescue Plan funds, seconded by Alderwoman Moffitt. The vote was unanimous in favor.

CONSIDER AUTHORIZATION TO HERRERA LAW & ASSOCIATES TO RESOLVE SWEPCO'S PENDING DCFR APPLICATION BY WAY OF SETTLEMENT

Alderwoman McIntosh moved approve authorization to Herrera Law & Associates to resolve SWEPCO's pending DCFR application by way of settlement, seconded by Alderwoman Cromwell. The vote was unanimous in favor.

CONSIDER RECOMMENDED ACTION BY LLOYD GOSSELINK ATTORNEYS AT LAW FOR CITIES SERVED BY AEP TEXAS AND ADOPT RESOLUTION IF NECESSARY

Alderman Ivey moved to not take any action as recommended by Lloyd Gosselink Attorneys at Law for Cities Served by AEP Texas on their filed rate application, seconded by Alderwoman Moffitt. The vote was unanimous in favor.

CONSIDER CITY ATTORNEY REVIEW OF REQUEST FOR BIDS FOR PROPERTY CLEANUP ON THE 100 BLOCK OF S. 5TH STREET

City Secretary Woodard reported the city attorney had been contacted by the Prince's attorney and they are wanting to clean up the property themselves. After some discussion, Alderman Ivey moved to give them 30 days to clean up and if not they will proceed with bidding out the job, seconded by Alderwoman McIntosh. The vote was unanimous in favor.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL ITEMS OF COMMUNITY INTEREST

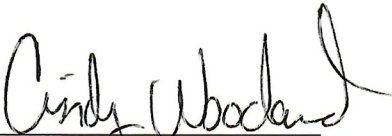
Alderman Ivey asked when we are going to cleanup our property. He was informed the cleanup committee will meet and address the issues before the next meeting. Alderwoman McIntosh asked if it could be put on the agenda to approve putting up a fence around the housing authority dumpsters on Berry Ave. She thanked everyone for what they do. Alderwoman Moffitt and Alderman Richardson both wished all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. Alderwoman Ivy asked if in the future when they discuss employee matters can they go into executive session. She is looking forward to the Christmas party Thursday. Alderwoman Cromwell reported she would like to consider an employee luncheon to go over the new policies when they get them in place. She feels it would build morale and show the council's support to help reach our goals. Mayor Davis reported they can see about having the flags put back up at the cemetery and the vehicles at 7th and Robertson. The property owner has put up a fence on the street sides, but it still needs to be on the alley side. He would like to see us look into the patching material and to cleanup around the pool area and in the park.

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ADJOURN

Aldерwoman McIntosh moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Aldерwoman Moffitt. The vote was unanimous in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Approved: 
Joe Davis, Mayor

Attest: 
Cindy Woodard, City Secretary