

MINEOLA CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING - MINEOLA CITY HALL
April 22, 2019, 5:30 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT Mayor Kevin White, Council Members Novada Bigham, Jayne Lankford, Sue Jones, Mitchell Tuck, Polly Jones and Greg Hollen

MEMBERS ABSENT None

STAFF PRESENT Mercy Rushing, Cindy Karch, William Crump, David Madsen, Doris Newman, Charles Bittner, Sherry Vann and Lynn Kitchens

OTHERS PRESENT Hank Murphy, Wood County Monitor

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor White called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. and confirmed a quorum of the council was present.

Invocation led by Mitchell Tuck and Pledge of Allegiance lead by Greg Hollen

CITIZEN COMMENT

None

PRESENTATIONS AND PROCLAMATIONS

1. Presentation of second quarter financial highlights – Cindy Karch, Finance Director

Mrs. Karch gave a brief presentation of the overall financial health of the city.

CONSENT AGENDA

2. Consider approval of minutes of the Regular City Council meeting held on March 25, 2019.
3. Consider approval of the Financial Statement for the month of March, 2019.
4. Consider approval of the Monthly Investment Report for the month of March, 2019.
5. Consider approval of the Monthly Department Head Reports for the month of March, 2019. (Building Inspections, Code Enforcement, Fire, Police, Main Street, Marketing, Street, Water, Wastewater)
6. Consider approval of a street closure request from the Mineola Chamber of Commerce for Mineola May Days on Friday night, May 3rd and Saturday May 4th from 10am to 7pm.
7. Consider approval of a resolution suspending for 45 days the effective date proposed by CenterPoint Energy Resources Corp., Beaumont/East Texas Division (“CenterPoint”) in its application filed on or about March 28, 2019 pursuant to section 104.301 of the Gas Utility Regulatory Act.
8. Consider approval of an Interlocal Agreement with Wood County for street repairs.

Mayor White read the items for consent and announced that number seven would be moved for discussion. Council Member Sue Jones made the motion to approve the consent agenda with number seven excluded. The motion was seconded by Council Member Polly Jones and carried by a unanimous show of hands.

DISCUSSION ON ACTION ITEMS, PUBLIC HEARINGS, PRESENTATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

- 7. Consider approval of a resolution suspending for 45 days the effective date proposed by CenterPoint Energy Resources Corp., Beaumont/East Texas Division ("CenterPoint") in its application filed on or about March 28, 2019 pursuant to section 104.301 of the Gas Utility Regulatory Act.**

Mayor White wanted to discuss this item to bring attention to it so that citizens can see that the city is attempting to delay their gas bill's going up. While the city cannot prevent it, we are allowed within the law to delay it and we are taking that opportunity.

A motion was made by Council Member Hollen and seconded by Council Member Bigham to approve **Resolution 19-04-22-1**. There being no further discussion, the motion carried by a unanimous show of hands.

- 9. Discuss and consider action to approve a resolution regarding Guidelines & Criteria for Tax Abatement for the City of Mineola.**

Mrs. Rushing addressed the council and informed them of the minor changes in the guidelines. These guidelines must be adopted every two years.

A motion was made by Council Member Lankford and seconded by Council Member Sue Jones to approve **Resolution 19-04-22-2**. There being no further discussion, the motion carried by a unanimous show of hands.

- 10. Discuss and consider action to approve design/sight plan for the basketball court on Wren Street.**

Mrs. Rushing presented to the council an artist rendering of the new courts which was completed by MHS Planning and Design. The design included one full size regulation court, parking, temporary restroom facilities and water fountains.

A motion was made by Council Member Tuck and seconded by Council Member Bigham to approve the design. There being no further discussion, the motion carried by a unanimous show of hands.

- 11. Discuss and consider approval of Change Order No. 1 (Reconciliatory) – for the Elevated Storage Tank Rehabilitation Project (MN.163).**

A motion was made by Council Member Hollen and seconded by Council Member Sue Jones to approve the change order. There being no further discussion, the motion carried by a unanimous show of hands.

- 12. Discuss and consider action on final acceptance of the Elevated Storage Tank Rehabilitation Project (MN.163), and to approve contractor's final pay estimate with retainage reduced to 0% and liquidated damages equal to the retainage totaling \$20,963.60 assessed. Final payment amount is \$0. The final contract amount for the completed project is \$188,672.40.**

A motion was made by Council Member Polly Jones and seconded by Council Member Sue Jones to approve the project completion. There being no further discussion, the motion carried by a unanimous show of hands.

- 13. Discuss and consider action on a tax deed, high bid received for resale property as follows; Lot 12 and 13, Blk 59, Mineola Townsites, 412 Freeman Street.**

A motion was made by Council Member Lankford and seconded by Council Member Polly Jones to accept bid. Council Member Mitchell Tuck abstained from voting due to a potential conflict of interest. There being no further discussion, the motion carried by a 5-0-1 vote.

- 14. Discuss and consider action on a tax deed, high bid received for resale property as follows; Lot 7 and 8, Block 284, Joseph E White Survey, Abstract Number 612, Corner of Lowe and Simonek Road.**

A motion was made by Council Member Sue Jones and seconded by Council Member Greg Hollen to accept the bid. There being no further discussion, the motion carried by a unanimous show of hands.

15. Discuss Landmark Commission request for traffic control on Front Street for Iron Horse Park.

Mrs. Rushing asked Main Street Director Doris Newman to brief the council on the request from the Landmark Commission. Chief Bittner has spoken with City Attorney Blake Armstrong on what actions can or cannot be taken. Mrs. Newman stated that on two separate occasions pedestrians were crossing the road into oncoming traffic and the oncoming traffic failed to stop or slow for the pedestrians. With the high number of visitors to the rail road park it is becoming a concern that someone will get hit. Landmark Commission voted to ask that the council lower speed limit to 20 mph and install pedestrian warning signs in the area. Chief Bittner spoke with Mr. Armstrong and he stated that lowering the speed limit below 20 mph will require an engineering study and an investigation as authorized DPS which supports the new speed. We can lower the speed limit to 25 without the study if the Chief thinks it warrants it and the council approves it. An ordinance will need to be passed. At this time there are no speed limit signs in the area. New signs are needed anyway, so now is the time to make changes.

A motion was made by Council Member Sue Jones and seconded by Council Member Novada Bigham to place an ordinance lowering the speed limit on Front Street by the train station to 25 MPH on a future agenda. There being no further discussion, the motion carried by a unanimous show of hands.

16. Executive Session: The City Council will now convene into a closed meeting on April 22, 2019 at 6:30 p.m. to deliberate the evaluation and contract of the City Manager and the Chief of Police, as authorized by the Government Code Chapter 551.074, Personnel Matters.

The City Council will now convene into open session at 6:55 p.m.

Discuss and consider action on personnel matters.

A motion was made by Council Member Polly Jones and seconded by Council Member Sue Jones to extend the contract of the City Manager to September 30, 2023 and increase her pay by 5%. There being no further discussion, the motion carried by a unanimous show of hands.

A motion was made by Council Member Novada Bigham and seconded by Council Member Mitchell Tuck to extend the contract of the Chief of Police to September 30, 2023 and increase his pay by 5%. There being no further discussion, the motion carried by a unanimous show of hands.

17. Mayor Comments – regarding matters appearing on the agenda; recognition of community members, city employees, and upcoming events; inquiry of staff regarding specific factual information or existing policies.

Mayor White reminded the council that he will be hosting a Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon on Friday.

18. City Manager Briefing

Mrs. Rushing read a Thank You from the family of David Stevenson in thanks for the flowers the city sent to his service. Doris said the mini-train ride went off well; 828 riders. People started lining up at 10:30, and even though they weren't supposed to start until 11:00 they went ahead and began at 10:45. Two young ladies from the middle school dressed up as the Easter Bunny and Sue Jones provided 500 Easter Eggs. The train drew riders from the Metroplex area and other East Texas cities. On Tuesday Mercy, Sherry and Cindy will begin interviewing for the

Court Clerk position. Whomever is hired will need to be trained as an alternate judge because our current alternate Judge Larry Jones has submitted his letter of resignation. MISD Candidate forum will be held in the council chambers on Tuesday night April 30th and is being hosted by the Wood County Industrial Commission. The election will be held on May 4th at city hall. May Fiesta Day is May 4th and the city will have two large booths for all city boards and will be selling tee shirts and merchandise for all of them. The mini train will run 10 am to 4 pm that day. Farmers market is open every Saturday until October or possibly November. Mrs. Rushing thanked the council for extending her contract for three more years and the raise and she appreciates the support they've given her through the years. Sales tax last month was 14.07% and this month is 14.64%. That makes 7.72% for the year. Budget was 3%.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further items for consideration, a motion to adjourn was made and the meeting adjourned.

Kevin White, Mayor

ATTEST:

Cindy Karch, City Secretary