

**MINEOLA CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING - MINEOLA CITY HALL
JULY 23, 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, Curt Myers, and Lynn Kitchens
OTHERS PRESENT	Hank Murphy, Wood County Monitor; Randi Going, Demethrius Boyd, and many members of the Mineola community.

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

Randi Going addressed the council to ask them to consider a park on the Southwest side of town because at this time there is none. Children on that side are not able to ride their bikes or walk to any city park. She would also like the council to consider naming the park after the late Christopher Griffin.

PRESENTATIONS AND PROCLAMATIONS

1. Presentation by Pastor Demethrius T. Boyd regarding current events.

Pastor Boyd addressed the council regarding the recent Jason Walters trial, bringing concerns expressed to him by his congregation regarding the outcome of the trial. He expressed that the citizens in attendance were displeased with the handling of the case by local government officials and the Mineola Police Department and asked local government to look into current practices, policies and procedures.

2. Presentation by Mr. Jerry Brooks with Grace Community Healthcare Ministry regarding ongoing ministry at the clinic and services they provide.

Mr. Brooks was not in attendance and the item was postponed.

CONSENT AGENDA

3. Consider approval of minutes of the Regular City Council meeting held on June 24, 2019 and the Special Council meeting held on July 8, 2019.
4. Consider approval of the Financial Statement for the month of June, 2019.
5. Consider approval of the Monthly Investment Report for the month of June, 2019.
6. Consider approval of the Monthly Department Head Reports for the month of June, 2019. (Building Inspections, Code Enforcement, Fire, Police, Main Street, Marketing, Street, Water, Wastewater)
7. Consider approval of an Interlocal Agreement with East Texas Council of Governments (ETCOG) for 911 Database Maintenance for FY 2019-2020 in the amount of \$3,023.30

8. Consider approval of an Interlocal Agreement with East Texas Council of Governments (ETCOG) for Public Safety Answering Points (PSAP) from September 1, 2019 through August 31, 2021

Council Member Mitchell Tuck made the motion to approve the consent agenda. The motion was seconded by Council Member Greg Hollen and carried by a unanimous show of hands.

DISCUSSION ON ACTION ITEMS, PUBLIC HEARINGS, PRESENTATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

9. **Discuss and consider action on final acceptance of Project MN.166, Emergency 18-in Sewer Line Repair, and to approve the contractor's final pay estimate with retainage reduced to 0%. Final payment amount is \$99,064.00.**

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

10. **Discuss and consider action on bid acceptance for IT services.**

Finance Director Cindy Karch informed the council that bids were solicited for IT services and five were received. Interviews were conducted and the recommendation from staff was to stay with the current IT provider, Sys Logic. The contract price is \$21,000 per year.

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

11. **Executive Session: The City Council will now convene into a closed meeting on July 23rd, 2019 at 5:55 p.m. for deliberations about real property as authorized by Government Code, Chapter 551.076, and to deliberate regarding economic development negotiations as authorized by Government Code, Chapter 551.087.
The City Council will now convene into open session at 6:27 p.m.**

12. **Discuss and consider action to solicit bids for city property, partial lot 5A, 5B, 5C Blk D, located on South Street.**

No motion was made on the item.

13. **Discuss and consider action on a resolution authorizing the initiation of the annexation process concerning properties which are contiguous to the Mineola city limits, and located within the Mineola Extraterritorial Jurisdiction, as authorized by Texas Local Government Code, Section 43.001, et seq.**

Mayor White announced that Item 13 would be postponed to a later date. No action was taken on the item.

14. **Discuss and consider action on a proposed tax rate for FY 2019-2020.**

Discussion was held about the appraisal values increasing, therefore increasing the taxes if the city keeps the current tax rate. Cities will be limited to how much they can raise taxes in the future but noted that cities under 30,000 were allowed an exception.

A motion was made by Council Member Sue Jones to propose a tax rate of 0.569. The motion was seconded by Council Member Mitchell Tuck. There being no further discussion, the motion carried with five in favor and Council Member Greg Hollen opposed.

15. 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 informed the council that they will have a workshop on the 5th then two public hearings in August. They must have quorum present for the public hearings. County tax office has given the cities a deadline of September 19th to adopt their tax rates. He may call another workshop again on the 12th if necessary. Mercy will have the budget available on the 1st of August for their review.

16. City Manager Briefing

New employees have not traditionally been introduced to the council until the end of their probation period, which for the police department is one year. Mitchell Tuck indicated that he would like to meet them earlier just so they can become familiar with them. Also, the city is hiring temp help right now and they will not be brought to the council. Background checks and drug screens are done by the temp company, as well as unemployment taxes. First day of school is August 15th.

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

**MINEOLA CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
WORKSHOP MEETING - MINEOLA CITY HALL
AUGUST 5, 2019, 6:30 P.M.**

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

MEMBERS ABSENT Sue Jones

STAFF PRESENT Mercy Rushing, Cindy Karch, Lynn Kitchens, William Crump, David Madsen, Curt Myers and Doris Newman

OTHERS PRESENT Hank Murphy, Wood County Monitor; Greg Smith & Larry Pyle, ABC Auto

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor White called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. and confirmed a quorum of the council was present.

CITIZEN COMMENT - None

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION:

1. Presentation by Nick Hardwick, Enterprise Fleet Management.

Nick Hardwick with Enterprise Fleet Management presented to the council an option for fleet management in which the city would lease its vehicles and replace them every two to three years and utilize the equity in those vehicles to pay the leases. Also presented was a maintenance and fuel program. The council indicated they would like the city staff to further explore this option to see if it would be a good fit for the city and to bring it back for consideration at a future date.

2. Discuss alley closure behind Gateway Lanes building on Broad Street

David Madsen presented surveys and informed the council that plans for construction of a new auto parts store will require abandonment of two alleyways and an abandoned city street located adjacent to the properties in question. The council indicated they would like to see the items on a future agenda for a vote.

3. Discuss proposed budget for FY 2019-2020

Mrs. Rushing presented the proposed budget line items and answered questions from the council. General fund items were discussed in this workshop due to time constraints. Water fund, MEDC, Natural Resources and other funds will be discussed in another workshop.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor White adjourned the meeting.

Kevin White, Mayor

ATTEST:

Cindy Karch, City Secretary

MINEOLA CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING - MINEOLA CITY HALL
AUGUST 12, 2019, 5:30 P.M.

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

MEMBERS ABSENT None

STAFF PRESENT Mercy Rushing, Cindy Karch, David Madsen, William Crump, Curt Myers, Lynn Kitchens, Doris Newman and Charles Bittner; City Attorney Blake Armstrong

OTHERS PRESENT Hank Murphy, Mineola Monitor; Mark Robinson, AEP/SWEPCO; Demethrius Boyd, Chris Williams, and many other members of the community.

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Kevin 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

Chris Williams of 1122 Sycamore spoke about the many power outages she has experienced at her home in recent months and asked the council to investigate a solution.

PRESENTATIONS AND PROCLAMATIONS

1. Presentation by Mark Robinson, External Affairs Manager with AEP/SWEPCO regarding current expansion project in the city of Mineola.

Mr. Mark Robinson addressed the council to inform them of expansion and upgrade plans to the plant on South and Front Street in Mineola. In order to complete the expansion in a safe and efficient manner, and to provide the best service to the citizens of Mineola, they are requesting that the city place for bid a small piece of property located adjacent to the plant. According to SWEPCO, this lot will allow the construction of a new, upgraded control house, to replace the one built in 1965 which has failing parts that they can no longer purchase.

2. Presentation by Pastor Demethrius T. Boyd regarding current events.

Pastor Boyd again addressed the council regarding the Jason Waters trial and the concerns of citizens in the Ministerial Alliance which were in attendance that evening.

Mayor White then read a prepared statement thanking citizens for expressing their concerns, being involved in the governmental process and he welcomed anyone with issues or concerns to please come and speak with him. He expressed full faith and confidence in the Mineola Police Department and its leader, Chief Charles Bittner.

DISCUSSION ON ACTION ITEMS, PUBLIC HEARINGS, PRESENTATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

3. Hold a public hearing to receive comments on the 2019-2020 Tax Rate.

Mayor White opened the public hearing. There being no citizens present for comment, the hearing was closed.

4. Discuss and consider action on the City Council Relations Policy and Code of Ethics.

City Attorney Blake Armstrong spoke briefly about the policy. He stated that there were no legal issues with the policy and that any matters of procedure were at the prerogative of the council. Mayor White requested staff to produce this policy over a year ago. This template was provided by the lawyers at TML legal, has been adopted by several other cities, and has been updated to reflect the current practices and procedures of the city of Mineola.

A motion was made by Council Member Jayne Lankford and seconded by Council Member Mitchell Tuck to adopt the policy. There being no further discussion, the motion carried by a vote of five to one, with Councilmember Greg Hollen voting against.

5. Executive Session: The City Council will now convene into a closed meeting on August 12th, 2019 at 6:26 p.m. to deliberate regarding economic development negotiations as authorized by Government Code, Chapter 551.087 Deliberations Regarding Economic Development Negotiations; Deliberate the purchase, exchange, lease of real property as authorized by Section 551.072 of the Texas Government Code, Deliberations about Real Property.

The City Council will now convene into open session at 6:49 p.m.

WORKSHOP SESSION (No action will be taken on the following items)

6. Discuss the proposed budget for FY 2019-2020.

Mrs. Rushing and the rest of the council went over the remaining funds/items in the budget which were not covered in the previous workshop.

7. Mayor's 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.
8. City Manager Briefing and Announcements

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

**MINEOLA CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING - MINEOLA CITY HALL
AUGUST 19, 2019, 5:30 P.M.**

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

MEMBERS ABSENT None

STAFF PRESENT Cindy Karch

OTHERS PRESENT Larry Tucker, Mineola Monitor; Janae Holland, Sherry Murray, Bob Murray, Jean Koch, Ellen Jackson

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Kevin 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.

DISCUSSION ON ACTION ITEMS, PUBLIC HEARINGS, PRESENTATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Hold a public hearing to receive comments on the 2019-2020 Tax Rate

Mayor White opened the hearing. Sherry Murray of 1003 N. Johnson addressed the council in opposition of raising the tax rate. She stated that Mineola is a retirement community with a majority of the population over the age of 65 and they could not afford more taxes. She also asked that the council consider freezing taxes for those citizens over the age of 65.

There being no further comments, the public hearing was closed.

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