

**MINEOLA CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING - MINEOLA CITY HALL
FEBRUARY 24, 2020, 5:30 P.M.**

- MEMBERS PRESENT** Mayor Kevin White, Council Members Novada Bigham, Jayne Lankford, Sue Jones, Polly Jones, Mitchell Tuck and Greg Hollen
- MEMBERS ABSENT** None
- STAFF PRESENT** Mercy Rushing, Cindy Karch, David Madsen, Lynn Kitchens, Doris Newman, Justin Clower, Charles Bittner, William Crump and City Attorney Blake Armstrong
- OTHERS PRESENT** Phil Major, Wood County Monitor, Cassandra Sampson, Judge Lucy Hebron, Sherriff Tom Castloo. James Shafer, Nicole Merritt, Demethrius Boyd, Vic Savelli and other members of the 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 – Mrs. Nicole Merritt addressed the council. She stated that she felt official oppression per chapter 39.03 of the penal code had occurred via social media against her husband, a candidate for the position of Sherriff. She further described the alleged attacks from a Mineola ISD police officer on social media directed toward certain candidates in the local election.

PRESENTATIONS AND PROCLAMATIONS - None

CONSENT AGENDA

1. Consider approval of minutes of the Regular City Council Meeting on January 27th and City Council Workshop on February 17, 2020.
2. Consider approval of the Financial Statement for the month of January, 2020.
3. Consider approval of the Monthly Investment Report for the month of January, 2020.
4. Consider approval of the Monthly Department Head Reports for the month of January, 2020. (Building Inspections, Code Enforcement, Fire, Police, Main Street, Marketing, Street, Water, Wastewater)
5. Consider action on the Mineola Police Department Annual Racial Profile Report for 2019.
6. Consider approval of Museum Board appointments.

Councilmember Mitchell Tuck asked that item 6 be removed from the consent agenda. A motion to approve consent agenda items 1 through 5 was made by Sue Jones and seconded by Jayne Lankford. The motion carried by a unanimous vote. Mayor White called for a motion on Item 6. Councilmember Sue Jones made the motion to approve, with Councilmember Greg Hollen seconding. The vote carried by a majority vote with Mitchell Tuck abstaining because an immediate family member was being considered for the board.

DISCUSSION ON ACTION ITEMS, PUBLIC HEARINGS, PRESENTATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

7. **Executive Session: Pursuant to Texas Government Code section 551.074 (personnel), the City Council will convene in Executive Session to discuss the following: Employment of Captain position of the Mineola Police Department left vacant by retirement.**

The city council convened into executive session at 5:40 PM. At 5:53 PM the regular city council meeting was reconvened.

8. Discuss and review City of Mineola Social Media policy and Political Activity Policy.

Discussion was held on the current City of Mineola Policy. Councilmember Greg Hollen read a prepared statement regarding recent activity on some political pages on social media. City Attorney Blake Armstrong informed the council that our policy was strong and within the law, but that item one should be removed at a future date because it could be construed as prohibiting an employee's first amendment right. No action was taken on the item.

9. Discuss and consider action on an ordinance declaring unopposed candidates in the May 2nd General City Election, Elected to Office.

Councilmember Mitchell Tuck made the motion to approve the ordinance. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Polly Jones and carried by a unanimous vote.

10. Discuss and consider action to adopt and approve a logo for the Active Living Plan.

Councilmember Sue Jones made the motion to approve the logo. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Novada Bigham and carried by a unanimous vote.

11. Discuss and consider action on a budget amendment ordinance to the FY 2019-2020 Budget for Meredith Grant Expenditures.

Councilmember Polly Jones made the motion to approve the ordinance. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Novada Bigham and carried by a unanimous vote.

12. 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 presented a PSA regarding the census and updated the council on activities of the Complete Count Committee.

13. City Manager Briefing and Announcements

Mercy presented a PSA regarding child safety seats and that the Mineola PD providing free inspections of child safety seats for all citizens via appointment. Chief Bittner stated that several members of the community have already taken advantage of this service. She also updated the council on upcoming events including the Black History Month program hosted by the Museum, the Mini Train and the planned "Girls Night Out" downtown on March 14th.

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