

**MINEOLA CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING - MINEOLA CITY HALL
MARCH 23, 2020, 5:30 P.M.**

MEMBERS PRESENT **In person:** Mayor Kevin White, Council Members Sue Jones and Mitchell Tuck (arrived at 6:00 PM) **Via video/phone conference:** Council Members Jayne Lankford, Polly Jones, Novada Bigham and Greg Hollen

MEMBERS ABSENT None

STAFF PRESENT **In person:** Mercy Rushing, Cindy Karch and David Madsen

OTHERS PRESENT **Via video/phone conference:** Phil Major, 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 and Pledge of Allegiance lead by Kevin White

CITIZEN COMMENT – None

CONSENT AGENDA

1. Consider approval of minutes of the Regular City Council Meeting on February 27, 2020.
2. Consider approval of the Financial Statement for the month of February, 2020.
3. Consider approval of the Monthly Investment Report for the month of February, 2020.
4. Consider approval of the Monthly Department Head Reports for the month of February, 2020. (Building Inspections, Code Enforcement, Fire, Police, Main Street, Marketing, Street, Water, Wastewater)
5. Consider approval of the Annual Investment Policy.
6. Consider approval of a resolution granting an exemption of taxation for the year 2020 on lots 10 and 11A, Block 7, Mineola Townsites, location of the Select Theatre, a recorded Texas Historic Landmark.
7. Consider action on a replat of Lots 17A, 17E, 18A, 20A Block 120 Mineola Townsites, located near the intersection of Guy and Meredith.
8. Consider action to approve adopting an Employment Contract for Mineola Police Department employees who the city provides specialized training.

Councilmember Greg Hollen asked that items 5, 6 & 8 be removed from the consent agenda. A motion to approve consent agenda items 1 through 4 and item 7 was made by Sue Jones and seconded by Polly Jones. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

DISCUSSION ON ACTION ITEMS, PUBLIC HEARINGS, PRESENTATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

5. Consider approval of the Annual Investment Policy.

Mayor White asked Cindy Karch to explain the changes to the investment policy. Mrs. Karch stated that in order to invest public funds in TexPool, wording needed to be added to include "Investment Pools" and "Commercial Paper" to authorized investment options. The city would like the option to invest in TexPool

as bank rates are dropping and TexPool remains relatively steady. Mrs. Rushing advised the council that TexPool is a legal investment option for cities and the principal is protected. We have not needed TexPool in the five years we have been with BTH, but as rates drop, the city needs to consider alternate investment options. TexPool investments are not locked in for a term. Councilmember Hollen concurred with comments made by Mrs. Karch and thinks it is the right approach. He wanted to make sure all councilmembers had the opportunity to understand the changes. He made the motion to approve the policy. Councilmember Novada Bigham seconded the motion and it carried by a unanimous vote.

6. Consider approval of a resolution granting an exemption of taxation for the year 2020 on lots 10 and 11A, Block 7, Mineola Townsites, location of the Select Theatre, a recorded Texas Historic Landmark.

Councilmember Hollen requested the item be removed because he is now on the Select Theater Board of Directors. A motion was made by Councilmember Polly Jones and seconded by Novada Bigham. The motion carried by a majority vote, with Councilman Hollen abstaining.

8. Consider action to approve adopting an Employment Contract for Mineola Police Department employees who the city provides specialized training.

Councilmember Hollen requested the item be removed from the agenda for discussion. Mrs. Rushing explained the need this policy was intended to address, which is providing costly training to police officers who then leave to go to other departments. The City has not provided much specialized training over the years because of this. Councilmember Hollen expressed several concerns with the contract, in that it could likely deter qualified candidates and might put them in a legal situation if they violated it. Councilmember Jayne Lankford made the motion to approve the contract/policy. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Sue Jones and carried by a majority vote, with Councilman Hollen opposed.

9. Discuss and consider action on an engineering services agreement MN.171 with KSA Engineers Inc. for Blackmon Meadows Lift Station and Force Main.

Councilmember Greg Hollen made the motion to approve the agreement. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Sue Jones and carried by a unanimous vote.

10. Discuss and consider action on a resolution extending the Disaster Declaration issued by Mayoral Proclamation on March 20th, 2020 in response to COVID-19 Public Health Emergency, and any matters related thereto.

Councilmember Mitchell Tuck made the motion to approve the resolution. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Novada Bigham and carried by a unanimous vote.

11. 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 thanked the staff for their hard work and diligence in response to the pandemic. Also, the city is working out an agreement with other communities that if we lose essential workers in our wastewater and water treatment facilities due to sickness or quarantine, that we can share employees between the entities to keep these essential services running. Hopefully ensuring that no one will be short-handed.

12. City Manager Briefing and Announcements

Mayor White asked Mercy to brief the council, but due to technical difficulties the parties dialed in on video and audio conference could no longer hear Mayor or Mercy. Through the chat function, she said she would brief the council via email and send a copy of that to the paper.

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