

MINEOLA CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING – MINEOLA CITY HALL
Monday, February 26, 2024

Call to order and confirmation of quorum.

P	Jayne Lankford, Mayor	P	Mitchell Tuck
P	Sue Jones, Mayor Pro Tem	P	Terry Eaton
P	Eric Carrington	P	Jack Newman
P	Cassandra Sampson	P	Mercy Rushing, City Manager
P	Cindy Karch, City Secretary	A	Blake Armstrong, City Attorney

Staff Present: Kyle McCoy, Justin Clower, Charles Bittner, Doris Newman, Aaron Munn, Owen Tiner and David Madsen.

Citizens Present: Phil Major with the Wood County Monitor; Heath Kinder, Parks and Open Spaces Board, Greg Hollen, Jimmy Alexander, Johnny Taylor, David Housholder, Crystal Arcand, Linda Timmons, Carter Mize, and Jason Slagel with Peoples Telephone.

Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance

Invocation led by Councilmember Tuck and pledges led by Mayor Lankford.

Citizen Comment:

Mr. Greg Hollen addressed the council regarding early voting and the delays caused by changes in voting proceedings.

Presentations and Proclamations

Consent Agenda

- 1. Consider approval of minutes of the Special City Council Meeting on January 10, 2024, and the Regular City Council meeting on January 22, 2024.**
- 2. Consider approval of Financial Reports for the month of January 2024.**
- 3. Consider approval of the Monthly Department Head Reports for the month of January 2024. (Building Inspections, Code Enforcement, Fire, Parks, Police, Main Street, Marketing, Municipal Court, Street, Water, Wastewater)**
- 4. Consider approval of the Quarterly Investment Report for the quarter ending December 31, 2023.**
- 5. Consider action on the Mineola Police Department Annual Racial Profile Report for 2023.**
- 6. Consider action on a street closure request from the Mineola Main Street & Marketing Boards for the Music in May events, 2024.**
- 7. Consider action on a street closure request from the Mineola ISD Senior Class of 2024 on May 20, 2024, for the Senior Sunset Dinner.**

- 8. Consider approval of a RESOLUTION granting an exemption of taxation for the year 2024 on Lots 10 and 11A, Block 7, Mineola Townsites, location of the Select Theatre, a recorded Texas Historic Landmark.**
- 9. Consider approval of Civic Center Board Director appointment of Roy Shockey for a three-year term.**

Councilmember Sampson made the motion to approve the consent agenda. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Eaton and the motion was carried by unanimous vote.

Discussion on Action Items, Public Hearings, Presentations, and Announcements.

- 10. Presentation by Peoples Telephone regarding City of Mineola city-wide Broadband expansion.**

Mr. Jason Slagel with Peoples Telephone presented a plan for city-wide fiber broadband expansion, a partnership with the City of Mineola, Mineola Economic Development Corporation and Peoples Telephone.

- 11. Discuss and consider possible action on a partnership between Mineola Economic Development Corporation and Peoples Telephone Cooperation to make Mineola a gigabit city for broadband internet.**

Mrs. Rushing said that the contracts were still being prepared, so asked that the council postpone the vote to a future meeting. Councilmember Jones made the motion to postpone, seconded by Councilmember Carrington. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

- 12. Discuss and consider action on an appointment to the Parks and Open Spaces Board for a two-year term, replacing Angela Thompson.**

Councilmember Jones made the motion to appoint Elizabeth Dry to the Parks and Open Spaces Board. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Eaton and carried by unanimous vote.

- 13. Discuss and consider action the Nature Preserve closures for the Eclipse.**

Mayor Lankford moved this item to the end of the agenda, and it was considered after item number 18. Citizens Comment were as follows: Mr. Johnny Taylor, Mr. David Householder, Ms. Crystal Arcand, Ms. Linda Timmons and Mr. Carter Mize all spoke in favor of keeping the Nature Preserve open for the weekend of the eclipse.

Councilmember Newman made a motion to leave the park open on Saturday and Sunday to regular visitors, but to close it on Monday, April 8th. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Tuck and carried by majority vote, with Councilmember Jones opposing.

- 14. Discuss and consider action on a budget amendment ORDINANCE amending the FY 2022-2023 budget.**

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

- 15. Discuss and consider action on a budget amendment ORDINANCE amending the FY 2023-2024 budget.**

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

- 16. Discuss and consider action on a City of Mineola software upgrade proposal.**

Ms. Karch made a presentation to the council outlining the need for software upgrade for the City of Mineola, with an estimated cost of \$210,000 and asked the council consider allowing staff to move forward with a contract.

Councilmember Eaton made the motion to allow staff to move forward with a contract. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Newman, the motion which was carried by a unanimous vote.

17. Discuss a Comprehensive Technical Assistance Work Plan for City of Mineola from Communities Unlimited.

Ms. Karch informed the council that a free rate study was being performed by Communities Unlimited and would be brought to a future meeting. No action was taken on the item.

18. Discuss and consider action to reject bids received for the TxCDBG CDV21-0098, Stone and South Newsom Street Reconstruction project, and authorize the city to rebid the project.

Councilmember Newman made the motion to reject all bids received. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Carrington and carried by a unanimous vote.

19. Public Works Director updates on water, wastewater & street projects.

Public Works Director Kyle McCoy spoke about the major water line break on Highway 37 which caused the city to issue a Boil Water Notice. The break was caused by contractors working on the Murphy Oil rebuild project when they hit a waterline late Friday afternoon. Several businesses, restaurants and residents were without water Friday evening. Crews were able to quickly repair the break and the boil water notice was lifted before Monday. The Wastewater Plant improvement project is at 98% completion.

14 City Manager Briefing and Announcements.

Mrs. Rushing briefed the council on Board of Adjustment vacancies, asking the council to make recommendations for board appointments. She briefed the council on the Meredith Foundation grant funding projects, and gave an update on the 1888 Plaza Project.

There being no further action to consider, the meeting was adjourned.

Jayne Lankford, Mayor

ATTEST:

Cindy Karch, City Secretary