


MEMORANDUM

DATE: January 23, 2025
TO: Mayor Lankford & City Council
VIA: Mercy Rushing, City Manager
FROM: Cindy Karch, City Secretary/Finance Director 
SUBJECT: Discuss and consider award of bid to SPI to provide City Engineering Services to the City of Mineola.

Background Information:

The City solicited bids for City Engineering Services. The notice of bid acceptance was published in the Wood County Monitor and posted on the City of Mineola website. Three bids were received: Garver, Hayter Engineering and SPI. Staff ranked the proposals as follows:

Garver – 372 Points

Hayter Engineering - 363 Points

SPI – 393 Points

The city has a positive working relationship with Hayter Engineering and SPI and has always been happy with their service. While Garver is a new firm, their proposal was strong, and they have a local office in Tyler, which was considered in their score. However, SPI received the highest ranking due to their prior experience with Mineola water and sewer projects. SPI also has an office in Tyler and will have an engineer dedicated to Mineola.

The recommended contract will cover all engineering services for City projects during the contract term, including the \$5,500,000 in projects funded by the Texas Water Development Board. The contract will be presented to the Council for approval at the February meeting.

The City's previous engineering firm, KSA, did not submit a proposal.

Recommendation:

Staff recommends awarding the bid to SPI. Copies of the bid packets may be viewed upon request.

Final Disposition:



SRA proposals concern RV park owners

By BRYNNA WILLIAMSON
news@wood.cm

Nearly 30 community members from the Wood County area attended last Thursday's Quitman City Council meeting.

The majority of the meeting revolved around a discussion of the proposed changes to the Sabine River Authority (SRA) Lake Fork Rules and Regulations.

The three key takeaways, according to City Secretary James Attaway's presentation, were regarding the SRA's proposed rule changes to include extending roadway width, increasing the separation distance between RVs to 25 feet and eventually removing all park model RVs and tiny homes.

Community members – especially those who own RV parks in the Lake Fork area – spoke to the council regarding their concern about the new rules. While park owners mentioned that they wanted to work alongside the SRA, many had concerns about the proposed park model home removal, which they say will come to impact local cities and the county with millions of dollars of lost revenue. Ultimately, with both the park model RV removal and the increased lot size regulation, some park owners may not be able to afford staying open, said several citizens who spoke at the meeting.

"Just the groceries – there's 47 parks on the lake. Just say a thousand people a weekend

that the parks drive. \$200 is typical, for groceries 52 weeks a year; I suggest that's probably very, very conservative, and very low. That's \$10.4 million a year, in annual revenue," said park owner Mark Dunn (who has no relation to Quitman Mayor Randy Dunn). "When that starts to ripple through, then your local economy starts to suffer."

"That's a downward spiral, unfortunately," he continued.

However, despite the many concerns, questions and personal feelings involved in the discussion, Mayor Dunn took a moment to remind the community that nothing is yet finalized regarding the rules, and that Troy Henry, the Upper Basin manager for the SRA, "is a good



Mark Dunn addresses the Quitman City Council Thursday concerning proposed rule changes by the Sabine River Authority that will impact recreational vehicle parks around Lake Fork, many of which were represented. (Monitor photo by Brynna Williamson)

guy" who is willing and wanting to work with the community on the proposed changes.

"We were asking from a little bit different standpoint, but our heart goes out to you that this is all coming on so quick," said Mayor Dunn. "They haven't got that set in concrete...

if they have situations that come in, saying, 'Hey, we need a chance to work towards that; we can't just do it that hard and fast,' then I would voice that. He (Henry) welcomed that."

The board voted to send a letter to the SRA in order to request an economic impact study

of the proposed changes.

The Mineola City Council was scheduled to consider a similar letter on Monday.

The board also discussed a motion to approve the consumption of alcohol (beer and

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Blue Santa returning to assist kids

The Blue Santa program is gearing up for another year of granting Christmas wishes as local police officers and first responders take children shopping who otherwise might have a lean Christmas.

Whataburger in Mineola will continue its role in the program along with 22 sister stores in East Texas, donating one half of all sales from 5-7 p.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 3.

So don't be alarmed by flashing lights in front of the restaurant on N. Pacific St.

Donations can also be made directly to the officers on hand.

The officers and their



charges will descend on the Mineola Walmart on Tuesday, Dec. 17 for their shopping spree.

Each year the children are delighted to find that, yes, they can buy anything in the store they want.

Last year the shopping sprees were around \$400 each for 65 kids.

The program was begun in 2019, when the shopping sprees were \$100. Since that time about \$75,000 has been raised and 200 children assisted.

The Wood County First Responders Association was formed as

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Wreaths Across America expands to seven Wood County cemeteries

The Wreaths Across America program continues to grow across Wood County.

This year the program that places Christmas wreaths on the graves of military veterans during the holiday season will be honoring those who served at seven local cemeteries.

The New Hope Cemetery east of Mineola is joining the program this year. The cemetery, established in 1864, has 112 veterans graves to honor, including some Civil War veterans.

Other participating cemeteries this year include Roselawn north of Mineola, which is the home to more than 700 veterans. Others include Hawkins Cemetery, Hol-

ly Tree Cemetery, Lee Cemetery in Winnsboro and the Shady Grove and Pineview Cemeteries.

Wreaths will be placed on Saturday, Dec. 14 following a brief ceremony at most locations.

The wreaths cost \$17 apiece.

They can be purchased at the website wreathscrossamerica.org and may be designated to a specific cemetery, and in some cases, to a specific grave.

The codes for the local cemeteries are as follows, along with the number of wreaths needed (as of Nov. 20) and ceremony times:

New Hope TXNHCM 110 wreaths needed, ceremony at 11 a.m.

Roselawn TXBFHM 57 more needed, ceremony at 11 a.m.

Holly Tree TXHTCR, 94 wreaths, goal exceeded, ceremony at 10 a.m.

Hawkins TXHCBS 150 wreaths, goal exceeded, ceremony at noon

Shady Grove TXSGCW 110 wreaths needed, ceremony at 1 p.m.

Pineview TXPINE 34 wreaths needed (joint ceremony with Shady Grove)

Lee Cemetery TXLEEC 469 wreaths needed, ceremony at 11 a.m.

Volunteers may also contribute by attending the events and helping put out the wreaths. Donations are also accepted to defray various administration and transportation expenses.

Golden makes the most of Musgraves' joke

Golden Texas is no stranger to the national spotlight, like that time Oprah Winfrey mentioned the famed sweet potatoes on her show and gave some away to her audience.

The celebrity who brought the unplanned attention this time was local native and country music superstar Kacey Musgraves.

The community's reaction to a perceived slight jab at the community has led to a positive outcome for the Golden Sweet Potato Festival's scholarship fund for Alba-Golden High School seniors.

It all started soon after the Nov. 5 election when Musgraves was performing in Toronto, Canada.

She told the audience she had called her hotel and asked to extend her stay – for four years.

Then she mentioned being

from a "tiny ass" town in Texas called Golden, and some audience members began to cheer, to which she replied that's it's not really something to cheer about.

That got the wheels to turning in Golden, spearheaded by the festival's board of directors and member Kamie Bishop.

She posted on Facebook that they respectfully disagreed with Kacey's assessment of her former hometown and came up with a t-shirt to broadcast that there is indeed something to cheer about.

The t-shirts are in an orange shade closely resembling the famed potatoes, with the message:

Golden, Texas
Something to cheer for – everyone

They quickly sold out, raising more than \$8,000 for the

scholarship fund and spurring an apology from Musgraves along with a \$10,000 donation to the fund.

She called her remarks about Golden a "sarcastic, completely unserious joke," adding "...maybe every joke or viewpoint doesn't always land."

She continued, "In so many ways I really love my Texas roots. Nothing but love and I truly never meant to offend."

The story was picked up by TMZ, which posted the concert video as well as her entire statement from her Instagram.

That led to the following statement from the festival board:

A HEARTFELT THANK YOU FROM GOLDEN

Now that the dust has settled, we want to take a moment to share a few things about our community, Gold-

en, Texas. The kids you see here (group photo of the Alba-Golden seniors in their shirts) were the motivation behind the "Something to Cheer For" shirts. Golden is a great community filled with even better people. We turned a negative situation into a positive, showing what truly makes Golden so special.

While sometimes things can hurt our feelings or get under our skin, we've found a way to rise above it – just like Golden always does. This community supports each other, has each other's backs, and that's why Golden is truly something to cheer for. We love our little slice of Heaven, and we stand by the saying: "Once from Golden, always from Golden."

We also want to acknowledge Kacey Musgraves, who reached out publicly as well

as privately and sincerely apologized for the comment made about our town. She expressed how much she still appreciates and loves Golden, and we are grateful for her kind words. We will not let that go unnoticed. We take great pride in our community and the kindness we show to one another. It's a reminder to always remember where our roots are.

In a wonderful act of generosity, Kacey graciously donated \$10,000 to support our scholarship fund. With her donation, plus the proceeds from the sale of our shirts, we raised a total of \$18,062 for the GSPF Alba-Golden Seniors Scholarship Fund.

A huge thank you to everyone who made this possible. Your support means the world to our community!

Magical 2024 Mineola

COMPLETELY FREE
December 6th
5p.m.-9p.m.

Visit Mineola.com or City of Mineola Facebook page for More Info or Inside this Edition on Page 10.

Shop Local Holiday Promotion

CASH PRIZES WILL BE AWARDED

December 7th
• PARADE & SANTA •
• CHRISTMAS MINI TRAIN •

December 8th
1p.m.-5p.m.

Mineola Landmark Commission's
"Past & Present"
Home Tour
Tickets \$20

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