

# CITY OF IVANHOE

## SPECIAL MEETING

### MINUTES

October 24, 2019

6:30 PM

Meeting was called to order by Mayor Bennett at 6:30 PM. Quorum established with all Council present. There were 13 individuals present in the audience. Councilman Vonderlin provided the invocation and the Mayor led the Pledge of Allegiance.

No one signed up to address Council so the Mayor proceeded to the meeting agenda.

#### **Agenda Item #1 – User agreement with Ivanhoe Property Owners Association for substation use**

Councilman Warren made the motion to approve the agreement with the Ivanhoe Property Owners Improvement Association for the Marshal Dept. to use the building at the entrance. Councilman Herrington provided the second. Discussion occurred regarding the mailing address being Woodville even though it is in the City of Ivanhoe. Councilman Vonderlin expressed that he does not like the 60 day cancellation clause and the stipulation of one sign allowed on the building. The requirement to provide the IPOIA with a key needs to be removed since the facility will be used by law enforcement and only authorized personnel will have access. There was agreement by representatives of the IPOIA to remove the key requirement from the use agreement. The requirement of only one sign does not prohibit a sign on the front door as well as the sign on the side of the building. Councilman Priddy noted that Marshal Riley will continue to have his office at City Hall where the secure evidence closet is located. He commented that Mayor Bennett had tracked down furniture for the building. Mayor Bennett explained the furniture came from the Deep East Texas Council of Governments at no cost to the city. With no further discussion Council voted unanimously in favor of the agreement.

#### **Agenda Item #2 – Renew Lease of office space from Ivanhoe Property Owners Association**

Mayor Bennett explained the space being leased in the IPOIA office building for use by the Public Works Coordinator is up for renewal. Mr. David Marshal told Council that he is spending quite a bit of time at the Emily facility directing the crew and that Council might consider putting the money planned for the lease towards a small building that can be used for his office at Emily location. Council discussed the option. Councilman Vonderlin made the motion to enter into the agreement with IPOIA for now. Councilman Morris provided the second. Following additional discussion with IPOIA Board representatives, Councilman Vonderlin amended his motion to change the agreement to allow 30 days' notice to end the lease. Councilman Morris amended his second correspondingly and the amended motion passed unanimously.

### **Agenda Item #3 – Electronic sign at entrance**

Mayor Bennett turned the floor to Councilman Herrington for an update on design of the support structure for the electronic sign to be installed near the entrance. Councilman Herrington said he has completed the design and is working on material list/cost. The Friends of Ivanhoe group will be paying up to \$1,000 for the project. The design will match the entrance monuments and planter box. Mayor Bennett noted that due to the Friends of Ivanhoe paying for the project the city does not have a conflict with Councilman Herrington doing the design work. Councilman Warren questioned how electricity would be provided to the sign. Council discussed having power coming from the substation. The agenda item was for information only, and no action was taken by Council.

### **Agenda Item #4 – Resolution #2020-2R Nominee to Appraisal District Board**

Councilman Vonderlin made the motion to nominate Mayor Bennett to continue serving as the city's representative to the Appraisal District per Resolution #2020-2R for a 2 year term (12/19-12/21). Councilman Herrington seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

### **Agenda Item #5 – Truck purchase**

Mayor Bennett explained that she had gotten a bid from Silsbee Ford in preparation for a grant application through the Recovery Texas program of the Texas General Land office. The city did not get the grant, but the truck is still needed for the Public Works Dept. She advised Council that she is working with the Alabama Coushatta Indian reservation Council for a \$30,000 grant that would go towards the cost of the truck. Councilman Morris made the motion to proceed with purchasing the truck. Councilman Vonderlin provided the second. In discussion the City Secretary reminded Council that the City will need to go out for bids if the cost is over \$50,000. Councilman Morris withdrew his motion and Councilman Vonderlin withdrew his second. Public Works Coordinator Mr. David Marshal responded to a Council question explaining that the crew is dependent on the Dodge ½ ton truck for transporting the crew and the Humvee is used for pulling trailers for equipment transport. The department is not using Public Works Director Mr. Michael Webb's F-250 for towing purposes any longer. Council discussed purchasing used vehicles and consideration of leasing. Councilman Herrington commented that without a grant or funding anticipated the cost is a significant outlay and felt that due diligence needs to take place. Following the discussion Councilman Morris made the motion to go out for bids for a truck for the Public Works Dept. Councilman Herrington voiced the second and the motion passed unanimously.

### **Agenda Item #6 – Tristan bulkhead repair and bid**

Mayor Bennett turned the floor to Councilman Warren as liaison for Dams. Councilman Herrington informed Council that he has filed a Disclosure of Conflict of Interest and for public disclosure he is a partner in the company that had submitted the only bid for the bulkhead work needed on Tristan Dam. He removed himself from discussion on the agenda item. Mayor Bennett explained that other companies had been contacted to obtain bids however none responded with sealed bid. Councilman Warren commented that he had discussed the bulkhead work with another contractor in Ivanhoe. That contractor declined to bid citing the extent of work and his health. Council discussed at length the priority location on the dam where the bulkhead work is most

needed. Mr. Curtis Judalet representing Artisan Brothers Contracting provided details of the bulkhead replacement using vinyl sheet piling driven into the dam. The price includes clay backfill topped with dirt for reestablishing grass cover. Supervisor of Dams Mr. Rusty Harrison asked how low the lake would need to be dropped while the work is underway. Mr. Judalet said about a foot below the bottom of the existing bulkhead and he expects to begin work in about 6 to 8 weeks after Council approval. Mr. Harrison explained that his biggest concern is the area between the fishing pier and the level control valve platform. Mr. Judalet responded that his company requires a minimum of 50 feet in order to get the \$107 per foot pricing. Mayor Bennett commented that additional information is needed and recommended postponing action on the agenda item to the November Council meeting so that exact footage and scheduling can be worked out with the contractor. Councilman Warren added that the Council should also consider whether to replace the fishing pier or not. Ms. Jill Longtin asked how long the lake level would need to be lowered for the work. Mr. Judalet responded that he estimates 12 weeks for 350 feet of bulkhead. Councilman Morris made the motion to postpone action on the matter to the November Council meeting. Councilman Warren provided the second and the motion passed unanimously.

#### **Agenda Item #7 – Clean out of Charmaine Dam stilling basin**

Mayor Bennett informed Council that research of the files indicates that Mr. Julio Barrajas had cleaned the Charmaine stilling basin in 2015. Additional research is needed. Councilman Warren made the motion to postpone. Councilman Vonderlin voiced the second and the motion carried unanimously.

#### **Agenda Item #9 – Use of \$2,000,000 bond proceeds**

Mayor Bennett moved the discussion/action on use of the \$2 million bond proceeds forward on the agenda so the LJA engineer could join the discussion and then travel back home at a reasonable hour. She then turned the floor to the engineer Ms. Dawn Pilcher. Ms. Pilcher explained there has been open house discussion of how the bond proceeds will be utilized including the match that is needed for the city mitigation grant application. So far there has been very little feedback from the federal government on the status of the grant application. She said there are some other grants in development that the city can apply for. Meanwhile, there are some things that need to be done before the city will be ready for the construction phase. Councilman Herrington reiterated the phases of development and even if the city receives approval on the grant application tomorrow it will be in the engineering phase for approximately a year. Ms. Pilcher noted that permitting from the Corp of Engineers will take a minimum of a year, plus getting clearance on historical and environmental will take a good portion of that same time frame. Councilman Priddy asked if a portion of the bond proceeds are used will it still require all of the environmental and historical permitting. Ms. Pilcher responded that not as much will be needed if federal funds are not used. Councilman Herrington questioned if there is a possibility of getting some road work done by next summer if a portion of the street bonds are used? Ms. Pilcher responded that yes some street work can be done if the street work is broken away from drainage. Councilman Herrington commented that use of some of the bond funds will short change the city for the required match on the grant. Ms. Pilcher replied that the street and drainage will be a multi-year program and the grant is actually a reimbursement of funds spent by the city. As a result the city will have time to replenish the funds. Councilman Herrington questioned what criteria will be used to determine where the street work will be done. Mayor Bennett responded the Council should use

the next two weeks to come up with locations. Ms. Pilcher said she would be pushing really hard to get engineering plans ready by the end of January in order to go out for contractor bids and get them scheduled. Councilman Herrington commented that \$500,000 is about all the city needs to commit at this time. He then made the motion to determine how best to utilize \$500,000 for starting the engineering leading to construction, with necessity to replenish the funds if the grant is approved including in-kind labor. Councilman Priddy provided the second and the motion passed unanimously.

In additional discussion Mayor Bennett questioned the engineer how quickly the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) would release funds for the increasing the size of the cross culvert and raising the roadway on Ivanhoe Dr. below Lake Ivanhoe dam. Ms. Pilcher responded that if the low interest forgivable loan is approved by TWDB in January as expected, the funds would become available in the summer of 2020. Council discussed the priority for street work so the engineer could begin work as quickly as possible. The discussion focused on Chanticleer from Ivanhoe Dr, to Lakewood, and Charmaine Dr. South including the section of Ivanhoe Estates and Sir Robert Burns that serves to connect Charmaine Dr. South to Lakewood. Councilman Herrington submitted the motion for the approved funds to be utilized on those streets. Councilman Priddy provided the second and the motion passed unanimously.

#### **Agenda Item #8 – Chanticleer road work**

Agenda item was not addressed since the work on Chanticleer was taken care of as part of Agenda #9.

Mayor Bennett reminded everyone present that the sales and use tax ballot item needs to pass. She then opened the floor to Ms. Pilcher for clarification of Proposition #8 on the November 5<sup>th</sup> ballot. Ms. Pilcher explained the Proposition if passed will amend the state constitution to dedicate state funds to low interest and forgivable loans to be used for drainage and flood prevention projects. The legislature will not be able to withdraw those dedicated funds in the future if the state budget gets tight.

With no other Counsel comments;

#### **Agenda Item #10 – Adjourn**

Councilman Priddy made the motion to adjourn with a second by Councilman Herrington, and the meeting was concluded at 8:06 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

C. D. Woodrome, City Secretary