

REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES
JUNE 17th, 2021
6:00 PM

Meeting was called to order by Mayor Bennett at 6:00 pm. Quorum was established with all Council members present. City Attorney Brad Elrod was present. Chuck Vonderlin provided the invocation and Mayor Bennett led the Pledge of Allegiance. Council meetings are lived streamed on YouTube. Mayor Bennett asked if any questions or comments were posted on YouTube. There being none, she explained the city WILL NOT respond to complaints, comments or questions on Facebook outside of the livestreamed meeting. She the proceeded to the agenda.

Consent Agenda Items

Mayor Bennett asked if there were any items on the consent agenda that needed to be removed. Hearing none, Mayor Bennett then asked if there were any objections to approval of the Consent Agenda. There being no objection, Mayor Bennett declared the Consent Agenda Items approved including the Minutes of the Regular meeting on May 20th, 2021, Minutes of Town Hall meeting of June 5th, 202, Special Meeting of June 5th, 2021, and Dam Inspection Reports for May 2021.

Agenda Item #1 – Accountant presentation

Mayor Bennett introduced Ms. Shirley Andrew and her husband John with the accounting firm of Andrew Business Solutions. Ms. Andrew thanked the Council for allowing Andrew Business Solutions to do the monthly accounting for the city. She provided background information about Andrew Business Solutions based in Silsbee and serves clients around the Beaumont/Golden Triangle area. City Secretary/Treasurer C. D. Woodrome joined Ms. Andrew and they reviewed the monthly financial report for May 2021 for Council. Sales tax for May was \$7,848 and the June payment just received was \$6,613. Ad-valorem payment for May had just arrived totaling \$11,218 for General fund and \$2,701.42 for Interest & Sinking. Councilman Warren made the motion to postpone action on the May financial report for corrections. Councilman Herrington submitted the second and the motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item #2 – DPS presentation on new laws on golf carts, ATV's and Utility Vehicles

The DPS officer is assigned to border enforcement and was not available. The item will be addressed at a later time. Councilman Blackstone commented that he had talked to Representative James White regarding the lights requirement on golf carts.

Agenda Item #3 – Mayor's Report

- An initial meeting has occurred with the team being put together by LJA Engineering for the \$11.48 million grant work on the Ivanhoe Dam, Tristan Dam and Camelot Dam. Awaiting the contract from TX General Land Office to begin work.
- A special meeting is called for Monday, June 28th at 4 PM to make a decision on change order and funding for the TX Water Development Board project. Also scheduling of the culvert replacement with Gulf Coast Construction and review the status of detour work being done by the city Public Works Dept.
- A meeting with Mr. Lonnie Hunt the Executive Director for the Deep East Texas Council of Governments indicates that an additional amount of funds will be forthcoming under an allocation from the TX General Land Office for mitigation activities in the 75979 area code. Further Council discussion on projects will occur when the method of distribution is decided by the COG.
- Initial figures released by the US Treasury indicate the city will receive \$313,000 thru the American Recovery Act. The city must apply for the funds by August 2nd. The final details of what qualifies for use of the funds is still being worked out by the Treasury.
- Work on Ivanhoe Dr. East and West will commence as soon as the Public Works crew completes the culvert and bulkhead replacement on Mill Creek Rd. The work is being paid for with Council approved Bond Construction funds and is in preparation for detouring traffic while the culvert replacement work under the TX Water Development board grant is underway.

Agenda Item #4 – Discuss/Action Supervisor of Dam Report

- Mr. Rusty Harrison commented that not much is going on with the dams, still waiting on Chance Construction to assess the extent of the void at the south end of Charmaine Dam and re-caulk the expansion joints that are cracking. Councilman Warren reported that Ocean Breeze has been contracted to mow the Camelot, Galahad

and Tristan Dams. Bladderwort is migrating from Tristan and Galahad lakes into Lake Charmaine and another herbicide test spray is planned for the coming week. The report was information only, no action was required.

Agenda Item #5 – Municipal Court Activity Report

Judge Rader had provided her monthly report indicating total fines collected of \$2,419 for April & May with \$1,304.35 retained by the city and \$1,114.65 sent to the state.

- a) Judge Rader updated Council on the Court Security Committee which is mandated by the state to review the court operations for any security issues. The committee did not meet last year due to Covid-19. The committee will need to meet this year. Officer Jim Zachary will replace Marshal Riley on the committee and Court Clerk Malissie Taylor will be added. The report was information only, no action was required.

Agenda Item #6 – City Marshal Activity Report

Marshal Terry Riley reported the total calls/activity handled with CopSync received by City Marshall Office: 109 compared to 175 last month and 24 calls received from the Sheriff's Office. There were 6 citations/violations written, with 7 warnings issued. The call/activity reports by the City Marshal Office include security checks, traffic stops, calls for service, license and registration search, suspicious persons and miscellaneous activities. Councilman Warren requested the Marshal have authority to enforce violations on IPOIA property. City Attorney Brad Elrod said he would look into the ability/legality to do so. The report was information only, no action was required.

Agenda Item #7 – Code Enforcement Activity Report

- Ms. Malissie Taylor summarized the monthly Code Enforcement activities: total number of 2020 open cases: 113. The City will continue to focus on older code violations first before actively issuing new violations.
- There are 4 current stop work orders posted on property for violations.
- There are 85 junk vehicle cases and the Code Enforcement Dept. has restarted filings on Junk Vehicles now that the State has resumed vehicle registrations. RV's and travel trailers are considered vehicles and the city is moving forward with abatement of junk vehicles.
- There are 9 On-Site Septic investigations pending with the Designated Rep.
- Anyone in warrant status on violations has additional fees accruing and they need to contact the office.

The report was information only, no action was required.

Agenda Item #8 – Public Works Report

Mayor Bennett noted that Public Works Supervisor David Marshall was not feeling well and not able to attend, most of the Public Works activity had been included in the Mayor's report earlier.

Agenda Item #9 – Planning & Zoning Committee Recommendations

Councilman Craven as liaison to the Planning & Zoning Commission summarized Ordinance #2021-9 revising the size requirements for signage and exempting permit requirements for certain banners and decorative, artistic and informational signs on residential property. Councilman Blackstone motioned to adopt the ordinance on first reading, with Councilman Craven submitting the second and the motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item #10 – Interlocal agreement with Warren ISD on CARES Act funds

Mayor Bennett informed Council that the city was eligible for more funds under the CARES Act than the city had reimbursable costs that qualified. The city is working with the Warren ISD to provide the school with reimbursement on coronavirus related eligible expenses of the school district. The interlocal agreement is needed in order for the city to process and send the funds to the school when they arrive. Councilman Craven made the motion to approve the interlocal agreement with Warren ISD. Councilmember Herrington submitted the second and the motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item #11 – Over 65 tax exemption

Mayor Bennett provided an update on the over 65 ad valorem tax exemption that Council is considering; after discussion with Tyler County Chief Appraiser Mr. David Luther, he will develop a spreadsheet after getting the certified tax roll completed. He will make a presentation at the July Council meeting to show the impact of different amounts of a tax exemption on the city budget. The report was information only, no action was required.

Agenda Item #12 – Ontiveroz lawsuit

City Attorney Brad Elrod informed Council that he has been in contact with the attorney assigned to the case by the TX Municipal League. Currently there is nothing to report.

Agenda Item #13 – Executive session

Not required

Agenda Item #14 – Communications from Audience

No comments or questions from the audience or from YouTube viewers.

Agenda Item #15 – Council Comments

None.

Agenda Item #16 – Adjourn Meeting

Councilman Blackstone made the motion to adjourn the meeting with a second by Councilman Craven and the motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 6:48 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
C. D. Woodrome, City Secretary

Approved by Council August 19, 2021

Cathy Bennett, Mayor