

CITY OF IVANHOE
TOWN HALL MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 26, 2022
10:00 AM

Meeting was called to order by Mayor Bennett at 10:00 am. Quorum was established with all council members present. Chuck Vonderlin provided the invocation and Mayor Bennett led the Pledge of Allegiance. This meeting is being lived streamed on YouTube. Invited guests are Jessica Daidom, representing the grant administration service Langford Community Management Services, Dawn Pilcher and Victoria Dia, of LJA Engineering. Attendance: 27.

Agenda Item #1 – Questions/Discussion Regarding \$11.48 Million Grant

Floor opened to Dawn Pilcher and Victoria Dia for overview of project.

- Victoria Dia: Work has started with property surveys (over 1000 survey points.) TCEQ has received notification and LJA has received information on the dams. Soil samples have been collected for soil stability status and analysis. Geo tech data is approximately 85% complete. Land acquisition is in discovery phase; deed work needs to be collected for land price negotiations and submitted to grant administrator. The display maps provided show potential land acquisition/appraisal areas. Environmental work has begun.
- Randy Friedrich (IPOIA):
 - Can any soil removed that is not needed by contractor be taken to Fancher Park for fill & leveling? *This can be discussed with contractor and included in contract.*
 - When will land surveys and negotiations be done? According to IPOIA By-Laws, 3 readings of any legal documents over a 30-day period is required with at least 25 members present to vote. *Land acquisition is in discovery phase.*
 - What is the start date of construction? *Construction is not expected to begin on Phase I in 2022. TCEQ will take 6 to 8 months, or more, to perform a detailed review of Camelot Dam and downstream flow.*
 - Camelot Park area next to dam can be used as a staging/laydown yard during construction.
 - Will Lake Camelot have to be lowered? *Yes, the lake will be drained to allow for dam and spillway construction and safety issues. Geo technical reports will provide any information about soil that is removed. Any spoils will be transported to Fancher Park and leveled. Again, this will be written into the construction contract.*
 - Timeframe? *Completion is unknown until geo technical report is completed. Work on Lake Camelot Dam is planned to commence first. Reconstruction will be for flood control and the level will fluctuate as it does now.*
 - Can water to refill Lake Camelot be obtained from another source, like lake Galahad? *Lake Camelot's water level is planned based on the current level. Any plans to refill other than rainfall will be determined at a later date.*
- Councilman Blackstone: Will the lake level change? *Flood events will cause pool level fluctuation.*
- Mayor Bennett: Lake level was higher back in the 1980s according to some bulkhead heights.
- Councilman Herrington: Bulkhead and dam shows previous level which was lowered due to Hurricane Bonnie to avoid catastrophic dam failure. *Water level can be controlled by passive*

spillway or a value set in conjunction with historical level as recorded by TX Commission on Environmental Quality. In the past few years flooding has gone from 1 in 100 years to 1 in 50 years under per NOAA records.

- Randy Friedrich: Will there be a detour for traffic? *Yes.*

Agenda Item #2 – Questions/Discussion Regarding \$7.9 Million Grant

- Mayor Bennett: The contract was received on March 19, 2022 for \$7.9 million grant. The documents have been signed and returned. This grant is for drainage project work on culverts and roads (from Hurricane Harvey after 7 years of working to get the grant.) A Kickoff Meeting with the Texas General Land Office will take place on April 5, 2022 at 10:00 am. *The original FEMA grant was a 75%/25% matching fund requiring the city to provide 25% of the project cost. This is the reason the city needed the money from the \$2 million bond. In the meantime FEMA “ran out of funds” and the grant was not awarded at that time. Funds were appropriated by the state legislature to GLO for grants that do not require matching funds. When the original grant was written following the 2015 floods multiple roadwork locations were scattered throughout the city based on drainage issues. These locations are noted on the map. Funding can be used on roadwork as it pertains to drainage.*
- Mayor Bennett: A CDBG grant of \$375,000 will be used on 22nd street which is one of the locations identified for drainage/street work. Funds from that project will be reviewed in relation to other grants.
- Joe McWhorter: Are there options to stretch the funds by using different types of road surfaces? *Projects during 2020-2021 were improved with asphalt. The city can consider chip seal or oil sand surfaces.*
- Mayor Bennett: Can the road distance be adjusted? *Yes.*
- Councilman Herrington: Clarify the road surfaces. *Improve and harden surface was documented in the grant. Original design was chip seal.*
- Carla McCauley: Can permits be expedited? *No, the environmental work has to be cleared by both the state and federal agencies, and engineering plans must be submitted and approved prior to issuance of permits.*

Agenda Item #3 – Questions/Discussion Regarding Community Development Block Grant

Waiting for contract for \$375,000 CDBG for project work on 22nd street will be awarded in 2023 and will progress more quickly than GLO grant.

Agenda Item #4 – Questions/Discussion Regarding Community Resiliency Grant

Mayor Bennett: This \$5 million grant was for a community building and property near the front entrance. The land acquisition for this project did not occur due to property owners deciding not to sell. The city lost scoring points as a result and the highly competitive grant was not awarded to the city..

Agenda Item #5 – Pending Comprehensive Plan & Future Economic Development

- Mayor Bennett: The city just received the 300+ pages of the Comprehensive Plan from Grant Works after over a year of study. The Plan will be reviewed and a Public Hearing will be scheduled. Hancock’s BBQ is no longer in business, but another take-out food business will be opening in the same location.

- Mayor Bennett: Ivanhoe census figures dropped from 1,425 in 2010 to 1,325 in 2020. Tyler County census dropped from 22,000 to 17,000. This decrease is attributed to COVID causing an undercount and not from people actually leaving the area. Texas Demographic Center has Ivanhoe at 2005 population pre-pandemic figures. There is great concern that grant amounts may be reduced due to lower population level in the census.
- Debbie Peterson: How much is remaining in the \$2 million Bond Fund. Is there a timeframe in which the remaining money must be used? *Mayor Bennett: Approximately \$600,000 remains currently. The final payment to the engineer and contractor has yet to be made for the 2021/22 street work. The city will provide information on spending down the bond proceeds on other street projects. Bond proceeds can be used for locations that do not meet low to moderate income requirements of grant work.*
- Mayor Bennett: DETCOG has \$162 million allocated from Housing & Urban Development for use in the 7 counties most impacted by Hurricane Harvey. Currently we do not know how much will be designated to Ivanhoe and the 75979 zip code. The Method Of Distribution is being reviewed by GLO. Part of the proposal is for each county to receive \$5 million for drainage and \$6 million for broadband. Remainder of funding in under the MOD for competitive grants.
- Cammie Marceaux: Applied for individual assistance 5 years ago and has heard nothing. City Secretary C. D. Woodrome explained the town hall meeting is for information on public assistance funding and not individual assistance.
- John Avery: Spoke with a Spectrum employee installing fiber optic cable. High speed internet is expected to be available in Ivanhoe by the end of the year.
- Kelli Scroggins: Asked for clarification on where road work has taken place on map. *Clarification was given for bond construction and grant funds.*
- Lloyd Omsberg: Will all of Lakewood Dr. be included in upcoming scheduled work. Mayor Bennett: None of the current grants include Lakewood Dr., the city will be looking into other grant sources, including DETCOG allocations.
- C.D. Woodrome: Recognized Gulf Coast Construction for installing sand oil mixture on front entrance parking lot at no charge in conjunction with the 2021/22 bond construction work on Sherwood Forest, Sherwood Forest West and Lakewood at the west end of Galahad Dam.

Agenda Item #6 – Adjourn Meeting

Councilman Warren made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Councilman Herrington seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 11:14 am.

Respectfully submitted,
C. D. Woodrome, City Secretary

Approved by Council April 21, 2022

Cathy Bennett, Mayor