

**MEETING MINUTES**  
**City Council, City Of Quitman**  
Thursday, May 16, 2013 – 7:00 PM  
City Council Chambers, City Hall – 401 E. Goode Street, Quitman, TX

**COUNCIL PRESENT:** J.R. Evans, Mayor Pro-Tem; Toni Cole, Alderman; Larry Crow, Alderman; and Sam Lange, Alderman;

**COUNCIL ABSENT:** Randy Dunn, Alderman

**STAFF PRESENT:** Delene Allen, Civic Services Director; Meri Joy Brightwell, Assistant City Secretary; Kelly Cole, Police Chief; Tully Davidson, Fire Marshal; Dee Gilbreath, Utilities Director; Mike Hall, City Secretary / Administrator; Walter Lutonsky Streets & Maint. Director; Jim McLeroy, City Attorney; and Jr. Stovall (Scott Wheeler, Fire Chief).

**Evans called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.**  
**Evans led an invocation. At Evans request, Crow led the pledge.**

**Item 1 – Citizen Comments (COMMENT ONLY)**

Evans presented Richard Kleebauer with a plaque recognizing his many years of service on the Quitman Development Corporation Board. He served from 2005-2013, including as President from 2006-2007.

Evans also presented a plaque to Sam Lange recognizing his years of service to the City of Quitman. He was Mayor from 2007-2009 and an Alderman from 2011-2013.

Evans recognized and the following were introduced: Carey Fry, Executive Director of the Greater Quitman Area Chamber of Commerce; Maggie Fraser, Editor of the Wood County Democrat; and Gene Keenon, Governmental Relations Manager with Republic Waste.

***Without objection, agenda Item 8 was taken up.***

**Item 8 – Appointment of Alderman for Unexpired Term**

Evans introduced the resolution explaining that as he was the only candidate for Mayor in the May 11, 2013 City General Election and he had been declared elected as Mayor, his Alderman seat would be vacant upon his swearing in on May 17<sup>th</sup>. Evans noted the resolution would appoint David Dobbs to fill the vacant alderman seat for the remaining unexpired term expiring May 2014. He recognized and introduced Dobbs who was present. Dobbs expressed his interest and desire to serve.

***Cole made a motion to approve the resolution, Crow seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.***

**Item 2 – April 18, 2013 Regular City Council Meeting Minutes**

Crow mentioned a grammatical correction to item #6 stating the phrase “approve the report” should be replaced with “adopt the ordinance.”

***Crow made a motion to approve the minutes with corrections as discussed, Lange seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.***

**Item 3 – May 2, 2013 Special City Council Meeting Minutes**

***Crow made a motion to approve the minutes, Lange seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.***

**Item 4 – April Financial Report**

Cole asked why checks were being written to the city of Grand Saline. Hall explained that Fire Marshal supplies had been purchased by the City of Grand Saline that were split between the 2 cities, the checks were to cover Quitman’s portion of the expense as submitted by the Fire Marshal.

***Crow made a motion to approve the report, Lange seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.***

**Item 5 – April Budget Report**

***Lange made a motion to approve the report, Cole seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.***

**Item 6 – April Departmental Reports**

Evans asked if any of the department heads wished to add anything to their reports. None offered additional information.

There was general discussion about the inspection of vacant buildings in the annual fire inspections process. Davidson stated that he had been having difficulty gaining access to some of the buildings. Evans suggested stepping up the enforcement level as needed while encouraging building owners to cooperate.

***Cole made motion to approve the reports, Crow seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.***

***Without objection, agenda Item 11 was taken up.***

**Item 11 – Utilities Capital Projects Authorization**

Evans introduced the resolution, noting passage would express the clear desire of the Council to pursue the Water and Wastewater System improvements previously discussed. He noted the Council had received a packet of the projects which had been discussed at length in previous workshop sessions.

***Crow made a motion to approve the resolution, Lange seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.***

**Item 7 – Atmos Energy Rate Review Mechanism**

Evans introduced and read the caption of the ordinance. He asked Hall to provide background and detail on the ordinance. Hall noted that the Rate Review Mechanism (RRM) process had originally been in place between Atmos Energy and the Atmos Cities Steering Committee (ACSC) to which the City belonged, but had broken down due to demands by Atmos related to infrastructure improvement costs and rate restructuring. He explained that when the RRM fails cities are left to a rate case dispute process against Atmos with the Texas Railroad Commission, which can take months to resolve. There was general discussion about the differences between this RRM and the previous RRM with Hall noting there was a comparison sheet in the materials provided to the Council. There was general discussion about the potential for this RRM to fail with Hall noting that the rate case dispute process would again come in to place, but that the RRM was in the better interest of all parties provided they could agree.

***Crow made a motion to pass the ordinance, Lange seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.***

**Item 9 – Quitman Development Corporation Board Appointment**

Evans introduced the resolution, explaining that Richard Kleebauer had resigned from the board under an appointment expiring October 1, 2014 and that the QDC board had unanimously nominated Kevan Burroughs to fill that vacant unexpired seat. He noted the resolution would approve that nomination and appoint Burroughs to the unexpired term.

***Crow made a motion to approve the resolution, Lange seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.***

**Item 10 – Management / Lease Agreement of Park Space with Friends of the Arboretum**

Evans introduced the resolution noting it would authorize the execution of the agreement with the Friends of the Arboretum (FoA) for the lease of park space for the management and operation of the Hogg Park Arboretum and Botanical Gardens. There was general discussion about the lease agreement and progress in development of the project by the FoA.

***Crow made a motion to approve the resolution, Lange seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.***

**Evans reminded the Council there was a special meeting scheduled for Friday, May 17, 2013 at 7:30 AM to swear in the new Council and conduct the initial business of that Council.**

**Adjournment**

***Lange made a motion to adjourn, Crow seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.***

***The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 PM.***

***I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THESE MINUTES ARE A TRUE AND CORRECT RECORD OF THE ITEMS CONSIDERED AND ACTION TAKEN AT THIS MEETING AND THAT THESE MINUTES HAVE BEEN APPROVED AS TRUE AND CORRECT AND THAT AN EXECUTED COPY IS ON FILE WITH THIS OFFICE.***



**MICHAEL E. HALL**