

MEETING MINUTES
City Council, City Of Quitman
Thursday, August 22, 2013 – 7:00 PM
Quitman Public Library Community Room – 202 E. Goode Street, Quitman, TX

COUNCIL PRESENT: J.R. Evans, Mayor; Toni Cole, Mayor Pro-Tem; Larry Crow, Alderman; Arnie Spiers, Alderman; Randy Dunn, Alderman; and David Dobbs, Alderman;

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

Evans called the meeting to order at 7:06 PM.
At Evans request, Dunn led an invocation and Crow led the pledge.

Without objection items 6 and 7 were taken up at this time.

Item 6 - Benefits / Affordable Care Act

Steve Capps with Capps Insurance was present to speak about the rates changes effective October 1, 2013. He explained that the health insurance through Blue Cross Blue Shield had been rerated with a premium increase of 32%. He noted that this was due to the health condition and demographics of the group. Capps explained that under the upcoming changes due in the coming weeks from the Affordable Care Act, also known as Obamacare, that older style plans could be grandfathered with an effective date of December 1, 2013, or new style plans could started with an effective date of January 1, 2013. He also noted that under the ACA that individual health condition and demographic would be non-considerable for rate determination. He suggested it was possible that the group rates for the City could potentially decrease from the new level back to a level more in line with or even below what the City had budgeted, but that since the regulations continued to change weekly that it was not possible to say for certain.

There was discussion about offering employees a cafeteria plan in either instance of a December 1 or January 1 start date. Under such a system, employees would be given a flat rate benefit amount per month allowing them to choose what health benefits they wanted and pay for any additional cost over the provided amount. There was additional discussion about the increased cost above the proposed budget with some consensus among the Council to overrun the budget for the few months until ACA based plans and rates were received for the December 1 and January 1 restarts.

No action was taken on this item.

Item 7 – Utility Capital Projects

John Ringler with KSA Engineers was present to speak about the utility capital projects. He and Hall gave an overview the capital projects and specifically discussed the potential options at the Surface Water Treatment Plant.

There was discussion of three potential options. Option A would be to modify the existing SWTP at a cost of \$5,282,508 by adding two new clarifiers, a 1 million gallon in ground storage tank and various updates of plant. Option B would be to completely replace the WTP with a new 'package' plant contained in a building at a cost of \$8,370,593. Option C would be to replace the existing WTP with concrete in ground structures at a cost of \$6,987,510.

There was extended discussion about the life cycle of the equipment with the understanding that all options would be within the life of the potential financing. There was also discussion on the potential financing and overall amount as it related to the proposed rate structure with understanding that the less this particular project cost the more flexibility was offered in financing and the less the overall lost cost in interest.

Dobbs made a motion to move forward with Option A, Crow seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Item 1 – Citizen Comments (COMMENT ONLY)

Bill Beech was present to discuss the proposed new water rate schedule. He requested that the council consider increasing the minimum water and sewer usage provided in the base rates from 1,000 to 1,500 gallons and from 5,000 to 6,500 gallons.

Chana Gail Willis, Executive Director with the Wood County Industrial Commission, was present to discuss sales tax, tourism efforts and hotel occupancy tax. She encouraged the Council to consider funding support for the WCIC, as she noticed it had been removed from the City's budget. She also noted that a project to fund roof repairs at the Stinson House for the Arboretum had been discussed by the Commissioner's Court in workshop and tentatively approved and hoped that it would not be affected by the City's lack of funding its portion to the Commission. Evans expressed his concern that this was not a threat or attempt to coerce the Council, to which Willis noted it was not intended to be so.

Item 2 – July 18, 2013 Regular City Council Meeting Minutes

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

Item 3 – July Financial Report

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

Item 4 – July Budget Report

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

Item 5 – July Departmental Reports

Evans asked if any of the department heads wished to add anything to their report. There were no additions
Crow made motion to approve the reports, Dobbs seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Item 8 – Water/Sewer Utility Rates and Regulations

Evans introduced the ordinance noting that the Council might like to have time to consider Mr. Beech's request and entertained a motion to table action on the item.
Dunn made a motion to table the ordinance, Crow seconded the motion. The item was tabled.

Item 9 – Abandonment of Street Right-of-Way Along Goldsmith Street North of Horton Street (FM 778)

Evans read the caption of the ordinance explaining the Quitman Cemetery Association had requested the City abandon this portion of right-of-way for the purpose of beautification of the cemetery.
Crow made a motion to pass the ordinance, Dobbs seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Item 10 – Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Appointments

Evans introduced the resolution stating that it would appoint the initial Parks and Recreation Advisory Board as follows:
Sherry Dupre term expires December 31, 2016; Warren Robicheaux term expires December 31, 2016
Teresa Dunn term expires December 31, 2016; Lisa Dominguez term expires December 31, 2015
Joe Wayne Reynolds term expires December 31, 2015; Pam Riley term expires December 31, 2015
Marie Camp term expires December 31, 2014; Wayne McCluney term expires December 31, 2014
Diane Mosley term expires December 31, 2014

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

Item 11 – Planning and Zoning Commission Appointment

Evans introduced the issue explaining Beth Hedges had recently retired and a replacement had been found in the person of David Mann. He noted that due to the lateness of agreement by Mann, no resolution was provided in the packet, but a standard form resolution would be executed noting the term to expire on December 31, 2013.
Crow made a motion to approve the resolution, Dunn seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Item 12 – Fiscal Year Ending Proposed Budget 2014

There was general discussion about the overall budget. Hall discussed the budget notes provided to the Council members, noting very minor changes from discussion in the previous workshops and that both funds were balanced as presented.
Crow made a motion to approve the proposed 2014 budget, Dobbs seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Without objection at 9:34 PM, Evans recessed the meeting into an Executive Session pursuant to Local Government Code Section 551.072 – Acquisition or Sale of Real Estate.

A separate Certified Agenda of this Executive Session is on file with the City Secretary.

The Regular Meeting was reconvened at 10:08 PM.

Item 15 – Acquisition or Sale of Real Estate

Item A – Purchase of Property as discussed in Executive Session

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

Item B – Transfer of Property as discussed in Executive Session

Crow made a motion to approve the transfer, Dunn seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Adjournment

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

The meeting was adjourned at 10:12 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