

CITY COUNCIL MEETING

TRENTON CITY HALL

216 HAMILTON STREET

TRENTON, TEXAS 75490

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 3, 2024

5:00 PM

MINUTES

Present for this meeting: D’Anne Carson, Jessica Arnold, Henry Baker, Christina Tillet, Cindy Arledge, Stacey Baker, Jeremy Strickland, Kyle Shaw, Ken Franklin, Eddy Daniel, Aaron Moreland, CI Fillingham, Dr. Susan Thomas, Eric Rible, Kathy Franklin, Andrew Moore.

Quorum Present: Mayor Rodney Alexander, Mayor Pro Tem Lew Donaghey and Council members Chris Stringer, Chelsie Brownfield.

1. **Call Meeting to Order and Identification of Quorum.**

Council meeting was brought to order at 5:01 pm by Mayor Rodney Alexander.

1. **Open Forum:**
   1. Jessica Arnold - Jessica Arnold is running for Fannin County District Attorney in the upcoming election and wanted to introduce herself to the Council.
   2. Cindy Arledge - Cindy Arledge spoke to Council and introduced herself since she was going to have a discussion item on the agenda.
   3. Kyle Shaw – Kyle Shaw is a candidate for the 336th Fannin County District Judge in the upcoming election and wanted to introduce himself to the Council.
2. **Discussion and action on updated water line extensions for Trenton Elementary School.**

Mayor Rodney Alexander stated that there were some numbers presented to Council from the City Engineers Eddy Daniels and Aaron Moreland to update the water lines to the new Trenton Elementary School being built.

D’Anne Carson of Government Capital Securities spoke to council about financing and possibly adding money to the second phase of the Bond issuance of the new water tower.

Dr. Susan Thomas from Messer, Fort, and McDonald spoke to Council about having a public hearing if we choose to go forward with adding more money to the second phase bond issuance.

Superintendent Jeremy Strickland of Trenton ISD spoke to Council and wanted them to know how quickly he needs to get an answer so he can proceed with Trenton Elementary School Plans.

The Council discussed this matter in length. The City Engineers are going to go put together more options for the Council to look at. No action taken at this time. Mayor Rodney Alexander stated that we will call a special meeting once we have all the numbers and options put together provided by the City Engineers.

1. **Review Department Reports.** 
   1. Police Department
   2. Public Works
   3. City Secretary
2. **Review previous meeting minutes from November 6, 2023, Planning and Zoning meeting.**

A motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Lew Donaghey to approve the previous minutes from the November 6, 2023, Planning and Zoning meeting. The motion was seconded by Council member Chris Stringer. Vote was called and it was unanimously passed.

1. **Discussion and action to approve minutes from December 6, 2023, City Council Meeting.**

A motion was made by Council member Chris Stringer to approve the previous minutes from the December 6, 2023, City Council minutes. The motion was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Lew Donaghey. Vote was called and it was unanimously passed.

1. **Discussion and action on possible new Disc Golf Course added to Trenton City Memorial Park.**

Andrew Moore brought the idea to Council to put in a Disc Golf Course at the Trenton Memorial Park. Mr. Moore stated that he planned on getting donations from surrounding businesses to pay for all the equipment and supplies needed to start the course and he and his son would do the installation for no cost. The Council stated to Mr. Moore to get the first three donations to start and more gather information on the costs of the course and then he would need to come back to Council, and they would vote on the Disc Golf Course. No action was taken.

1. **Discussion and action on replat for properties identified as Fannin CAD Property ID’s 100595 and 120099, commonly known as 309 S Hwy 69 Trenton, Texas.**

Cindy Arledge owner of Property commonly known as 309 S HWY 69 spoke to Council about how she went in front of Planning and Zoning on December 19, 2023, and her replat was conditionally approved pending Right of Way dedication determination from the City Council and developer guaranteeing utility service to lot number two. Owner Cindy Arledge’s concern is that she feels that if she gives the City the Right of Way dedication that is being requested by the City Engineer that she would be giving up more than twenty five percent of her property to the City of Trenton which would be considered a taking.

Mayor Pro Tem Lew Donaghey intervened and stated that if Cindy Arledge would like to speak about legal then she would need to speak to the City’s lawyer, and we wouldn’t be able to speak about this during a meeting.

Dr. Susan Thomas of Messer, Fort, McDonald spoke to Council about how she has not studied for a legal taking, but if the City is wanting a formal opinion about Legal taking then she can give us one, but it wouldn’t be tonight during this council meeting. Dr. Susan Thomas also stated that the Council needs to look at the existing right of way and what additional right of way is required. Also, what are the other options for a four-lane road. Dr. Susan Thomas suggested that the Council get those options and compare them to the future land-use map and what is required to make the best decision.

City Engineer Aaron Moreland spoke about the Concept Plan that was presented to Aaron. Following a lengthy discussion of questions and answers, the council decided to table the agenda item until more information is gathered.

1. **Discussion and possible action on resolution setting public hearing to adopt impact fees.**

Agenda item was tabled. No Action was taken.

1. **Discussion and action on ordinance 583 amending chapter 10 and creating article 10.01, Trenton City**

**Code, establishing regulations on the use of Public Right-of-Way.**

Dr. Susan Thomas from Messer, Fort, McDonald spoke to Council about creating a Right of Way ordinance. Council member Chris Stringer motioned to approve Ordinance 583 amending chapter 10 and creating article 10.01 of the Trenton City Code. Council member Chelsie Brownfield seconded the motion. The vote was called, and it was unanimously approved.

1. **Discussion and action on Texas Rural Water Association Bill.**

The Council decided to pay the membership dues but not pay the voluntary contributions that were listed on the statement. Mayor Pro Tem Lew Donaghey motioned to pay the membership dues. Council member Chris Stringer seconded the motioned. Vote was called and it was unanimously passed.

1. **Discussion and action on possible purchase of a Sewer Camera Locater for the Public Works Department.**

Director of Public Works Jack Delancey spoke to Council about the need for the Sewer Camera.

After a discussion of questions and answers, a motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Lew Donaghey to purchase a Sewer Camera for the public works department and seconded by Council member Chris Stringer. The vote was called for and unanimously passed.

1. **Discussion and possible action to allow City Secretary Rebekka Aviles to participate in training for the Municipal Court System MCRS.**

A motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Lew Donaghey to allow City Secretary Rebekka Aviles to participate in the Municipal Court System training and seconded by Council member Chris Stringer. A vote was called and unanimously passed.

1. **Discussion and possible action regarding the paying of the monthly bills of the city.**

A motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Lew Donaghey to pay the monthly bills and seconded by Council member Chris Stringer. A vote was called and unanimously passed.

1. **Discussion and possible action on Employee Raises.**

City Secretary Rebekka Aviles spoke to Council about how she had provided them with pay comparisons from surrounding cities and an employee evaluation for each city employee.

A motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Lew Donaghey to increase salaries as follows:

Police Chief William Robertson Annual Salary $72,000

Police Officer Kenneth Franklin Annual Salary $50,000

Police Officer Kayla Weil Annual Salary $50,000

Public Works Director Jack Delancey $72,000

City Secretary Rebekka Aviles $41,600/ $20.00 hourly

Part time Utility Clerk Glenda Hackney $14.00 hourly

This motion was seconded by Council Member Chris Stringer. A vote was called and unanimously passed.

1. **Adjourn City Council Meeting**

Having no additional business Mayor Pro Tem Lew Donaghey motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:22 pm. The motion was seconded by Council member Chris Stringer. The council meeting was adjourned.

**Mayor Signature City Secretary**

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