



CITY OF WINTERS, TEXAS
310 S. MAIN ST. WINTERS, TX
COUNCIL CHAMBERS
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

April 29, 2024, 6:00 p.m.

Call meeting to order. Mayor Chris Bahlman called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and a quorum was established. In attendance were City Attorney Ken Slimp, Alderman Jimmy Butler, Alderman Mike Neal, Alderwoman Ursula Estrada, Alderman Wesley Hagle and Alderwoman Ida Rodriguez.

Pledge of Allegiance -US and Texas Flag

Agenda Item 1. Community Input. Ms. Linda Huckaby stated she is opposed to the city leasing the building at 500 S. Main St. She stated the roof leaks, the AC is not good, and the city's focus should be on water, sewer and city streets.

Mr. Tommy Miller agreed with Ms. Huckaby; stating he has had floors ruined and has had sewer problems with the water not being shut off timely as requested.

Agenda Item 2. Approval of Minutes from March 25, 2024, April 20, 2024, and April 25, 2024.

Ms. Lincoln noted that the minutes from April 25, 2024 should have been stricken from the agenda as that meeting was cancelled and apologized for the oversight. Alderman Mike Neal stated the minutes from March 25, 2024, item number 4, Approval of Bills should state that only the invoice for Christina Davis had been excluded for payment until the following month. Alderman Jimmy Butler made a motion to approve the minutes, with changes stated by Mr. Neal, seconded by Alderman Wesley Hagle. All in favor, motion carried. Ayes 5, Noes 0.

Agenda Item 3. Department Reports:

- **City Administrator: Nate Smith**

- A. City Administrator Report. City Administrator, Nate Smith stated the budget for the month of March is going well at the halfway point for the fiscal year. He stated that the citizen notification is in place through Everbridge and there have been some sign-ups through the website. Mr. Smith noted that the sludge removal

project is more than 50 percent completed and should be finished in May. The city received a letter from TCEQ (Texas Commission on Environmental Quality) approving the assessment to the TWDB (Texas Water Development Board); according to eHT the objective is to get our project before the board in June for approval.

B. Sales Tax graphics. Mr. Smith stated that the sales tax receipts for April were \$24,318.08, 11.52 percent less than this time last year. For the calendar year we are 2.85 percent less than last year.

- **City Secretary: Sheila Lincoln**

A. Atmos Rider GCR -Rate Filing. NA

B. Audit date of May 22-24,2024. Ms. Lincoln stated that the annual audit is scheduled for May 22 – 24, 2024. No discussion.

C. Utility Bills Draft Date Changes for May Only. Ms. Lincoln stated that per Victory Bank personnel the utility drafts would come out a few days later than expected due to the internal switchover; all bills will show paid timely in our system.

Ms. Sharon Miller updated the Council on the status of the swimming pool stating the Manager and Assistant Manager and six (6) lifeguards have been hired as of now. There will be new pay rates for swimming pool employees per City Administrator as well as increased admission prices. The admission prices will go from \$2 to \$4 for children 3 years old and older. In addition, all children ten (10) years of age and under will need to be accompanied by an adult. Season passes will be \$50 and pool parties will be \$100 for one hour or \$150 for two. Concession prices will depend on the purchase cost.

- **Water Department: Supervisor, Michael Blackshear**

A. Water Usage- Water Usage & Lake Report.

B. Sewer Status.

C. Projects, New/ Ongoing. Mr. Blackshear stated that over four hundred (400) loads have been removed from the sludge pits.

- **Street Department: Supervisor, David Lara**

A. Projects. Mr. Lara stated that the Street Department has completed the repainting of the gazebo, fencing and signs at the City Park and it looks good.

- **Police Department: Chief Paula Geyer.** Chief Geyer stated that she had applied for a \$15, 000 grant and is waiting on final paperwork.

A. Statistics- Report attached.

- **Code Enforcement: Bobby Sanders.**

A. Animal Control. Mr. Sanders stated that on the A/C side there were thirteen (13) dogs and one opossum. There were five (5) incident reports, one dog bite and three (3) citations. He stated that he added euthanizations to the report; in 2022 there were twenty-one (21), in 2023 a total of forty-eight (48) and so far this year there have been eleven (11).

B. Code Enforcement. Mr. Sanders stated there were fifty-three (53) prohibited conditions, three (3) junked vehicles, three (3) substandard buildings, one (1) demolition and eighteen (18) citations.

- **City Judge: Greg Nichols.**
 - A. Citation Statistics. Judge Nichols stated there were nineteen (19) new violations for the month of March. He closed twenty-seven (27) cases. There was \$1510 in fines and \$1938 in fees. Judge Nichols stated he attended the Judge's Seminar last week and there will be a state mandated Juvenile Diversion Plan coming up in January 2025.
- **Airport Manager: Richard Humphrey.** Mr. Humphrey stated that he needs an Airport Council which will include people with hangars at the airport.
 - A. Projects. Mr. Humphrey states next year's Ramp Grant is on track to get projects done as soon as approved.
 - B. Events

Agenda Item 4. Approval of Bills. Alderman Jimmy Butler made a motion to pay the bills, seconded by Alderwoman Ida Rodriguez. All in favor, motion carried. Ayes 5, Noes 0.

Agenda Item 5. Council's Report:

- A. Mission, Vision, and Goal Setting. N/A.

Agenda Item 6. Old Business: N/A.

Agenda Item 7. New Business:

- A. Discussion and possible action to move the Regular Meeting for May 27,2024 to May 20,2024 at 6:00 p.m. due to the Memorial Day Holiday.** Alderwoman Ida Rodriguez made a motion to move the regular meeting from May 27, 2024, to Monday, May 20,2024 due to the Memorial Day Holiday; seconded by Alderman Wesley Hagle. All in favor, motion carried. Ayes 5, Noes 0.
- B. Discussion and possible action to approve a Resolution Authorizing Application for Financial Assistance from the Texas Water Development Board for Water System Improvements; and Making Certain Findings in Connection Therewith.** Mr. Smith stated this one is the mandated Lead Line Replacement Project, it will be 51 percent grant and 49 percent loan funding and will total somewhere around \$266,000 including equipment, hours worked on project and would help purchase a new vacuum trailer. He adds that the state allows up to ten (10) years to replace all lines. He recommends approval. Alderwoman Ida Rodriguez made a motion to approve the Resolution Authorizing Application for Financial Assistance from the TWDB for Water System Improvements; Alderman Wesley Hagle seconded. All in favor, motion carried. Ayes 5, Noes 0.
- C. Discussion and possible action to approve Vulcan Quote for Street Improvements/Seal Coating.** Street Supervisor, David Lara noted that in addition to the quote there is generally an additional \$4,000 paid to the County for labor and equipment. Mr. Smith recommends approval. Alderwoman Ida Rodriguez made a

motion to approve the Vulcan quote for Street Improvements, seconded by Alderman Mike Neal. All in favor, motion carried. Ayes 5, Noes 0.

- D. Discussion and possible action to approve lease agreement with North Runnels Hospital District for property at 500 S. Main Street.** Mr. Smith stated that the North Runnels Hospital Board would be voting tonight on this topic. He suggested a possible \$50,000 down payment up front for a lease-purchase, he thinks the building would be perfect for the needs of City Hall. Mr. Smith states that the state had provided a \$400, 000 grant to the NRH and that Ballinger helped out with a \$250,000 loan, therefore alleviating the immediate crisis. He is not sure if they are out of the woods just yet but the down-payment from the city would be the quickest way to get money into their hands. If the city moves forward with a lease-purchase an inspection would be recommended of roof and A/C's Mr. Smith understands there are reservations, and it might be hard to see the whole picture but believes this would be a good thing for the city while helping North Runnels Hospital. Ms. Sue Spill asked if any money owed to the city for utilities would be deducted from the cost of the lease purchase. She stated that she did not see the need for the purchase with no new businesses coming in, but if the Council approves then ok. Alderman Jimmy Butler stated that when the subject was first discussed the hospital was in a crunch; the city did not budget for this and doesn't see the need at this time. Alderman Mike Neal asked what would happen to the city's money if the hospital decided to keep the building, he does not believe the city should move out of emotion. Alderwoman Ida Rodriguez believes there has not been enough time to get all the facts. Alderman Wesley Hagle stated he believes there needs to be better planning and the hospital is not in crisis at the moment and there is time. Alderwoman Ursula Estrada stated she is nervous about the financials of NRH but ideally it would be nice to have something nicer. Mr. Smith asked for direction from the Council ongoing regarding the future of this topic. Alderman Jimmy Butler recommends letting NRH make their decision and see how it goes. There was no action taken. Discussion only.
- E. Executive Session, Texas Government Code 551.074, Personnel Matters, Michael Blackshear; Texas Government Code 551.071, Consultation with Attorney(s) pending or contemplated litigation.** The Council convened in Executive Session at 6:51 p.m.
- F. Reconvene in Open Session.** The Council reconvened in Open Session at 7:32 p.m.
- G. Discussion and possible action regarding items discussed in Executive Session.**
NA.

Agenda Item 8. Adjourn. Alderwoman Ursula Estrada made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Alderman Wesley Hagle. All in favor, motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 7:32 p.m.