

City of Wortham, meeting held at 107 S. 2nd, Wortham, Texas

Minutes of Regular Council Meeting on January 14, 2025

Council Present: Mayor Pellie Goolsby, Michael Busby, Cliff NeSmith & Patrick Evans

Council Absent: Scott Batts & Jeff Carr

Staff Present: Lori Jones, Kasi Wright, Waylon Gierisch, Ashleigh Daniel & Kelly Craig

Others Present:

Regular Council Meeting--held at the Wortham Fire Department

Mayor Goolsby called the meeting to order at 6:32pm and announced a quorum was present. Councilman NeSmith gave invocation.

Regular Session

Informal Citizen Comments:

None

1. Citizens Participation:

(A) Bryan Meyers was present to discuss sewer issues at 107 S. Hwy 14. Mr. Meyers stated that sewer backing up started in 2019, overflowing into the pasture after heavy rains. Since 2020 Mr. Meyers said it has backed up into the house several times costing Mr. Chasteen & himself over \$61,000.00. Mr. Meyers informed the council he has consulted with TCEQ, his attorney and Jeff Yarbrough with TMLIRP (City of Wortham claims specialist)

2. No formal action was taken concerning the sewer issue at 107 S. Hwy 14. Jeff Yarbrough, claims specialist with TMLIRP has been provided a response and photos from Waylon Gierisch, Public Works Supervisor. Mr. Yarbrough has also been corresponding with Mr. Meyers.

3. **Consent Agenda-** Councilman NeSmith made the motion to approve the following consent agenda:

A. Minutes December 3, 2024 & December 10, 2024.

Seconded by Councilman Busby. The vote was 3 to 0. Motion carried.

4. Councilman NeSmith made the motion approve Resolution #832-0125, ordering for election to be held on May 03, 2025. Seconded by Councilman Evans. The vote was 3 to 0. Motion carried.

5. Councilman NeSmith made the motion to approve a contract for election services with Freestone County for the May 03, 2025 General Election. Seconded by Councilman Busby. The vote was 3 to 0. Motion carried.

6. Councilman NeSmith made the motion to approve Ordinance #765-0125, amending fee schedule section 45.002, solid waste to reflect the increase from Republic Services of 3%. Seconded by Councilman Busby. The vote was 3 to 0. Motion carried.
7. **Executive session-** At 6:44pm Councilman NeSmith made the motion for the Council to move into closed session pursuant to Section 551.074 of the Government Code, regarding personnel matters including but not limited to: assignments, duties, evaluation, employment action, and hearing grievance related to the following employee or officer: (A) Chief of Police position & (B) Court Clerk. Seconded by Councilman Busby. The vote was 3 to 0. Motion carried.
Action: Councilman NeSmith made the motion to move Interim Police Chief Kelly Craig to a salary paid position with no benefits at budgeted salary for the police chief of \$67,000, no contract labor. Seconded by Councilman Evans. The vote was 3 to 0. Motion carried.
9. Councilman NeSmith made the motion to approve proceeding with the K-9 grant. Seconded by Councilman Evans. The vote was 3 to 0. Motion carried.
Interim Police Chief Craig informed the council the K-9 grant was through the Charette Foundation, which covered 100% of the cost of the dog and training for the handler (which will be Officer Rowdy Miers). The dog food will be donated by R&M feed store and Buffalo Veterinary Clinic will cover the health care of the dog 100%. The estimated cost to add the dog to the city's insurance policy is \$110 per year.
10. No formal action was taken concerning code enforcement. Interim Police Chief Craig provided the council with information explaining the International Property Maintenance Code, ordinances from other cities and a sample occupancy inspection check list. Craig will consult with the City Attorney.
11. Councilman NeSmith made the motion to approve change order no.2 for the CDM22-0060 Downtown Sidewalk Project. Seconded by Councilman Busby. The vote was 3 to 0. Motion carried.
Councilman NeSmith informed the council that he was in attendance with the Engineer and Contractor at the site visit. He explained that the concrete in front of the Masonic Lodge was going to be removed again and the Engineer was going to redesign the area with less steps and a graduated ramp, as other areas downtown are.
12. No formal action taken concerning the City Hall construction.

Monthly Staff Reports

The following reports were reviewed:

Finance Department –December 2024 monthly financial statements were provided & reviewed.

Public Works –monthly reports for December 2024 were discussed & update on the sidewalk project was discussed.

Police Department –monthly activity report was provided & reviewed for December 2024.

Fire Department- provided a monthly report for December 2024.

EDC- no report.

Adjournment

At 8:39pm Councilman NeSmith made the motion to adjourn, seconded by Councilman Busby. The vote was 3 to 0. Motion carried.

Pellie Goolsby, Mayor

ATTEST:

Kasi Wright, City Secretary