**CITY OF IVANHOE**

**SPECIAL MEETING**

**MINUTES**

January 4, 2023

5:03 PM

Meeting was called to order by Mayor Blackstone at 5:36 PM. A Quorum was established with all Council members present except Councilman Herrington. The meeting was livestreamed via the city YouTube page. Mayor Blackstone provided the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Six audience individuals were present.

**Agenda Item #1 – Discuss possible CDBG 2023-24 grant project**

Mayor Blackstone opened the floor for discussion on a street project to submit application for funding in the 2023-24 round of the Community Development Block Grant program. The project must meet federal law to serve predominantly low to moderate household income requirements. Council discussed 28th St. and 27th St. as possible locations. If 28th St. is chosen approximately 800 feet of the street will be rehabilitated under the $7.9 million Hazard Mitigation supplemental grant so the $500,000 CDBG grant would go further towards completing the entire street. 27th street has the fire dept. driveway that would benefit. Public Works Coordinator David Marshall informed Council that the fly ash mix can be used as a travel surface if the existing pavement is milled and converted into base material. Council discussed building up the crown of streets for drainage. The agenda item was discussion only. No action was taken.

**Agenda Item #2 – Use of remaining bond construction funds**

Mayor Blackstone informed Council that approximately $392,000 in bond funds remain and opened the floor to discussion regarding a street to use the funds for rehabilitation. Councilman Morris noted that previously Council had approved to repave or overlay Camelot Drive from Ivanhoe Dr. to the Charmaine Dam, but after bids were received it was determined that an engineer would need to develop the specifications for the work in order to be guaranteed the construction would handle the traffic and have an extended life. Public Works Coordinator David Marshall informed Council the city will have a large expense replacing culverts along Camelot and the “split” near Elaine will have to be done away with. He commented that the edges are of Camelot are deteriorating rapidly, but the entire street will need an overlay. The agenda item was discussion only, no action was taken.

**Agenda Item #3 – Street project for $1.9 million GLO HUD grant funds**

Mayor Blackstone opened the floor to discussion for a project to submit application to the TX General Land Office for grant funds guidelines established by the Method of Distribution approved by HUD. The funds must be used to predominantly benefit low to moderate households. The project previously discussed by Council was for rehabilitation of Lakewood from Chanticleer to Camelot Dam. Public Works Coordinator David Marshall said that culvert replacement on Lakewood Dr. is important if that street is chosen for the grant work. He noted the warranty repair work to seal the cracks that developed in the street surface just west of Galahad Dam is in process and suggested waiting until warmer weather for applying fog seal to the entire section of new pavement to which Council agreed. Council discussed use of bond funds for culvert replacement in order for the grant funds to go further. The agenda item was discussion only, no action was taken.

**Agenda Item #4 – TX DoT Alternative transportation project**

City Secretary C. D. Woodrome had provided information from the Texas Department of Transportation for grant funds that are now available for constructing hike and bike trails similar to the cement path that TxDoT constructed along Hwy. 69/287 from Kountze to the Big Thicket. From conversations with the engineer at LJA, the grant is reimbursement based and experience has shown that TxDoT reimbursement has been problematic. Mayor Blackstone voiced that the city should concentrate on greater impact projects in the city. Councilman Gregory agreed on the focus of city resources. Mayor Blackstone noted that portions of the trail would require use of Sam Houston Electric Co-op and their right of way is not assignable so those sections of the trail are a moot point. Councilman Gregory asked if the grant would qualify for lighting the existing streets. The grant is for alternative transportation. Councilwoman Williams asked if there are considerations of developing a downtown area. Mayor Blackstone said the discussion of developing a downtown area would have to be looked at in the future. The agenda item was discussion only, no action was taken.

**Agenda Item #5 – Adjourn**

Councilman Warren made the motion to adjourn with a second by Councilman Gregory and the meeting was concluded at 7:10 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

C. D. Woodrome, City Secretary

Approved by Council March 16th, 2023

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J. A. Skip Blackstone, Mayor