



**COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Mayor Billy Hollingsworth  
Michael Thomas  
Dwight Lane  
Marty McMurtury  
Johnathon Ammons  
Anthony "Tony" Hill

**COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Maria Dickerson

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Carla Taylor Knotts, Clerk/Treasurer; Dawn Mosley, Whitmire Public Works; Officer Joshua Wilbanks, Whitmire Police; Jay Gardner, Recreation Director; Dean Sanders, Bill Duckett, Charlene Stroud, J.P. Ammons, E.J. Ruiz, Bernadine Edmonds, Tomekia Means, Kim Wallace, Scott Lyda, and other concerned citizens.

**CALL TO ORDER:**

Mayor Hollingsworth gave the call to order and Pledge of Allegiance.

**INVOCATION:**

Invocation was given to Council by Councilman Dwight Lane.

**MINUTES:**

The minutes of March 13, 2023 Council Meeting were read and approved as written. Councilman Thomas made the motion to approve and Councilman McMurtury seconded the motion. All in favor.

## **FINANCIAL REPORTS:**

The Town of Whitmire financial reports for the month of March, 2023 had a beginning balance of \$43,949.58, deposits of \$81,836.78, expenditures of \$91,316.97, and an ending balance of \$34,469.39.

Whitmire Public Works for the month of March, 2023 had a beginning balance of \$24,396.32, deposits of \$81,683.07, expenditures of \$87,197.98, and an ending balance of \$18,881.41.

Mayor Hollingsworth told council he may have the rough draft of the budget by the May meeting and we can make changes from there as we need to. In June we can have the Public Hearing and the second reading of the budget for 2023-2024 fiscal year.

## **POLICE REPORTS:**

Officer Wilbanks gave the report for the month. We had 85 incidents, 89 citations, 12 warrants served or withdrawn, and 0 traffic collisions. Some of the calls included were Larceny, Possession of Marijuana, Possession of Drug Paraphernalia, Shoplifting, DUI, DUS, Assault, Assault on Police, Throwing Bodily Fluids, and etc.

## **WHITMIRE RECREATION:**

Jay Gardner told everyone he had contacted Atchison Bus Lines about getting up a group trip to see the Atlanta Braves. He said we have to give them a two to three week notice for group ticket sales and we have to purchase upfront. He said we need to get feelers out on flyers and Facebook just see how many people would be interested in going to be able to know how big of a bus we would need and how many tickets to purchase.

## **E.J. RUIZ:**

E. J. discussed with council specifics such as location across from Town Hall and that there will be no costs to the town, and there will be two stations. He said this would bring some extra revenue and maybe some traffic through town.

Councilman Hill asked if there will be a way to let people know we have them. E. J. Ruiz told everyone it would be on something like a google map system.

Councilman Thomas asked if 30% of what is made on the charging station goes to the town. He also asked if the Town had no liability for the stations. E.J. Ruiz told him this was correct.

Motion to accept E. J. Ruiz offer to install charging stations at no cost or liability to the town and that the town receive 30% of profits made from the use of the charging stations made by Councilman Ammons and seconded by Councilman Lane. All in favor.

Mr. Scott Lyda asked council if there would be a Public Hearing on these charging stations before we do the final reading. Mayor Hollingsworth told him we could do that at the next reading before the meeting.

Kim Wallace told council this was the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Yard Sale. She said this year she would like to ask for a little more money so they could do more advertising. The amount she is requesting is \$3500.00. The Yard Sale will be in October.

Mayor Hollingsworth told her we would look at it when we do the budget this year. He said we are working on that now.

#### **FIREWORKS ORDINANCE:**

Mayor Hollingsworth read over the Fireworks Ordinance. Councilman Thomas said he would make a motion to accept it with a change to selling in the city limits. Councilman Lane and Councilman Ammons both said they think we should table this motion, because if you can't shoot fireworks in the city, how can they sell them in the city. Councilman Thomas said he would be willing to rescind his motion for further deliberation on this ordinance. Mayor Hollingsworth told council to get any questions or concerns they have and give them to Carla and we will let Attorney Lake look over them. Motion to table this ordinance made by Councilman Lane and seconded by Councilman Thomas. All in favor. Robert told them to list specifics on the fireworks like regulating days, times, etc.

#### **1<sup>ST</sup> READING SOCIAL MEDIA POLICY:**

Mayor Hollingsworth and council discussed the social media policy. Motion to accept this policy for a 1<sup>st</sup> reading made by Councilman Thomas and seconded by Councilman Hill. This will be for all Town employees and Public Officials. All in favor.

#### **MAYOR PRESENTS:**

Mayor Hollingsworth read through the uninhabitable properties' ordinance. He said we would have to be able to set money aside to take care of enforcing this ordinance. They decided to look at this and vote on it at the next meeting.

Mayor Hollingsworth told council the streets will be bided out in October which means by spring/summer 2024 they should begin to pave them. He said they are waiting and hoping the pricing will come down and right now there is a shortage of concrete.

Councilman Lane talked with Tim Carroll about Highway 66 going out to the school and he told him they were going to fix it in the summer or fall of the year.

Mayor Hollingsworth told council the garage building is out for bid.

There will be 2 events on 04/29/2023 in Whitmire. Lirhonda Butler and her motorcycle club will be doing something to help raise money for Recreation. It starts at 1:00 p.m. and the other event starts at 5:00 p.m. to honor the veterans, which is being sponsored by Charlie Wilbanks and Sesh Cranford Kiesler.

Mayor Hollingsworth is looking at a different phone system. It would be a \$3300.00 savings. We would still have Spectrum for internet services.

#### **COUNCIL PRESENTS:**

Councilman Ammons told council grass is growing through the gazebo.

Councilman Thomas stated it needs a new roof on it also.

Councilman Ammons asked about gas cards for the town and police vehicles.

Councilman Ammons asked where do we stand on these delapidated houses. As a council we need to take it from here to get them taken care of. This would fall under the new ordinance.

Councilman Thomas asked about what the legal fees would be for taking properties. Robert told him approximately \$2000.00 and the most expensive would be the remediation cost. He said there are grants out there. First we get the ordinance passed and then determine funding.

Councilman Hill said the state is proposing putting a lien against property for any work the town has to do to clean up the property.

Councilman Hill talked with Chris Alexander who says that where they are piling dirt at the cemetery is causing problems down there.

Mayor Hollingsworth told Councilman Hill it has been this way a long time, but we will try to find some way to block it off.

Councilman Thomas said he had talked to Todd Johnson about websites. He said we can get it free through the state. He is looking into this further.

Councilman Thomas asked about putting a caution light in front of the ballpark and filter plant for the walkway across the highway.

Councilman Thomas told council we could apply for a grant up to \$30000.00 for emergency situations through Duke Energy with no matching part.

Councilman Thomas said the Rescue Truck/Service Truck has been hacked a lot more than he had thought. A lot of stuff has been taken off the truck. He said once the other vehicles are ready to sell we need to advertise and start auctions for them.

Councilman McMurtury said they have started working on the inside of the American Legion Hut.

**ADJOURN:**

Motion to adjourn made by Councilman Thomas and seconded by Councilman McMurtury.  
All in favor.

**APPROVED:**

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Mayor Billy Hollingsworth

**ATTEST:**

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Carla Taylor Knotts, Clerk/Treasurer