

CITY OF SMILEY  
COUNCIL FOR REGULAR SESSION  
March 20, 2024  
MINUTES

**The Smiley City Council met in a regular session on Wednesday, March 20, 2024 at 4:00 p.m. at the Smiley City Hall located at 207 Steele, Smiley, TX 78159.**

**Members present were** Mayor Lisa Benavidez, Diana Moreno, Ellis Villasana, Melva Childress, Lori Price, Scott Jewett, Marshal Jason Torres. **Absent** Daniel Benavidez

A Quorum was present, and Mayor Benavidez called the meeting to order.  
Invocation given by Lori Price

The Pledge of Allegiance to the U.S. and Texas recited.

Citizen to be Heard: None

1. 1<sup>st</sup> motion made by Diana Moreno and 2<sup>nd</sup> Melva Childress by to approve the minutes of the December 20, 2023 meeting. All in Favor, 4/0, None Opposed. Motion Passed.
2. Financial Statements and unpaid bills were presented. 1<sup>st</sup> motion made by Ellis Villasana and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Diana Moreno to approve the payment of debt for the month, All in Favor, 4/0, None Opposed. Motion Passed.
3. The City Marshal office had 17 calls for service and 89 citations were issued. The NRA grant for ammunition was approved and his office has received the check. Marshal Torres attended a School Safety Meeting.
4. Smiley Fire Department Monthly Report: 1 medical assist
5. The Utility Department Monthly Report: 2 new water taps, and a sewer tap were installed. The city had three sewage backups and were so bad that we had to request assistance from Nixon to use their sewer jetter to clear the blockage. Several repairs were made out at the wastewater plant that included fixing the sprinkler and broken overflow pipe. The city currently has one lawnmower that is down, but parts have been ordered.
6. Library Report given by Cody Holmes: 3 Books have been checked out and on April 13 Author Jill Zapata will be doing a reading of her book at the library.
7. Mayor Lisa Benavidez gave the City Managers report:
  - a. The city will be asked to renew their ESD contract in the next few months.
  - b. March 21 the ESD is hosting an open house from 4-6:00 pm
  - c. Animal Control – The city does not have a suitable facility that is within the Texas Code to have an animal shelter. The city currently does not have the funds to send someone to the Animal Control Officer course, to purchase a vehicle to transport the

- animals, veterinary services if the animals are injured, food or resources to properly dispose of any items associated with the animals.
- d. Thanked the utility department for dealing with two of the sewage back ups that were caused by clothing being flushed.
  - e. The city's new website is up.
  - f. Our grant was approved for the wastewater treatment plan.
  - g. Currently looking for a grant for our lift stations.
8. Presentation by AEP representative Vee Straus about the proposed rate increase.
  9. 1<sup>st</sup> motion made by Diana Moreno and 2<sup>nd</sup> Melva Childress by to disapprove the proposed rate increase by AEP. All in Favor, 4/0, None Opposed. Motion Passed.
  10. Presentation by Karen Fonseca who addressed the city council about assuming the management of the waterline that she is currently taking care of on County Road 180. Mrs. Fonseca provided a list of customers on the line who are currently paying her as well as a diagram of the approximate location of the residents. Mrs. Fonseca was informed that the council will need to have discussions about assuming the water line and that a decision was not going to be made tonight.
  11. 1<sup>st</sup> motion made by Diana Moreno and 2<sup>nd</sup> Melva Childress by to approve having a budget workshop on April 3 at 10:00 a.m. All in Favor, 4/0, None Opposed. Motion Passed.
  12. Discussion was had about removing meters from closed accounts and vacant houses so they can be used at other locations throughout the city. 1<sup>st</sup> motion made by Ellis Villasana and 2<sup>nd</sup> Diana Moreno by to approve removing meters at vacant houses. All in Favor, 4/0, None Opposed. Motion Passed.
  13. Discussion was had about charging property owners the minimum amount (water, sewer, trash and street fees) if they want to keep a water meter at their vacant property. 1<sup>st</sup> motion made by Ellis Villasana and 2<sup>nd</sup> Melva Childress by to table the discussion until next month when the city secretary can provide what the minimum payment would be. All in Favor, 4/0, None Opposed. Motion Passed.
  14. Discussion was had about charging all property owners who are within city limits a street fee starting October 1<sup>st</sup>. 1<sup>st</sup> motion made by Melva Childress and 2<sup>nd</sup> Lori Price by to approve charging all property owners a street fee. All in Favor, 4/0, None Opposed. Motion Passed.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:** The Smiley City Council may convene into executive (closed) session in accordance with the Texas Government Code when necessary and legally justified. Any item on this agenda may be discussed in executive session if authorized by Texas Law regardless of whether it is listed under "Executive Session" of this agenda, and regardless of any past or current practice of the City Council. Executive Sessions herein are closed meetings, and may include the consideration of any item otherwise listed on the agenda plus any subject matter specified in the executive session notice, and may include items under the Texas Government Code as follows: Section 551.071 (Consultation with Attorney regarding contemplated or

pending litigation, a settlement officer or administrative hearing); Section 551.072 (Deliberations regarding Real Property); Section 551.073 (Deliberations about Gifts & Donations); Section 551.074 (Personnel Matters); Section 551.076 (Deliberation about Security Devices); Section 551.086 (Deliberations regarding Municipally Owned Utility); and Section 551.087 (Deliberations regarding Economic Development Negotiation). In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, the City of Smiley will provide for reasonable accommodations for persons attending City Council meetings. To better serve attendees, requests should be received 48 hours prior to the meeting. Please contact the city secretary by phone at 830-587-6220 or fax 830-587-6231.

15. 1<sup>st</sup> Motion made by Melva Childress and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Lori Price to ADJOURN. All in Favor, 4/0, None Opposed, Motion Passed. Time 4:35 p.m.

  
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**Scott Jewett**  
**Smiley City Secretary**

  
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**Lisa Benavidez**  
**Mayor**



