

COUNCIL MINUTES

February 25, 2025

Stratford City Council met in regular session with Mayor Wright presiding and the following:

Council: Joe Zak, Michael Hood, Misti McBryde, Ray Lermon, Brad Reed

City Manager: Tommy Bogart

City Secretary: Kathy Rendon

Police Chief: Richard Coborn

PW Supv: David Tollison

Guests: Kristi Elam-ACCE Officer, Justin Lanning-Fire Chief, Kathy Allen, Doak Crabtree, Eric Riffe, Bryan Wardroup, Frank, and Mallory Wilson

Call to Order, Pledge of Allegiance, Prayer

- Mayor Wright called the meeting to order at 6 pm and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Michael Hood gave the prayer.

Consent Agenda Items

- a. Minutes from January 28, 2025
- b. Accounts Payable for January 2025
 - Brad Reed motioned to approve, Misti McBryde seconded, all else in favor, motion carried.

Council Business

- a. Discussion re: speed bumps on Purnell – Doak Crabtree to present
 - Doak Crabtree began by thanking the Council for their service to the community and also thanked them for allowing him to speak. Doak said that Purnell is a section-lined road, and he has lived at his current home for 30 years. He has concerns about the speed bumps diverting traffic to the clinic and also at 7th Street to the park. He also has concerns about if the speed bumps slow response time for Law Enforcement and EMS services. He feels they are more of a nuisance than for what their intention is actually. He has observed them causing a traffic hazard because some vehicles stop before approaching them while others go extra slow over them. The posted speed limit is 20 mph, but he feels the speed bumps take away the rights of anyone to be able to travel at that speed because it slows down traffic to less than the allowed speed on this street. If the speed bumps are also to serve as a safety factor for people who are walking on this street, he suggests that they utilize the track or the City walking park. He also noted that baseball season is only for approximately one month and cars are parked all over the place and the speed bumps are serving no purpose for assisting in traffic control during this season. He also does not agree that these speed bumps keep commercial trucks from driving down this road. If these were originally installed due to teens' drag racing during prom, he stated he does not feel this is a reason to have these indefinitely as prom is only one night in the year. He feels strongly that there surely must be a different solution. He feels that a speed ticket would be a better alternative; he does not feel that 99% of people are breaking the speeding limit on this particular road. He also notes that these speed bumps have changed the flow of traffic from this street and diverted it into residential areas, which is dangerous. He is not aware of any other public streets that have speed bumps. Doak would like to offer some other suggestions/solutions: the speed limit could be painted on the street, a flashing sign that alerts to either entering or leaving school zone, speed indicator signage.
 - Mayor Wright and Joe Zak advised that the speed bumps were installed for the safety of the kids because they go to the park and baseball fields to play. Mayor Wright also stated that Council worked on a solution for this problem for several years before deciding that the speed bumps were the best solution. The Police Department cannot strictly monitor this one road as they have other duties and responsibilities as well.
 - Doak suggested not allowing vehicle parking on Purnell because there are too many vehicles, and it becomes dangerous. Michael Hood advised that Stratford now hosts teams for tournaments and for several months and additional parking on Purnell is needed to accommodate for this event. The parking lots are already full, and this is the overflow area.

- Doak asked if this is the only street with this issue? If so, why is this the only street with speed bumps? Brad Reed advised that on NE 6th in Dumas, there are permanent speed bumps installed for safety at the school. He feels this has been positive for safety. Michael Hood commented that he feels this is currently the best solution.
 - Ray Lermom stated that he has heard one positive and one negative comment from the public about this.
 - Doak also stated that when it snowed and the roads were being cleared, one of the speed bumps got torn up. He also noted that the one by the school is in the shade and is difficult to see.
 - Mayor Wright thanked Doak for his insight and comments.
- b. Discuss and consider action re: City parks
- CM Tommy Bogart reminded all that the cemetery was contracted out for mowing last year. The cost of hiring a full-time employee to mow the parks would be around \$75k. Ray Lermom questioned whether the summer hires did any mowing or patching last summer. He stated that time management saves money, and his opinion is that the current City employees should be utilized for mowing. CM Bogart replied that contracting out the mowing will allow for time for patching in the summer. He also advised that the City will be hiring less summer hires due to the lack of work productivity – cellphones are causing a distraction. Joe Zak motioned to approve contracting out the mowing, Michael Hood seconded the motion, all else in favor, motion carried.
- c. **EXECUTIVE SESSION**
- Council will convene into closed session, under the personnel exception, in accordance with the Government Code 551.074, for a Briefing Session regarding hiring/firing of Police Officer staff and/or Police Department Policies and Procedures
- Council convened into executive session at 6:45 pm.
- d. Council will reconvene into open session to consider action, if any, on matters discussed in Executive Session
- Council reconvened into open session at 7:15 pm. Motion to follow in next item.
- e. Discuss and consider action re: updating **Section 070. RESIDENCY** in personnel policy
- Michael Hood motioned to give authorization to Chief Coborn to allow change to the Policy and Procedures manual for the Police Department and also authorized Chief Coborn to sign a cooperation agreement with the County, Joe Zak seconded the motion, all else in favor, motion carried.
- f. **EXECUTIVE SESSION**
- Council will convene into closed session in accordance with the Government Code 551.087 to deliberate regarding Economic Development
- g. Council will reconvene into open session to consider action, if any, on matters discussed in Executive Session
- This executive session was not necessary.

City Manager Report

- CM Bogart allowed Chief Coborn to speak. Chief Coborn advised Council that the Racial Profiling Report has been submitted. It does not need Council approval, only the notification that has been submitted, and they have a copy to review if they so choose.
- CM Tommy Bogart reported that the auditors compare the water usage report on “pumped vs billed.” There are obviously some leaks as all water systems do and the data needs to be collected for this report. There are some water usages that are for filling up trucks and these are not reported to the City. This needs to be addressed and corrected. The water dock is complete, and the City is working on getting the card reader set up. The rate will be \$8 per 1000 gallons. This figure is in line with what other cities charge. Cards only for this system.
- State contractor will submit an estimate for repairs for the waterline on the South side of town. \$75k is already a known figure for boring only.
- The City did not get selected for the CDBG grant.

Citizen Comment Period

- Bryan Wardroup wanted to advise that the tunnel slides at the park have been vandalized with swastikas scratched into them and the gazebo has been vandalized with derogatory language.

Items from the Council

- Discussion of policies, complaints, or any matter of urgent necessity arising subsequent to the posting of this notice
 - Michael Hood stated that Multi-Chem has submitted a bid for pre-season maintenance. CM Bogart reminded Council that nothing was budgeted for this maintenance this budget year. Michael suggested possibly ask Travis Melton for a quote for fertilizer and spray for condition and pre-condition the in-field. He also advised that the crossties at the park need to be replaced. He also asked everyone to keep George Harding in their prayers due to his current health condition.
 - Misti McBryde asked the Mayor if her question to him about recycling had been answered. The Mayor replied that it had.

Adjourn

- Brad Reed motioned to adjourn at 7:24 pm, Misti McBryde seconded the motion, all else in favor, motion carried.