

COUNCIL MINUTES

March 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: Tracie Bogart, Kristin Elam, Jerry Ewers, Justin Lanning, Bryan Mungia, attached list

Call to Order, Pledge of Allegiance, Prayer

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

Consent Agenda Items

- a. Minutes from February 25, 2025
- b. Accounts Payable for February 2025
 - Joe Zak motioned to approve as presented, Misti McBryde seconded, all else in favor, motion carried.

Council Business

- a. Discuss and consider action re: possibly award bid(s) received for mowing and weed eating with additional fertilizer and herbicide services for City parks: Pendleton Park, Baseball Fields, Walking Park, Railroad Park, Kendrick Park, Girl Scout Park
 - Two bids were submitted. Panhandle Solutions LLC submitted a bid for 24 weeks of mowing for \$52,800. Jerry Ewers submitted a bid for \$22,000 for mowing all parks one (1) time per week and spraying. After discussion, Joe Zak motioned to accept the bid submitted by Jerry Ewers, Misti McBryde seconded, Ray Lermon opposed, all else in favor, motion carried.
- b. Discuss and consider action re: Units 449 and Unit 442 repairs
 - Fire Chief Justin Lanning reported to Council the Unit 449 (tanker) had to be towed back to town recently. It was taken for repairs and at initial inspection it was found to have water in the oil. County Commissioner Bryan Mungia loaned one of his County trucks to the fire department to use temporarily and regretfully needs it back as soon as possible. The new tanker will not be here until September/October.
 - Chief Lanning also reported Unit 442 is having HR valve issues. This truck has been stuck while on scene multiple times. It is becoming unsafe to use. The system is computerized with a Mercedes engine and cannot be serviced locally.
 - The windshield on Unit 445 has been replaced and this vehicle is currently operational.
 - CM Bogart offered a suggestion for the Fire Department to possibly rent a truck from Bruckner's, Peterbilt, Kenworth but would definitely need to check with the insurance company on coverage availability.
 - Duncan Chevrolet has a 4-wheel drive Chevrolet Silverado for sale. The bed, tank and other components could be moved over to this vehicle. DC would offer \$10,000 trade-in value for the Pumper and Brush Truck. The price would be \$62,854, with an approximate split of \$32,000 each for the City and County.
 - CM Bogart asked what Council would like to do since this item is not included in the current budget. There were comments regarding the purchase of an unbudgeted item vs safety, especially since it is currently so dry. Chief Lanning will also need to speak with the County to request approval of their half of the purchase price before the City moves forward. CM Bogart suggests that the City obtain financing through a local bank since this is a budget amendment item for this fiscal year. Councilmember Michael Hood suggested holding fundraisers to assist with the cost.
 - Brad Reed motioned to approve up to \$40,000 for the purchase of a new vehicle, which includes the \$10,000 offered for the two (2) trade-ins and \$5500 for rebates. This vehicle will be purchased for the Fire Department and the Council authorizes the City Manager to make the final decision regarding the financing option, Ray Lermon seconded the motion, all else in favor, motion carried.
 - Misti McBryde commented that the safety of the Fire Department volunteers is the first priority of the City, Council and Stratford community. She thanked them for their service.

c. **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Council will convene into closed session in accordance with the Government Code 551.087 to deliberate regarding Economic Development

- d. Council will reconvene into open session to consider action, if any, on matters discussed in Executive Session
- o These items were not necessary.

City Manager Report

- Recent windstorms damaged the roof of booster station #1. Including rafter replacement, the roof was completely re-done. The window of the building next to City Hall was broken. The kennels and propane line at the animal shelter were broken. The garage door opener at the Fire Department was also broken.
- Two (2) City employees have requested to conceal/carry. The City Attorney gave the response that some cities allow this, and others do not. CM Bogart stated that a questionnaire would need to be completed by the requestors and a State license would be required. A policy change would be needed if approved.
- Xcel Energy is looking to raise rates again.
- Tracie Bogart was speaking to CM Bogart to possibly tear down the concession stand and restrooms at the park and build something new. It might be possible to use SCDC funds as the Little League tournaments bring in traffic from out of town. Currently waiting for a drawing to review.

Citizen Comment Period

- There were none.

Items from the Council

- Discussion of policies, complaints, or any matter of urgent necessity arising subsequent to the posting of this notice
 - o Brad Reed asked about the sidewalk at Rocky Stone's residence. CM Bogart responded that the City will be replacing that sidewalk. He also suggested setting up a combined meeting with the City, County and Fire Department to make sure that all are informed and have the same information.
 - o Ray Lermon commented about patching progress.
 - o Misti McBryde asked who is responsible for the maintenance of trash dumpsters, not yardwaste containers. She reported that a dumpster close to her residence needs lid replacement and has needed repair for quite some time. There may be other dumpsters that are also in need of repair. Seward County will be contacted. She also suggested notifying residents through social media and the newspaper of items that can and cannot be put in the yardwaste containers. Tree limbs cannot be put in yardwaste containers and cannot be left by the dumpsters. They must be taken to the Recycle Center. There is no charge for this service.
 - o Joe Zak stated there are some fire hydrants that need repair and also questioned whether the Fire Department flushes them.
 - o Greg Wright gave appreciation to the Fire Department for their preparedness and response.

Adjourn

- There being no further business, Brad Reed motioned to adjourn at 6:39 pm, Misti McBryde seconded, all else in favor, motion carried.