

COUNCIL MINUTES

February 28, 2024

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

Present Council: Joe Zak, Michael Hood, Brad Reed, Becky Frizzell

City Manager: Tommy Bogart

City Secretary: Kathy Rendon

Police Chief: Richard Coborn

PW Supv: David Tollison

Guests: Kathy Allen, Lori Christian, Kristin Elam, Slater Ezra

Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

- Mayor Wright called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Consent Agenda Items

- a. Minutes from January 23, 2024
- b. Accounts Payable for January 2024
- c. Financial Statements for January 2024
 - Brad Reed motioned to approve, Michael Hood seconded, all in favor, motion carried.

Council Business

- a. Discuss and consider action re: concession stand at the baseball park
 - Michael Hood had a meeting with the Youth Sports Board about demolishing the concession stand. It is in a very deteriorated condition. The proposal for demolition is \$2500 by Wesley Miller. The concrete pad will be evaluated on the condition after demolition to determine if it stays or is removed. Joe Zak motioned to approve, Becky Frizzell seconded, all in favor, motion carried. A budget amendment will be presented at the Council meeting before payment is made.
- b. Discuss and consider action re: lighting at baseball field
 - Michael Hood reported that the lights at the baseball field need to be upgraded. Rita Blanca has graciously offered to donate materials. The Area Foundation has agreed to pay ½ of the remaining balance. Michael is asking if the City can pay the other ½. After discussion, Joe Zak motioned to approve, Brad Reed seconded, all in favor, motion carried. A budget amendment will be presented at the Council meeting before payment is made.
- c. Discuss and consider action re: update pay scale by increasing starting pay
 - CM Tommy Bogart stated that he would like to upgrade starting pay to be more in line with other businesses. He would like to raise non-certified to \$15, certified to \$20, and Police Officer to \$25 as starting pay. Michael Hood motioned to approve, Brad Reed seconded, all in favor, motion carried.
- d. Discuss and consider action re: resignation of Rob Elliott as City Attorney and Prosecutor
 - The Council wants to thank Attorney Elliott for his services to the City. Becky Frizzell motioned to accept the resignation, Joe Zak seconded, all in favor, motion carried.
- e. **PUBLIC HEARING**
Public hearing on intention of the City to adopt Tax Abatement Guidelines and Criteria, pursuant to Chapter 312 of the Texas Tax Code
 - Council opened the public hearing at 6:15 pm. The public hearing was closed at 6:20 pm.
- f. Discuss and consider action: **RESOLUTION NO. 2024-0228 (R)** electing to participate in tax abatements and adopting the City's Tax Abatement Guidelines and Criteria, pursuant to Chapter 312 of the Texas Tax Code, to make updates in the Guidelines and Criteria
 - Becky Frizzell motioned, "Pursuant to Chapter 312 of the Texas Tax Code, I move that the City approve and adopt the Resolution electing to participate in Tax Abatements and Adopting Tax Abatement Guidelines and Criteria, as presented, and authorize the Mayor to take such actions as are reasonable to facilitate consideration by the City of any proposed tax abatement", Michael Hood seconded, all in favor, motion carried.

g. **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Council will convene into closed session in accordance with Government Code 551.074 to deliberate regarding the appointment, employment, evaluation, reassignment, duties, discipline, dismissal or hiring for legal services for the City of Stratford on a contract basis

- o Attorney Angelique Weaver from Mayfield, Heinrich, Rahlfs, Weaber & Parsons law firm opted to have the interview in open session. She attended the interview via ZOOM.

h. Council will reconvene into open session to consider action, if any, on matters discussed in Executive Session

- o Ms. Weaver was asked various questions by Council and the City Manager. After the interview, Ms. Weaver was thanked for her time.

i. **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

j. Council will convene into closed session in accordance with Government Code 551.074 to deliberate regarding the appointment, employment, evaluation, reassignment, duties, discipline, dismissal or hiring for legal services for the City of Stratford on a contract basis

- o Attorney Slater Elza from Underwood Law Firm opted to have the interview in open session. Mr. Elza was present in person for the interview.

k. Council will reconvene into open session to consider action, if any, on matters discussed in Executive Session

- o Mr. Elza was asked various questions by Council and the City Manager. After the interview, Mr. Elza was thanked for his time. After discussion, Michael Hood motioned to hire Slater Elza as legal counsel, Brad Reed seconded, all in favor, motion carried.

City Manager Report

- Bids will be accepted for cemetery maintenance services and possibly awarded in the March meeting.
- The bulk water system is currently. The City is looking at repairs using a coin operated system at a cost of \$20k for the installation or using a card/pin # at a cost of \$30k for installation.
- A local yard service employee was observed dumping doors at the recycle center without paying. The consensus was to revoke key privileges.

Citizen Comment Period

- Kathy Allen reported that the street dance will be moved back to the “star” on Main Street and food vendors will be on Main Street as well.

Items from the Council

- Joe Zak: questioned about yardwaste dumpsters for commercial services, need to fill holes with asphalt as time allows, alleys need to be graded.
- Greg Wright: he is aware potholes are numerous and will be filled as soon as possible. He also welcomed new employee Animal Control/Code Enforcement (ACCE) Kristin Elam.

Adjourn

- Brad Reed motioned to adjourn at 7:26 pm, Michael Hood seconded, all in favor, motion carried.

Greg Wright, Mayor

Attest:

Kathy Rendon, City Secretary