

WHITE OAK CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

June 13, 2023

5:00 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mayor Kyle Kutch, Joe Stephens, Thomas Cash, John Frazier

MEMBERS ABSENT: Kevin Hood, Dana Mizell

STAFF PRESENT: Kristine Toon, Jimmy Purcell, Blane Palmer, Randy Dodson, Beaux Huey, Colton Apple, Tracey Fears

GUESTS PRESENT: Selina Tabor, Stacy Anderson, Robert Haberle, Brian Wilkinson

1. CALL TO ORDER – 5:00 p.m.

- a) Invocation
- b) Pledge of Allegiance

2. CONSIDERATION OF CONSENT AGENDA

- a) City Council meeting minutes for May 16, 2023

Councilmember Stephens moved to approve, seconded by Cash. Carried 3-0

3. CITIZENS COMMENTS *(Any citizen wishing to address the Council on an agenda item may do so during the citizen comment section of the meeting, or when the item is being considered by the Council.)*

None

4. PRESENTATION Paul King with Texas Rural Water Association

Mr. King was unable to make it to the meeting.

5. CONSIDER AND/OR APPROVE Atlas Tower Contract

Atlas Tower would like to put up a cell tower on the 40 acres off of Hwy 80. The size would be 50x50. In return the city would receive \$300 per month and a one-time payment of \$20,000 or \$650 a month for the length of the agreement.

Councilmember Cash moved to approve that Jimmy Purcell could talk with Atlas Tower to get more details as well as begin negotiations, seconded by Frazier. Carried 3-0

6. DISCUSS water meter options.

Mr. Purcell explained that the city right now is using a drive by system for water meters. The water meters have come to an end of their battery life and because of this the Public Works crew has been checking meters by hand. They are being pulled from other work for two weeks of the month to make sure the meter readings are correct. Mr. Purcell gave two options. We could go back to reading all the meters by hand or purchase an Ultra Sonic Fixed system.

The Ultra Sonic system has a battery life of 20 years and is more accurate than the current system. The other advantage is that the utility department could see a leak at the start and turn it off from the main computer.

Each Ultra Sonic unit would be \$400 to \$450. That would include the unit and transmitter. The city would then need to hire a crew to install the meters and towers to transmit the information.

7. CONSIDER AND/OR APPROVE Letter of Intent/Investment Grade Audit for Performance Service Inc.

The city has come to the conclusion that we could install new water meters ourselves and save the citizens a considerable amount of money.

Councilmember Frazier moved to not sign the Letter of Intent/Investment Grade Audit for Performance Service Inc, seconded by Stephens. Carried 3-0

8. CONSIDER AND/OR APPROVE including a Catastrophic Leave Policy

Mr. Purcell would like to offer the city employees an opportunity to contribute to a catastrophic leave pool.

Councilmember Stephens moved to let Jimmy Purcell build a catastrophic leave policy that would be approved or disapproved by the city council at a later date, seconded by Cash. Carried 3-0

9. DISCUSS Water rate increase

Mr. Purcell explained that the water rate increase we started in January of 2023 was not sufficient to pay for the debt the city has incurred. The debt is now coming due, and we need to prepare for it.

The Texas Rural Water Association came and did an evaluation of the city water rates. At this point the city cannot meet its obligations. His suggestion is to raise our rates to a \$37 base rate and change our tier system or get rid of the tier system and go to a flat rate per 1,000 gallons.

The city would like to have a town meeting to explain the situation.

10. CITY COORDINATOR REPORT

a) Update on capital improvement projects

- Old Hwy 80 Rd construction is to begin in August.
- The George Richey expansion bids are starting.

b) administrative updates

- Jimmy McMahon has been clearing his land to build a warehouse.
- The cafe is preparing to reopened.
- Structure fire on 603 Vernon started June 8th at 2pm. White Oak, CWC, Longview, East Mountain, and Gregg County Fire helped. The Investigations

has declared the fire and accident. At this time the fire claimed one life and another life is at the hospital.

- Mr. Purcell would like the Council to think about hiring a part-time firefighter to help with the increase of calls.

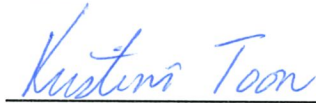
11. ADJOURNMENT

Councilmember Frazier moved to adjourn at 6:22 p.m., seconded by Councilmember Stephens. Adjourned by consensus.



Kyle Kutch, Mayor

Attest:



Kristine Toon
City Secretary/Finance Director