

April 13, 2020

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING  
OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE  
CITY OF OLNEY, TEXAS

6:00 P.M.

The City Council of the City of Olney, Texas, met Monday, April 13, 2020, at 6:00 P.M. Those present were: Mayor Phil Jeske, Mayor Pro-Tem Rue Rogers, Councilmembers Tommy Kimbro, Chuck Stennett, and Harrison Wellman; Councilmember Terri Wipperman was present via internet communication; Absent: None. Staff Present: City Administrator Neal Welch, City Secretary Tim Houston, Chief of Police Conny Clay, and City Attorney William Myers. All agenda items were subject to action.

Mayor Jeske called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M.

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Myers gave the invocation.

INVOCATION

No citizens appeared before the Council to comment.

CITIZEN COMMENT  
PERIOD

Mayor Jeske entertained a motion to adopt the minutes from March 23, 2020 Regular Meeting as written. Mayor Pro-Tem Rogers made said motion, and Councilmember Stennett seconded. Council voted unanimously to approve the minutes.

CONSIDER APPROVAL  
OF MINUTES FROM  
PREVIOUS MEETING(S)

Mayor Jeske stated that the Council really did not have much of an option, but to postpone the election since any challenges would wind up with the election being voided, and because of the guidelines issued by the Texas Secretary of State for COVID-19. Mayor Jeske entertained a motion to adopt Ordinance 07-20 to postpone the May Election to November, thus also reducing the terms of the next individuals being elected. Councilmember Kimbro made said motion, and Mayor Pro-Tem Rogers seconded. Council voted unanimously to adopt Ordinance 07-20. Councilmember Wellman inquired if this would reopen the filing period. Mayor Jeske and Mr. Houston replied that it would not reopen the filing period.

CONSIDER ORDINANCE  
07-20 TO POSTPONE  
THE MAY 2, 2020  
ELECTION UNTIL  
NOVEMBER 3, 2020

Mayor Jeske inquired about the origin of the Resolution and whether it came from the City's coalition attorney. Mr. Houston replied that it was from Alfred Herrera, attorney for the Alliance of TNMP Municipalities (ATM). Mr. Wellman inquired about the coalition and whether this rate increase was felt only by the City. Mayor Jeske explained the rate increase would affect all customers in the City of Olney and surrounding areas that were covered by the ATM Coalition. Further, Coalitions made it easier for the City to negotiate with larger companies since they could all cost share on rate cases and attorney fees. Mayor Jeske entertained a motion to adopt R6-20 to deny the rate increase as requested by TNMP. Councilmember Wellman made said motion, and Councilmember Kimbro seconded. Council voted unanimously to adopt Resolution R6-20 to deny the increase.

CONSIDER RESOLUTION  
R6-20 TO DENY TEXAS-  
NEW MEXICO  
DISTRIBUTION COST  
RECOVERY FACTOR  
RATE CHANGE  
INCREASE

Councilmember Wipperman lost connection to the meeting at 6:12 P.M. and did not return.

Mr. Welch explained that some estimates in the region showed budget hits as much as 30% of tax income for the current fiscal year as a result of the economic losses incurred by COVID-19. However, Olney was in a unique situation given that more people were shopping in town for groceries and such, and restaurants that were open had picked up the slack from others that had shut down. There was some concern that Olney would still take a hit on some front, be it utilities or sales taxes. Mr. Welch explained that there were a couple of things that the City was looking at doing. One was replacing street signs for approximately \$1,500 - \$2,000. The other was working on the pressure tank near the ground storage tank at the airport. Council discussed the issues. Council generally felt the pressure tank could go one more year until the crisis had passed, but wanted more quotes on repairs and replacement. Council was amenable to replacing the street signs since they were a direct safety issue.

DISCUSS POTENTIAL  
FISCAL IMPACTS OF  
COVID-19 AND  
DISCRETIONARY  
EXPENDITURES

Mr. Houston gave the monthly financial report. Reports for the police department, municipal court, and public works were attached. Councilmember Kimbro questions why the number of stops by the police were down. Mr. Welch replied they were backing off to avoid the potential for COVID-19. Councilmember Wellman inquired if the number for gallons of wastewater treated was accurate. Mr. Welch said that while several rain events caused a lot of infiltration, he did not believe it to be that high.

MONTHLY  
DEPARTMENTAL  
REPORTS

There being no further business to come before the Council, the Council adjourned by consent ADJOURNMENT at 6:25 P.M.

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor

\_\_\_\_\_  
City Secretary

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date Approved