

DECEMBER 9, 2019

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, December 9, 2019, at 6:00 P.M. Those present were: Mayor Phil Jeske, Mayor Pro-Tem Rue Rogers, Councilmembers Tommy Kimbro, Chuck Stennett, Harrison Wellman, and Terri Wipperman; Absent: None. Staff Present: City Administrator Neal Welch, City Secretary Tim Houston, Chief of Police Conny Clay, Public Works Director K.C. Blassingame, and City Clerk Lydia Greenway. All agenda items were subject to action.

Mayor Jeske called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M. Mr. Welch gave the invocation.

CALL TO ORDER

No citizens appeared before the Council to comment.

CITIZEN COMMENT  
PERIOD

Mayor Jeske entertained a motion to adopt the minutes from November 25, 2019 Regular Meeting as written. Councilmember Wellman said that he would like the minutes to further expand on the error report from the last meeting so that anyone reading the minutes could understand what happened.

CONSIDER APPROVAL  
OF MINUTES FROM  
PREVIOUS MEETING(S)

Mr. Welch detailed the complaint from Jaqueline Griffin regarding a concern about selling bulk water to the company doing construction at the windmill farm. He explained this was part of the City's business in terms of selling water, and that the company had been purchasing water from a meter mounted to a fire hydrant at the intersection of N Avenue A and E Elm St. Mayor Jeske asked that the ordinance be checked to see if the bulk water was \$5 or \$10 per 1,000 gallons.

HEAR CITIZEN  
CONCERN OF SALE OF  
BULK WATER FOR  
WINDMILL  
CONSTRUCTION

Mr. Houston explained that the state legislature had passed HB 2274 that required a 72-hour notice to be posted prior to a Council approving any contingent services contract. This had gone into effect prior to Council's consideration of the agreement previously. The contract itself had not changed, but had to be presented again with the correct notice posted. Mayor Jeske entertained a motion to authorize the City Administrator to execute on behalf of the City a contingent services agreement with Perdue Brandon for delinquent utility collections. Mayor Pro-Tem Rogers made said motion and Councilmember Stennett seconded. Council voted unanimously to approve the motion.

CONSIDER  
AUTHORIZING CITY  
ADMINISTRATOR TO  
EXECUTE ON BEHALF  
OF THE CITY A  
CONTINGENT SERVICES  
AGREEMENT WITH  
PERDUE BRANDON  
FIELDER COLLINS &  
MOTT, LLC FOR  
DELINQUENT UTILITY  
COLLECTIONS

Mr. Welch informed Council that the City had been included in a Nodal Congestion Fee zone established by TXU for the electrical demands in west Texas because of oil drilling. Olney is just within the zone as the regional border for the fee was between Olney and Jacksboro. TXU offered to change the existing contract from a pass-through nodal congestion fee to a load zone charge. This would increase the per kilowatt hour (kwh) rate by \$0.0026. This would increase the current kwh rate to \$0.04020 from the original of \$0.0376 with nodal congestion charges. Mayor Jeske asked that staff look at the new rate versus the old rate to ensure the City would save money. Mr. Houston replied that they would pull the last 18 months of electricity bills and calculate the costs.

HEAR UPDATE AND  
CONSIDER TXU  
ELECTRICITY  
CONTRACT

Mr. Welch informed Council that Charley Brantley had volunteered to operate the City's road grader to blade the Lake Road once a month. However, as a volunteer he would need to be added to the City's workers compensation in the event he was injured which he believed would cost around \$44 annually. Mayor Jeske asked how this would affect the City's modifier, will it pay his wages from other work or just his medical bills, and if he knew how or had experience to run a grader. Mr. Welch replied that he would get answers for the questions. No further actions were taken.

CONSIDER PURCHASING  
WORKERS  
COMPENSATION  
COVERAGE FOR  
VOLUNTEERS

Mr. Houston noted that in the past Council had cancelled the second December meeting because of its proximity to Christmas. Council affirmed there would be a quorum present for the meeting and felt the meeting should remain scheduled. No action was taken.

CONSIDER CANCELLING  
DECEMBER 23, 2019  
REGULAR MEETING

Mr. Welch explained that the City intended to host an employee luncheon and party on December 20, 2019 and would like permission to close City Hall from 12:00 PM until 2:00 PM so that personnel stationed there could participate fully. Council felt no action was necessary, but expressed a general consensus that this would be fine so long as it was posted in advance.

CONSIDER TWO-HOUR  
CLOSURE OF CITY HALL  
FOR CHRISTMAS PARTY  
ON DECEMBER 20, 2019

Mr. Welch inquired about the City shutting operations down two hours early on December 23, 2019 so that employees could start their holiday a little early. Accrued paid time-off would be used since some employees had already request the day off. Council again felt no action was necessary, but that early closure should be noted. Also, if any salaried staff were to remain behind, they could keep the doors open for partial operations.

CONSIDER EARLY  
CLOSURE OF CITY  
OFFICES ON DECEMBER  
23, 2019 FOR  
CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY

Mr. Houston gave the financial report and confirmed that all utility revenue lines were correct through the end of November. Council reviewed the police, court, and public works reports.

MONTHLY  
DEPARTMENTAL  
REPORTS

Council reviewed the budget numbers as listed in the budget and discussed where money had been spent previously. Mayor Jeske asked that staff review the chemical expenditure line item in the streets department. Council then reviewed the decision packages list where department heads had made their budget requests from the previous year. Councilmember Wellman stated that he believed the City should maintain the vision and dental insurance to take care of the employees, but that it may be better that the City hold off on other expenditures. Mayor Jeske asked that items approved by Council that the City had entered into contract for be removed from the list so the Council could get an accurate view of the other costs.

BUDGET AMENDMENT  
WORKSHOP

Mayor Jeske announced that, pursuant to the Texas Open Meetings Act, as recorded in Government Code Section 551.074(a), Council would enter executive session at 7:27 PM to discuss the appointment, duties, reassignment, discipline, or dismissal of Tim Houston as City Secretary of the City of Olney. All guests exited Council Chambers.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:  
DELIBERATE AND  
EVALUATE THE  
APPOINTMENT, DUTIES,  
REASSIGNMENT,  
DISCIPLINE, OR  
DISMISSAL OF TIM  
HOUSTON AS CITY  
SECRETARY OF THE  
CITY OF OLNEY

Council reconvened in regular session at 8:30 PM.

No action was taken was taken as a result of the Executive Session.

ANY ACTION AS A  
RESULT OF THE  
EXECUTIVE

There being no further business to come before the Council, the Council adjourned by consent at 8:31 P.M.

ADJOURNMENT

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor

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

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