

STATE OF TEXAS
COUNTY OF MONTAGUE
CITY OF BOWIE

On this the 24th day of May, 2021, the council convened in a regular meeting open to the public as advertised with all Councilors present.

Presiding: Mayor Burris
Councilors: Bates, Bell, Gunter, Hefley, Higgins, and Love
City Secretary Page
City Manager Cunningham
City Attorney Rotramble

Mayor Burris called the regular meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

INVOCATION

Invocation was given by Fire Chief Doug Page.

ITEMS OF COMMUNITY INTEREST

Fausto Martinez will retire from the City with 23 years of service. A reception will be held on Thursday May 27 at the Community Center.

CITY MANAGER REPORT

Nortex was ready to close out our CDBG grant project on Mill Street but we informed them we were not pleased with the work that the construction company had done. Nortex had the construction company come back and hopefully they will do the job correctly this time.

We have an ordinance tonight raising water and sewer tap fees. Our cost for taps has risen dramatically. With the passage of this ordinance, we will be closer to a break-even point. If parts cost continue to rise, we will come back to the council for another increase.

Tonight is the second reading of the ordinance authorizing the issuance of Revenue Certificates. This is the culmination of years of work to try to qualify for the TWDB loan for sewer line repair. In your packet is the water and sewer rate study showing over the next 5 years the increases that we will have to make in order to make the payments on the loan. We will take up this sewer only rate increase at the next meeting. I would hope that we go ahead and pass the rate increases through 2026. This will ensure that the payments can be made. After 5 years we will need to do another rate study to determine what will need to be done in the future. We will go over the Water and Sewer rate study later in the meeting.

We are receiving complaints about our street repair or rather lack of repair. We are trying to fill pot holes as fast as we can, but we are having problems getting the patch material so it is taking longer than normal. We are ready to start paving several streets where we have laid water lines, but we must wait until the rainy weather stops before we start.

Consent Agenda Items: Approval of Minutes –May 10, 2021 Regular Meeting; Resolution 2021-17- Authorizing City Manager to write off uncollected utility accounts over 15 months delinquent; and Resolution 2021-18 - Authorizing City Manager to write off uncollected library overdue fines over 15 months delinquent.

Councilor Love moved, with a second from Councilor Bell, to approve the consent agenda items. Motion carried with Councilors Bates, Bell, Gunter, Hefley, Higgins, and Love voting Aye.

Second reading of Ordinance 2021-01- An ordinance authorizing the issuance of City of Bowie, Texas Combination Tax and Surplus Revenue Certificates of Obligation, Series 2021, in the principal amount of \$9,775,000 and awarding the sale of such Certificates of Obligation to the Texas Water Development Board.

Councilor Love moved, with a second from Councilor Bates, to approve Ordinance 2021-01. Motion carried with Councilors Bates, Bell, Gunter, Hefley, Higgins, and Love voting Aye.

Second reading of Ordinance 2021-02- An ordinance amending Chapter 11, Article 11.900 “Water and Sewer Tap Fees” of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Bowie, Texas increasing water and sewer tap fees; adding outside city limits fees; and adding the fee schedule for the tap fees to appendix “C” of the Bowie Code of Ordinances; providing a savings clause, a repealer clause; and providing an effective date.

Councilor Higgins moved, with a second from Councilor Hefley, to approve Ordinance 2021-02. Motion carried with Councilors Bates, Bell, Gunter, Hefley, Higgins, and Love voting Aye.

Second reading of Ordinance 2021-03 – A ordinance amending Chapter 4, “Business & Commerce”, of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Bowie, amending Article 4.100 “Vendors and Solicitors”; Section 4.108 “Insurance or Bond Required”; Deleting Section 4.109 “Temporary Vending License Special Events”; Amending Section 4.110 “Exemptions”; Amending Section 4.111 “Restrictions Applicable To All Vendors”; and adding the fee schedule for Vendors and Solicitors to Appendix “C” of the Bowie Code of Ordinances; Repealing any conflicting codes, ordinances or orders; providing for a severability clause; adopting a savings clause; determining that this ordinance was passed in accordance with the requirements of the Open Meetings Act; and establishing an effective date.

Councilor Hefley moved, with a second from Councilor Love, to approve Ordinance 2021-03. Motion carried with Councilors Bates, Bell, Gunter, Hefley, Higgins, and Love voting Aye.

Second reading of Ordinance 2021-04 — A ordinance amending Chapter 4, “Business & Commerce”, of the City of Bowie Code of Ordinances, amending Article 4.200 “Mobile Food Vendors”; Section 4.202 “Mobile Food Units”; Deleting all of (1) (e), (4) (e) and (k); amending (1) Location (j) and (i) and adding the fee schedule for Mobile Food Units to Appendix “C” of the Bowie Code of Ordinances; repealing any conflicting codes, ordinances or orders; providing for a severability clause; adopting a savings clause; determining that this ordinance was passed in accordance with the requirements of the Open Meetings Act; and establishing an effective date.

Councilor Higgins moved, with a second from Councilor Gunter, to approve Ordinance 2021-04. Motion carried with Councilors Bates, Bell, Gunter, Hefley, Higgins, and Love voting Aye.

Second reading of Ordinance 2021-05- An ordinance amending Chapter 4, Article 4.1000 “Occasional or Garage Sales”, Deleting Section 4.1004 “Permit Fee” of the Code of Ordinances of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Bowie Texas; providing a savings clause, a repealer clause; and providing an effective date.

Councilor Gunter moved, with a second from Councilor Bates, to approve Ordinance 2021-05. Motion carried with Councilors Bates, Bell, Gunter, Hefley, Higgins, and Love voting Aye.

Resolution 2021-19-A resolution authorizing and directing establishment of a Series Co Construction Fund with depository bank pursuant to bond ordinance; appointing authorized signatories with respect to such accounts; and resolving other matters relating to the subject.

Councilor Higgins moved, with a second from Councilor Bell, to approve Resolution 2021-19. Motion carried with Councilors Bates, Bell, Gunter, Hefley, Higgins, and Love voting Aye.

Presentation of Water and Sewer Rate Study by NewGen Strategies & Solutions.

This review was necessary to ensure sufficient rates specific to the city’s repayment of planned debt issuance through the TWDB. The city must include a 10% margin or an amount not less than 1.10 times debt service requirements of all outstanding obligations of the city. Any extra margin that is generated can be used to build reserves or cash fund capital projects. If the city issues future revenue debt it must expand to a 25% margin. The study states under the current rates the city is projected to be unable to fully pay its expenses and meet the requirements of the TWDB. Sewer rates have operated in the red for many years with the other utilities supplementing it. Rate changes would apply to all categories for sewer. NewGen also provided a regional comparison of sewer and water rates before and after new rates were approved. Based on current rates and an average use of 5,000 gallons a residential bill placed fourth highest out of 10 cities surveyed at \$75.43. Henrietta, Nocona and Olney were ahead of Bowie. Based on the potential new rates, Bowie remains in the middle of the pack at \$88.31. A variety of differences exist between providers and this is not an apples-to-apples comparison.

Consider recommendation from Planning & Zoning on request from Kenson Vance, Dynamic Duo, to replat Lots 13 & 14, Block 2, Holman Addition. Creating Lots 13R & 14R, Block 2, Holman Addition.

Councilor Love moved, with a second from Councilor Bates, to approve the P & Z recommendation on the replat for Kenson Vance. Motion carried with Councilors Bates, Bell, Gunter, Hefley, Higgins, and Love voting Aye.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

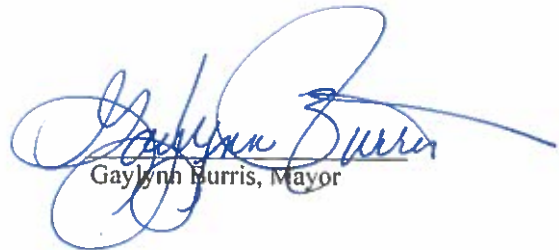
Glenda Durham questioned a request she had submitted over Nelson and Rock Street drainage repairs. Cunningham said he would answer any of her questions if she would come by his office. Durham said she would like these questions answered in a public forum. Durham then asked the council to consider upgrading the city's parks and their equipment.

Dillon Steen said the Parks Board met last week and all the parks will be examined for their needs. He said the rain had put maintenance behind, especially mowing. Steen also commented he lives on the South side of town where sewer lines are bad and he will be happy to pay a little more to get some improvement. It takes money to do repairs and operate.

Mayor Burris adjourned the regular meeting at 6:45 p.m.

ATTEST:


Sandy Page, City Secretary


Gaylyn Burris, Mayor