

STATE OF TEXAS  
COUNTY OF MONTAGUE  
CITY OF BOWIE

On this the 22nd day of June, 2020, the council convened in a regular meeting open to the public as advertised with all Councilors present.

Presiding: Mayor Burris  
Councilors: Bell, Buckmaster, Higgins, Love, and Malone.  
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**

Jim Bowie Days will be this week.

4D Open Barrel Race has been moved to July 18<sup>th</sup>, due to the rain.

Youth Rodeo has been moved to the Montague County Cowboy Church arena.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Mildred McCraw thanked city staff for their work during the tornado. McCraw said the damage could be a turning point to rebuild our community.

**CITY MANAGER REPORT**

Our financial advisors were able to lock in a 1.9% rate on the Community Center Bonds. Our savings over the next 10 years will be \$136,748.

We are in discussions with The Nature Conservancy about purchasing water from the city where all we have to do is release water from the lake downstream. They want 360-acre feet of water per year for the next 5 years. The contract will have a lower limit lake level. If the lake reaches a drought stage, then they will not be able to take water from the lake. It is a pay or take contract, whereby they will pay even if they do not take any or as much water as the contract calls for. Mike Tibbets, with Hayter Engineering, recommends that we consult with a water rights attorney before we sign any agreement. The yearly payment on this agreement is \$115,000 per year.

Application has been made to the TDEM for Coronavirus Relief Fund. They are distributing funds at the rate of \$55.00 per capita. We can get a total of \$282,535.00. When you first make application, you will get 20% of the allocation which is \$56,507. We will send in invoices for the rest of the funds.

There are no federal or state grants available at this time for the tornado damage. Janis Crawley is also trying to pursue grants through economic development.

Department Heads have been instructed to lower spending as the cost of the tornado damage and clean-up are tapping into our budgets. It will be a bare bones budget where the only capital spending we will do is the payments on the notes of equipment and projects we have borrowed money for over the last two years. Even though a lot of our damage is insured, we will still see a shortage of funds.

Schneider Engineering has finished our Cost of Service Study. Even though there were some areas where we needed a rate increase and some areas where we needed a rate decrease, the rates that we are using right now are adequate and there is no need for a rate increase especially with what our citizens just went through with the tornado damage. We might look at some changes later in the new year, but not now.

Work is progressing on the Charter as the Charter Commission has had their second meeting last Thursday. There have been some very good discussions and they have made some great suggestions for changes that will clarify items in the Charter.

**Consent Agenda Items: Approval of Minutes –June 8, 2020 Regular Meeting; Resolution 2020-19- Authorizing City Manager to write off uncollected utility accounts over 15 months delinquent; and Resolution 2020-20- Authorizing City Manager to write off uncollected library overdue fines over 15 months delinquent.**

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

**Appointment of a Councilor to fill unexpired term of Thomas Kent ending November 2020 for Precinct 1 – North.**

Councilor Buckmaster moved, to appoint Thomas Kent for the unexpired term. Motion died for lack of a second.

Councilor Higgins moved, with a second from Councilor Love, to appoint Laura Hefley for the unexpired term of Thomas Kent. Motion carried with Councilors Bell, Higgins, Love, and Malone voting Aye. Councilor Buckmaster voted Nay.

**Swear in Councilor for Precinct 1-North.**

Mayor Burris swore in Laura Hefley.

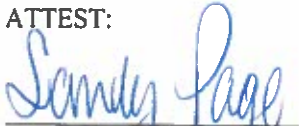
**Approve Standard Form of Agreement between City of Bowie and Gary Baker Construction for renovation at 307 N. Mason.**

The plumbing was left out of this agreement. It added \$31,000 to the bid, which still left Baker as the lowest bidder.

Councilor Love moved, with a second from Councilor Bell, to approve the Agreement with Baker. Motion carried with Councilors Bell, Buckmaster, Love, and Malone voting Aye. Councilors Higgins and Hefley abstained.

Mayor Burris adjourned the regular meeting at 6:23 p.m.

ATTEST:

  
Sandy Page, City Secretary

  
Gaylynn Burris, Mayor