

Regular City Council Meeting  
July 12, 2021

STATE OF TEXAS  
COUNTY OF MONTAGUE  
CITY OF BOWIE

On this the 12th day of July, 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 6:02 p.m.

**INVOCATION**

Invocation was given by Fire Chief Doug Page.

**PUBLIC HEARING:**

**2020 Annual Drinking Water Quality Consumer Confidence Report.**

Mayor Burris opened the public hearing at 6:03 p.m.

There were no citizens comments or questions.

Mayor Burris closed the public hearing at 6:04 p.m.

**ITEMS OF COMMUNITY INTEREST**

The Chamber of Commerce Chair Affair will be July 16.

Council's next meeting will be July 19.

**CITY MANAGER REPORT**

Kiwanis Park creek has held up with the recent rains. The last pour on the retaining wall will be in the next few days.

The Street Department has been paving Strong and Clay Streets. Matthews Street will be next.

We will talk about the budget later in the meeting.

The American Rescue Plan is being worked on. We should receive a total of 1,267,177.42 with half being received this summer and the other half next year. Hopefully some of this can be spent on a remodel for the Police Department.

**Consent Agenda Items: Approval of Minutes –June 28, 2021 Regular Meeting.**

Councilor Gunter moved, with a second from Councilor Love, to approve the consent agenda items.

Motion carried with Councilors Bates, Bell, Gunter, Hefley, Higgins and Love voting Aye.

**Second reading of Ordinance 2021-08- An ordinance of the City Council of the City of Bowie, Texas amending Chapter 10 "Traffic Control" by amending Section 10.407 "Variable Speed Limits Established" adding S. Mill Street from Mayor to Hwy. 287; changing time to 7:00 a.m.; repealing any conflicting clause; providing for a severability clause; and establishing an effective date.**

Councilor Higgins moved, with a second from Councilor Gunter, to approve Ordinance 2021-08. Motion carried with Councilors Bates, Bell, Gunter, Hefley, Higgins and Love voting Aye.

**Consider amending the City of Bowie Community Center Rules and Regulations. Section 16: alcohol Policy tabled from last meeting.**

Councilor Gunter moved, with a second from Councilor Bell, to require a Texas Police Officer if the estimated attendance is 250 people. Motion failed with Councilors Bates, Hefley, Higgins and Love voting Nay. Councilors Bell and Gunter voted Aye.

Councilor Love moved to require a Texas Police Officer if the estimated attendance is 400 people. Motion died for the lack of a second.

Councilor Higgins moved, with a second from Councilor Gunter, to require a Texas Police Officer if the estimated attendance is 200 people. Motion carried with Councilors Bates, Bell, Hefley, Higgins and Gunter voting Aye. Councilors Love voted Nay. Mayor Burris then vetoed the motion.

**Ordinance 2021-09 – An ordinance of the City Council of the City of Bowie, Texas ordering a Special and General Election to be held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> day of November, 2021, for the purpose of adopting or rejecting proposed amendments to the Bowie, Texas, Home Rule City Charter and selling Parkland known as Richwood Hills Lake Estates Park, concurrent with the General Election for City Council Members; authorizing the Montague County Elections Administrator to officially conduct the November 2, 2021 General and Special Election; setting forth council positions and terms; establishing regular and early voting places; and establishing an effective date.**

Councilor Hefley moved, with a second from Councilor Bates, to approve ordinance 2021-09. Motion carried with Councilors Bates, Bell, Gunter, Hefley, Higgins and Love voting Aye.

**Presentation of Draft 2021/2022 City of Bowie Municipal Budget.**

City Manager Cunningham went through the departmental budget highlights, Cunningham reminded the council many of these departments bring in revenue at varying levels whether it be ambulance fees, police fines or airport jet fuel. As for new positions, the manager is proposing a part-time position in administration for the emergency operations center and one new patrol position in the police department. Some of the capital purchases being considered are a bucket truck for the electric department (\$268,000) and backhoe for the water department (\$120,000), both could possibly be financed. Two new mowers (\$40,630) in the Parks Department, a sweeper (\$8,800) at the Community Center and the Sewer Department would like to trade out the large vac truck for a smaller one which is easier to maneuver on properties. There will be an additional cost for the swap-out at \$47,000. In the general fund payments continue on several large equipment purchases such as the tornado sirens and fuel system at the airport. For capital improvements, city officials hope to see the rehab work at the city airport through a state grant finally begin. The city's contribution is \$26,111. In the utility fund a revamp of the east lift station is proposed at \$34,677, new water lines installed at \$42,462 and changing C12 gas to bleach at \$16,985. The utility fund capital budget is \$770,436, general fund is \$559,344 for a proposed total of \$1,329,780. Cunningham also threw out two other topics to think about. He would like to see the city purchase a third transformer for the electrical substation and there are plans to renovate the police department. The renovation is expected to run between \$750,000 and \$850,000. Cunningham added they may be able to use some of the American Rescue Plan funds. The City of Bowie is scheduled to receive \$1,267,177.34 with half arriving this summer and the second half next year.

**Set Public Hearing on proposed budget for August 9, 2021.**

Councilor Higgins moved, with a second from Councilor Bates, to set the Public Hearing on the proposed budget for August 9, 2021. Motion carried with Councilors Bates, Bell, Gunter, Hefley, Higgins and Love voting Aye.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

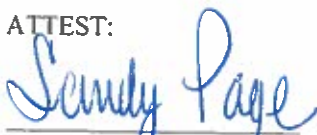
Glenda Durham applauded the council for its "healthy discussion" on the alcohol issue at the community center noting it takes only one drunk driver to change everything. "I don't understand why the city has to be in the alcohol business. We have lots of private venues in the community that are well managed, so they can go to other places if that is what they want to do. I would like to plant that idea with you." Durham added during the budget talks she heard a lot about spending but not about paying down the debt which is increasing.

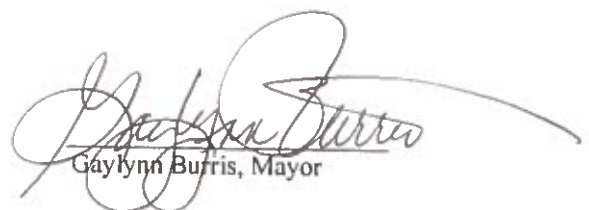
Dillon Steen told the council he sees both sides of this issue. "The city is not in the alcohol business, but it is in the venue business of renting it out. If I am correct, I can rent the Meyer Park Pavilion for \$10, pack it with 500 people, serve alcohol with no cop. Rent the center, put a number, but don't make it so small the cops have to stand at a child's birthday party because someone may want to drink a beer.

Stephanie Post said she agreed with Steen, but added taking alcohol out of this venue puts customers in other locations and it is taking money away from the city or local event, "which doesn't make sense."

Mayor Burris adjourned the regular meeting at 7:00 p.m.

ATTEST:

  
Sandy Page, City Secretary

  
Gaylynn Burris, Mayor