

Workshop and Regular City Council Meeting  
August 8, 2022

STATE OF TEXAS  
COUNTY OF MONTAGUE  
CITY OF BOWIE

On this the 8th day of August, 2022, the council convened in a special and regular meeting open to the public as advertised with all Councilors present.

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

Mayor Burris called the budget workshop to order at 4:00 p.m.

Finance Director Pam Woods provided an overview of the draft budget starting with the schedule of indebtedness. The total debt service is \$18,295,468, with our annual payment being \$1,590,606. Leased vehicles come in at \$257,645. It will be the 2nd year for the increased sewer rate that will go toward the 9.7 million in the TWDB loan for the sewer line project. There is also a 3% pay increase for employees which will be allocated by the department heads. A \$1,250,000 budget transfer from utility to the general fund is allotted. Utility fund expenses are proposed at \$11,516,160, an increase of \$613,877 above last year. General fund expenses are proposed at \$9,546,613, which is \$885,921 above last year.

With only a couple of questions from council, Mayor Burris adjourned the workshop at 4:37 p.m.

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

**Invocation**

Invocation was given by Pastor John Little.

**Items of Community Interest**

Pastor Little invited the community to "Men of Purpose" on Saturday, 9:00 a.m. at Wellington State Bank. This is a bible study for men with fellowship and food.

Steel Woods will be in concert on August 12<sup>th</sup> at the Community Center.

Bowie News owner and publisher Michael Winter was presented a framed certificate from Governor Abbotts office honoring the business' 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

**Public Hearing:**

**2022/2023 City of Bowie Municipal Budget.**

Mayor Burris opened the public hearing at 6:05 p.m.

There were no citizens comments or questions.

Mayor Burris closed the public hearing at 6:06 p.m.

**City Manager Report**

The Mayor, Jay Evans and I attended the Texas Public Power Association annual meeting in Austin from July 25 – 27<sup>th</sup>. Committee meetings included Engineering & Operations, Environmental, Government Relations, Legal and Marketing, and Customer Service. We also got an update on TPPA business, the Texas comptroller let us know about the health of the Texas Economy and how sales taxes are up sharply this year. Lori Cobos, commissioner on the PUC board, spoke about the PUC's business now and in the future. ERCOT's Interim CEO spoke about issues with ERCOT and electric reliability in Texas. I think that ERCOT and the PUC are both under pressure now to "get it right" from the State. There has been a lot of employee turnover at both agencies and we are seeing the results in some of their rulings which have changed from past rulings. After many other sessions, the meeting ended with a Federal Update from Michael Nolan who is a lobbyist in Washington.

Texas Department of Emergency Management is putting together a program of volunteers called the Disaster Recovery Taskforce, who will help other cities during disasters. This is a new program of the State of Texas whereby our volunteers will go to other areas during a disaster and help with whatever their expertise is. The good part is that the city employee will be paid by the State of Texas and their replacement at home while they are deployed. There have been so many hurricanes, tornados, and fires in the last couple years that TDEM does not have enough people to help with recovery so they formed this Taskforce.

**City Manager Report (continued)**

The Ussery Street sewer line is essentially complete. It probably had sewer flow through the lines today. The line was tested last Thursday and there were minor problems which were fixed. As a side note, we gained a new sewer customer during the process as Mr. Ashley tied his home on the new line.

The Texas Water Development Board sewer line project is in the surveying and construction engineering process on the new lines. Construction engineering will take about 6 months to complete and then around the first of the year we should begin actual construction.

**Consent Agenda Items: Approval of Minutes –July 11, 2022 Regular Meeting and quarterly financial ending June, 2022.**

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

**Ordinance 2022-02- An ordinance amending the Code of Ordinances of the City of Bowie, Texas, Chapter 1, Article 1.1600 “Bowie Reservoir Area”, by repealing section 1.1602 “Structures Restricted” in its entirety and adopting a new section 1.1602 entitled “Docks, Piers, Walkways and Boathouses”; Providing a savings clause, a repealer clause; and providing an effective date.**

City Manager Cunningham brought back the information on the prices of surrounding lakes. Wichita Falls has an annual fee of \$75.00 for Piers and docks, \$150.00 for Boat houses and a Building Application Fee of \$50.00. Tarrant Regional Water District has a Permit Application of \$100.00 with no annual fee. Brazos River Authority has Permit Application fee of \$75.00 and Annual fee is .15 cents per square feet of space on the pier, dock, walkway and boat house. Cunningham said our \$10,000 permit fee will be used to clean up out of compliance structures on the lake. It will also be used to purchase a pontoon boat to inspect docks and boathouses. The pontoon boat will be fitted with a small crane hoist to be used to place buoys in the lake that we are required to place and maintain. As it is now, we have to hire 3<sup>rd</sup> party vendors to help us with the buoys. The pontoon boat will also be used to maintain and protect the spillway inlet and the raw water intake tower.

Councilor Gunter moved, with a second from Councilor Bates, to not do the docks on the new side of lake. Motion carried with Councilors Bates, Hefley, Gunter, and Shaw voting Aye. Councilors Love and Post voted Nay.

**Second reading of Ordinance 2022-03-An ordinance providing for a General Election in the City of Bowie; authorizing the Montague County Elections Administrator to officially conduct the November 8, 2022 General Election; setting forth council positions and terms; establishing regular and early voting places; and establishing an effective date.**

Councilor Love moved, with a second from Councilor Hefley, to approve Ordinance 2022-03. Motion carried with Councilors Bates, Gunter, Hefley, Love, Post, and Shaw voting Aye.

**2022 Tax Rate:**

**a. Record vote to Proposal to Consider a Tax Rate;**

**b. Schedule public hearing for August 22, 2022.**

Councilor Shaw moved, with a second from Councilor Bates, to approve a tax rate of .5430/\$100. Motion carried with Councilors Bates, Gunter, Hefley, Love, Post, and Shaw voting Aye.

Councilor Hefley moved, with a second from Councilor Shaw, to schedule a public hearing on the tax rate for August 22, 2022. Motion carried with Councilors Bates, Gunter, Hefley, Love, Post, and Shaw voting Aye.

**Consider P&Z recommendation on request from Jody Fish to replat Lots 11, 12 & 13, Block 47, Cowan Addition. Commonly known as 105 Raymond Street. Creating Lots 11R, Block 47, Cowan Addition.**

Councilor Hefley moved, with a second from Councilor Shaw, to approve the recommendation from P&Z and replat. Motion carried with Councilors Bates, Gunter, Hefley, Love, Post, and Shaw voting Aye.

**Consider P&Z recommendation on request from Terry Gunter to replat 0.43 acres in Block 37, Cowan Addition. Commonly known as 402 N. Mason Street. Creating Lot 1R, Block 37, Cowan Addition.**

Councilor Hefley moved, with a second from Councilor Bates, to approve the recommendation from P&Z and replat. Motion carried with Councilors Bates, Hefley, Love, Post, and Shaw voting Aye. Councilor Gunter abstained.

**Ordinance 2022-04- An ordinance of the City of Bowie, Texas, amending the City of Bowie Code of Ordinances by amending Chapter 11 "Utilities & Solid Waste," Article 11.2100 "Solid Waste Collection" Section 11.2115 "Monthly Rates and Collection Fees" by increasing the fees; Updating the fee schedule for Solid Waste collection in Appendix "C" of the Bowie Code of Ordinances; providing a savings clause, a repealer clause; and an effective date.**

Councilor Gunter moved, with a second from Councilor Shaw, to approve Ordinance 2022-04. Motion carried with Councilors Bates, Gunter, Hefley, Love, Post, and Shaw voting Aye.

**Resolution 2022-04-A resolution of the City Council of the City of Bowie, Texas approving a negotiated settlement between the ATMOS Cities Steering Committee ("ACSC") and ATMOS Energy Corp., Mid-Tex Division regarding the company's 2022 Rate Review Mechanism filing; Declaring existing rates to be unreasonable; Adopting tariffs that reflect rate adjustments consistent with the negotiated settlement; finding the rates to be set by the attached settlement tariffs to be just and reasonable and in the public interest; approving an attachment establishing a benchmark for pensions and retiree medical benefits; requiring the company to reimburse ACSC'S reasonable ratemaking expenses; determining that this resolution was passed in accordance with the requirements of the Texas Open Meetings Act; adopting a savings clause; declaring an effective date; and requiring delivery of this resolution to the company and the ACSC'S legal counsel.**

Councilor Gunter moved, with a second from Councilor Post, to approve Resolution 2022-04. Motion carried with Councilors Bates, Gunter, Hefley, Love, Post, and Shaw voting Aye.

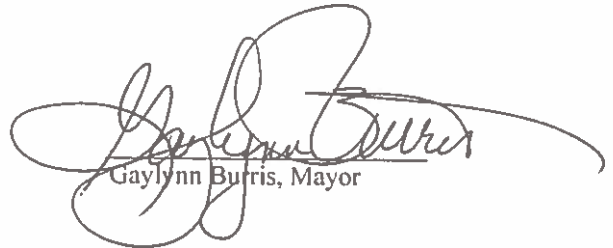
**Public Comments**

There were no public comments.

Mayor Burris adjourned the regular meeting at 7:06 p.m.

ATTEST:

  
Sandy Page, City Secretary

  
Gaylynn Burris, Mayor