

Regular City Council Meeting
August 22, 2022

STATE OF TEXAS
COUNTY OF MONTAGUE
CITY OF BOWIE

On this the 22nd day of August, 2022, the council convened in a regular meeting open to the public as advertised with four Councilors present. Councilors Bates and Hefley were absent.

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

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

None

Public Hearing:

2022 Tax Rate.

Mayor Burris opened the public hearing at 6:01 p.m.

Mayor Burris stated this public hearing is to inform the public on the proposed tax rate of \$0.5430 per \$100 in property value. This is a 0.312% decrease in the tax rate. The meeting in which the tax rate will be adopted will be the September 26th City Council meeting at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers. There were no citizens comments or questions.

Mayor Burris closed the public hearing at 6:02 p.m.

City Manager Report

Nortex Regional Planning Commission has made the decision to stop helping cities in the region with application and administration of the CDBG's. We currently have a grant application in with the Department of Agriculture that if awarded, we will need someone to do the administration of the grant. This is the reason for terminating the contract with Nortex. We will then start the process of Solicitation of a Grant Administrator just in case we do get funded with the grant. We must solicit with three different grant companies and then pick which one we want to use. We have been through this process before and it is pretty simple. However, TDA rules are such that we must score grant agencies before we pick one. This holds true for the Downtown Revitalization Grant also.

Our monthly cost on computer service from RelevantTec will go down \$740 per month because of the grant from the Priddy Foundation which is coming from PC Net service. The grant was for all of the new equipment which included service for the next 3 years.

We have ordered the incinerator for the Solid Waste Grant and it should be here soon. We can now burn paper work and evidence from years of police work when we get permission from the judges in each case. Pamela Woods, finance director, and I had a meeting with Waste Connections this past week to discuss our billing and some problems we were having. Pam is in the process of doing an audit of our trash billing and our billing from Waste Connections. We are making sure that we are getting billed properly and that our citizens trash is being picked up according to our contract with them. This will be an ongoing process through the month of November. One bit of information we got from Waste Connections is that they are installing tablet computers in their trucks to ensure that their routes all get picked up and it will help their drivers to verify each customer.

I sat in on a webinar that was put on by TDEM about a US Dept. of Energy grant which will be used for system resiliency and improvements. The grant will be a 5-year grant where they will release about \$30 million a year for improvements in the State of Texas. The presentation especially got our attention when they said that smaller electric distribution systems like ours would have an advantage in the grant process. I have contacted Schneider Engineering and we will sit down with them over the next month or two and determine what we can do to our system to make it more resilient. In plain English, we want to add another transformer to the substation and loop our system so that we can feed from both directions. The grant application process will start in early 2023.

City Manager Report (continued)

Another webinar was with the Eaton corporation discussing electric vehicle charging. Eaton makes EV chargers and also sells other equipment and software related to vehicle charging. There are many factors to consider when discussing EV Charging and from a business standpoint, is it worth doing? Considerations of equipment cost, operations and locations are all factors that need to be considered.

With all the rain this week-end we have a major problem on Nelson Street that involves a drop box drain at the intersection of Mill and Nelson Streets. I had a meeting with an engineer this morning and another engineer tomorrow morning to get an estimate on the cost of doing the repair. We had to close Nelson Street because the storm water is undermining the street which created the danger of the street collapsing under the weight of a vehicle.

Consent Agenda Items: Approval of Minutes –August 8, 2022 Workshop and Regular Meeting and Resolution 2022-25- Authorizing City Manager to write off uncollected utility accounts over 15 months delinquent; and Resolution 2022-26- Authorizing City Manager to write off uncollected library overdue fines over 15 months delinquent.

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

Second reading of 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 Post, to approve Ordinance 2022-04. Motion carried with Councilors Gunter, Love, Post, and Shaw voting Aye.

Proposed FY 2022/2023 Municipal Budget for:

a. Bowie Economic Development

Dean Myers, chairman of BEDC, gave the budget report. They are projecting a small increase in sales tax as the economy continues to come out of the pandemic. The board would like to transfer from its reserve funds to move toward \$1.5 million for an early bond payoff in the near future. They are continuing to work on a grant that will provide \$1,511,000 for infrastructure improvements at the Bowie Business Park. The BEDC has been working to see if additional federal grant funds can be obtained or to make sure the board has funds available to complete the building that is proposed at the Business Park.

Councilor Shaw moved, with a second from Councilor Gunter, to approve the Bowie Economic Development budget. Motion carried with Councilors Gunter, Love, Post, and Shaw voting Aye.

b. Bowie 4B Sales Tax Corporation

Ward Wallace, chairman of the 4B Board, reported a 12% increase in revenue projected. Money also is set aside to make an early bond payoff in August of 2027.

Councilor Gunter moved, with a second from Councilor Post, to approve the 4B Sales Tax budget. Motion carried with Councilors Gunter, Love, Post, and Shaw voting Aye.

Re-appointment to the 4A Board:

a. Charles Tyson

b. Zach Gunter.

Councilor Love moved, with a second from Councilor Shaw, to approve the re-appointment of Charles Tyson. Motion carried with Councilors Gunter, Love, Post, and Shaw voting Aye.

Councilor Love moved, with a second from Councilor Post, to approve the re-appointment of Zach Gunter. Motion carried with Councilors Gunter, Love, Post, and Shaw voting Aye.

Re-appointment to the 4B Board:

a. Tim Hall

Councilor Gunter moved, with a second from Councilor Shaw, to approve the re-appointment of Tim Hall. Motion carried with Councilors Gunter, Love, Post, and Shaw voting Aye.

Appointment to the 4B Board:

a. Seth Johnson

b. Kim Williams

Councilor Shaw moved, with a second from Councilor Love, to approve the appointment of Seth Johnson. Motion carried with Councilors Gunter, Love, Post, and Shaw voting Aye.

Councilor Gunter moved, with a second from Councilor Shaw, to approve the appointment of Kim Williams. Motion carried with Councilors Gunter, Love, Post, and Shaw voting Aye.

Consider the termination of Interlocal Governmental Cooperation Contract for Application and Administration Services Texas Community Development Program between the City and Nortex Regional Planning Commission as recommended and requested by Nortex.

Councilor Shaw moved, with a second from Councilor Post, to terminate the contract with Nortex. Motion carried with Councilors Gunter, Love, Post, and Shaw voting Aye.

Ordinance 2022-05 – An ordinance adopting an annual budget for the City of Bowie for the fiscal year beginning October 1, 2022 and ending September 30, 2023. Adopting a referenced document as said budget and establishing appropriations for the various activities and functions of the city, establishing an effective date and repealing all ordinances and regulations in conflict herewith.

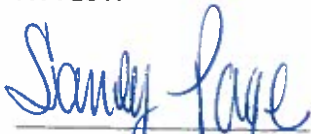
Councilor Post moved, with a second from Councilor Love, to approve Ordinance 2022-05. Motion carried with Councilors Gunter, Love, Post, and Shaw voting Aye.


Public Comments

Mayor Burris reported that the Election for November 8th has been cancelled.

Mayor Burris adjourned the regular meeting at 6:28 p.m.

ATTEST:


Sandy Page, City Secretary


Gay Lynn Burris, Mayor