

Special City Council Meeting
February 7, 2023

STATE OF TEXAS
COUNTY OF MONTAGUE
CITY OF BOWIE

On this the 7th day of February, 2023, the council convened in a special meeting open to the public as advertised with all Councilors present.

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

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

Invocation

Invocation was given by Bill Calabretta

Items of Community Interest

The next council meeting will be February 27th.

City Manager Report

The CDBG grants that were applied for last year have been funded. The grant will be for a new water line on Wichita and Hutchinson Streets on the south side. Other grants that I am working on are a TxDOT Sidewalk to Schools, which will be for 5' wide sidewalks on Mill Street from Roach Street all the way to Bowie High School on the south side and Mill Street on Roach Street across Hwy. 59 up Lovers Lane to Bowie Elementary School.

I am also working on a RAISE grant with the U.S. Transportation Dept. for rebuilding the bridge over Rock and Pillar Streets, the bridge on Cooper Street, and the bridge on Mill Street. Both of these grants are still in the application process.

Kirk is also applying for a Solid Waste grant for a dump trailer.

I attended the yearly TxDOT meeting where we offer projects that need to be done. The Mill Street railroad bridge is still rated as a High Priority project, but TxDOT does not have enough funds to go around, so as you know, I applied for a Federal Railroad grant to rebuild the bridge. We still don't have any additional information about the grant or the project.

The city-wide sewer line project is still in the design and engineering phase. We should have bidding documents in the next month or two for the first phase of line replacement.

We had a meeting with Ameresco, which is the company that guided the replacement of all our water and electric meters over five years ago. We still are making a note payment in the amount of about \$355,950 every year until 2030 and a payment to Ameresco of about \$10,000 per year for measurement and verification of the process until 2032. The whole idea of this program was to save the city money by replacing all of the water and electric meters within the city that would read as close to perfect as possible and with the installation of remote meter reading electronics we would supposedly save more than enough each year to pay the note and the yearly measurement and verification cost. When the contract was signed the city chose a great electric meter supplier but the choice on the water meters and meter reading electronics was marginal at best. I have had my doubts about the program. It was a very good meeting in that Ameresco is going to try and help us recover money from Nexgrid, which is the company that does the water meters. They are going to explain to Nexgrid that we have not been able to reduce the number of meter readers, and that their meter reading electronics is not working as guaranteed. Hopefully we will recover some of the cost in order to make this as good a program as guaranteed.

Nelson Street is not closed permanently. Both Nelson and Lamb Streets will be re-opened in about a year. About 50% has been done on the design by Hayter Engineering.

Also, the Finance Department building will be getting a new roof at the cost of about \$29,000. Insurance will not pay for this, as it is not storm-related.

Consent Agenda Items: Approval of Minutes –January 9, 2023 Special and Regular Meeting; Resolution 2023-04 Authorizing City Manager to write off uncollected utility account receivables over 15 months delinquent; Resolution 2023-05- Authorizing City Manager to write off uncollected library overdue fines over 15 months delinquent and Quarterly Financial Statement ending December, 2022.

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

Accept annual Racial Profiling Report by Police Chief Guy Green.

Councilor Bates moved, with a second from Councilor Shaw, to accept the Racial Profiling Report. Motion carried with Councilors Bates, Gunter, Love, Post, Shaw, and Sproles voting Aye.

Consider re-appointment to the Planning & Zoning Commission:

a. Bill Calabretta

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

b. Bradlee Summers

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

Award of Proposal to lease approximately 57 acres of City of Bowie property located at Old Bowie Lake.

Councilor Love moved, with a second from Councilor Shaw to award the lease to Cody Carleton. Motion carried with Councilors Bates, Gunter, Love, Post, Shaw, and Sproles voting Aye.

Resolution 2023-06 – A resolution authorizing the filing of a grant application with Nortex for a regional solid waste grant.

Councilor Bates moved, with a second from Councilor Post to approve Resolution 2023-06. Motion carried with Councilors Bates, Gunter, Love, Post, Shaw, and Sproles voting Aye.

Update on grants from EMC Kirk Higgins:

a. Fema grant for generators

The original request was for \$850,000 and it was a 75/25 match. That has since changed to 90/10 match, which required new paperwork. Not sure when this will be final.

b. Homeland Security grant

This is a 2023 grant for personal protection gear. The gear would be stored in individual backpacks in the EOC for use in emergency situations. The grant seeks \$5,500.

c. Fema Individual Safe Room grant.

This grant could fund up to \$6,000 for a safe room. FEMA would fund \$3,000. Bowie was picked as an alternate, but if the grant was awarded, they could move forward.

Introduce TDEM Montague County liaison officer.

a. Whit Cross

Whit Cross, a native of Bowie, was introduced as the new Texas Department of Emergency Management liaison officer for Montague County. His office will be in the courthouse and he will serve this area during emergencies.

Recognize Hilltop Tire for donation.

Hilltop Tire donated 6 new tires for the EOC trailer. The Fire Department gave this trailer to the EOC after the budget so they are trying to work with material that is already on hand.

Resolution 2023-07 – A resolution authorizing the filing of a grant application with the Governor's Office of Homeland Security for protective equipment for EOC.


Councilor Shaw moved, with a second from Councilor Bates to approve Resolution 2023-07. Motion carried with Councilors Bates, Gunter, Love, Post, Shaw, and Sproles voting Aye.


Public Comments

None

Mayor Burris adjourned the regular meeting at 6:38 p.m.

ATTEST:


Sandy Page, City Secretary


Gaylynn Burris, Mayor