

Regular City Council Meeting
May 8, 2023

STATE OF TEXAS
COUNTY OF MONTAGUE
CITY OF BOWIE

On this the 8th day of May, 2023, the council convened in a regular meeting open to the public as advertised with four Councilors present. Councilors Gunter and Love were absent.

Presiding: Mayor Burris
Councilors: Bates, Post, Shaw, and Sproles
City Secretary Page
City Manager Cunningham
City Attorney Courtney Goodman-Morris

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

Invocation

Invocation was given by Fire Chief Page.

Items of Community Interest

Sip-in-Stroll will be this Friday night.

The concert for the lights downtown raised \$2,000. The goal is \$10,000.

Proclamation

Mayor Burris presented Cindy Roller with a proclamation for National Travel and Tourism week.

City Manager Report

The Mayor and I had a meeting with BTU on April 25th. We continue to have good relations and communication with them. They have finally brought new solar power online in the last month or so. Because of this low-cost power, our rates should be stable in the near future. However, BTU applied with the PUC to increase wholesale transmission rates which will cost us about 0.02% of the transmission cost over 30 years, so these additional transmission cost (if approved by the PUC) from BTU would be a very, very small increase on Bowie's monthly invoice. We will continue to monitor our costs. At this time our rates are the lowest of any utility in our area. Any rate increase we might have in the future will be minor in nature.

Jay Evans and his crew have been at the substation on Friday and Saturday. We had a problem with a regulator switch which controls one of the transformers. After they replaced the regulator, they had problems with the controls on the transformers. It would not power up. On Saturday they got it powered up but did not put it on line until it was stabilized. It was put back on line late Saturday, but we continue to have problems with the transformer controls. We are now on a parts search for the components on the transformer that is not working properly.

We had a Cybersecurity training program paid for by FEMA on May 2nd for city and county employees at the Community Center. Sandy Page, Doug Page, Cindy Roller, Guy Green, Lynetta Slaton, Stony Lowrance, Stephanie Post, Kirk Higgins, and I were the city employees that attended. There were 14 people there from other cities and counties with a total of 22 in attendance. The program leaders were very good and gave us plenty of things to think about. Coincidentally, while we were in class, the City of Dallas was hit with a ransomware attack which proves we must keep our guard up. The main point is that the city employees that attended should share their training experience with other employees.

Mike Tibbets from Hayter Engineering was here again last Friday, May 5th, discussing the Nelson/Lamb Street bridge replacement project. Because this area is downhill from all directions, it is a design nightmare. We should have the complete design in the next two to three weeks and we will be ready to bid the complete project with alternative bids for a few of the items. I have been discussing financing with Government Capital just in case we need to borrow some money to complete the project.

The EPA and TCEQ have started a project that we must complete by October 2024. We must inventory all water connections on the city water to see what kind of pipes are used from our water lines to the water meters and what kind of lines are used from the meters to the homes. It is an effort of the EPA to eliminate lead lines in water systems. We already have a lot of information, especially where we have been laying new water lines, but there is somewhere over 1500 water meters that we must check. I have an idea that eventually the EPA will come out with a program where they will pay for replacement of lead water lines in low to moderate income areas. Most homes that have been built since 1980 or later will have copper and/or PVC lines which are allowable and not unhealthy.

I will be out of the office May 10th - 12th attending the TML Small Cities Conference.

Consent Agenda Items: Approval of Minutes –April 24, 2023 Regular Meeting.

Councilor Post moved, with a second from Councilor Bates, to approve the minutes of April 24, 2023. Motion carried with Councilors Bates, Post, Shaw, and Sproles voting Aye.

Financial Statement ending March, 2023.

Councilor Sproles moved, with a second from Councilor Post, to take the \$850.00 out of account 002-11476-000, Main St. Incentive Grant and move into the fund for new Christmas lights downtown. Motion carried with Councilors Bates, Post and Sproles voting Aye. Councilor Shaw voted Nay.

Councilor Bates moved, with a second from Councilor Post, to approve the Financial Statement ending March 2023. Motion carried with Councilors Bates, Post, Shaw, and Sproles voting Aye.

Resolution 2023-19 – A resolution of the City Council of the City of Bowie, Texas approving and authorizing the city manager to execute an agreement with Tymco, Inc. A Texas Corporation, for purchase of a street sweeper.

Councilor Bates moved, with a second from Councilor Shaw, to approve Resolution 2023-19. Motion carried with Councilors Bates, Post, Shaw, and Sproles voting Aye.

Parks Board appointments:

a. Jody Langston

Councilor Bates moved, with a second from Councilor Post, to approve Jody Langston to the Parks Board. Motion carried with Councilors Bates, Post, Shaw, and Sproles voting Aye.

b. Dillon Steen

Dillon removed his application from appointment.


Public Comments

None

Mayor Burris adjourned the regular meeting at 6:41 p.m.

ATTEST:


Sandy Page, City Secretary


Gaylynn Burris, Mayor