

Regular City Council Meeting
May 23, 2022

STATE OF TEXAS
COUNTY OF MONTAGUE
CITY OF BOWIE

On this the 23rd day of May, 2022, the council convened in a regular meeting open to the public as advertised with five Councilors present. Councilor Gunter was absent.

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

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

Congratulations to the Bowie High School Baseball team on their advancement to the playoffs. June and July we will only be having the first meeting of the month.

City Manager Report

At the NORTEX meeting last Thursday, the scoring on the Solid Waste Grant was approved so we should be purchasing our Incinerator as soon as TCEQ gives their OK. But we don't know when they will give their OK because they are not back in their offices because of Covid.

Also, at the NORTEX meeting the scoring on the TxDot Transportation Advisory Committee was approved which ranked the TxDot projects in the area. We fared very well in that our whining brought three projects into the top 10. At #5 is the traffic congestion on Hwy. 81 (Wise Street) and at #6 is the railroad bridge on FM 1125 (Mill Street) and both are scored as high priority. At #10 is widening Hwy 81 (Wise Street) between Washington Street and North Lamb Street and it was scored as medium priority. Hopefully something will be done by TxDot to solve these problem areas.

Representatives from BTU came for a visit on April 26th. Their Solar project has been delayed by a year, but because of their natural gas contracts our rates are holding steady for now as electric rates across the state are going up fast. We will keep a close eye on our cost while the Biden Administration is messing with the Oil and Gas market. If they would quit trying to kill the Oil and Gas business, our cost would be more stable.

Travis Prill of AMERESCO will be testing both residential and commercial water meters for accuracy as part of our contract with them for replacing water and electric meters that can be read remotely from a few years ago. The testing will take place over the next few weeks. They are documenting savings on the meters and making sure that they are reading accurately.

The SLFRF (covid money) report that was due on April 30th has been done. It was almost as hard to find out how and what to do as it is to write a grant application. The next report is due next year on April 30th. I went to an ARCIT meeting on April 28th as a member of the board of that organization. The highlight of the meeting was an address from the state representative from San Angelo, Drew Darby, who stressed that the fight in the Texas Legislature is not between Democrats and Republicans but between Rural and Urban. As an example, he stated that west of IH 35 there are 17 State Representatives and in Harris County which is Houston there are 17 State Representatives. Therein lies the problem. Almost all legislation related to cities will be centered on Urban issues but in many cases will have a negative effect on rural cities.

We have just about completed an unfunded mandate by the PUC and ERCOT for a Emergency Operations Plan for our electric utility. Kirk Higgins and Jay Evans have put together our Electric Emergency Operations plan and will be sending it to ERCOT and the PUC before the June 1st deadline. We will have a training on this plan tomorrow morning. These guys did a great job.

We had a pre-construction conference for the Ussery Street Sewer Line project on the 11th. The contractor has been bringing in equipment and supplies for the line. The construction should not take very long as the line will be in a fairly open area.

City Manager Report (continued)

We got approval from the TWDB this last week in that the Environmental Assessment is finished and that there are no problems with the City-Wide Sewer line project. So, we can expect to see progress in the design and implementation of this project in the near future. No environmental impact.

The TPPA Annual Meeting is July 23 to July 26 and we will either cancel or move the meeting that is scheduled for July 25th.

The City Finance will not open until 10 a.m. on Wednesday June 1st because of a software upgrade. No payments of any kind (utility, fines, permits, etc.) will be accepted until after 10 a.m.

Consent Agenda Items: Approval of Minutes –April 25, 2022 Regular Meeting; Resolution 2022-18- Authorizing City Manager to write off uncollected utility accounts over 15 months delinquent; and Resolution 2022-19- Authorizing City Manager to write off uncollected library overdue fines over 15 months delinquent.

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

Consider selling a 24.35-acre tract of city owned land in the Daniel Farris Survey A-262, Montague County, Texas (Silver Lakes area)

Councilor Love moved, with a second from Councilor Bates, to approve selling the 24.35-acre tract of land. Motion carried with Councilors Bates, Hefley, Love, Post, and Shaw voting Aye. It was noted that an appraisal will be made on this property.

Report from Library Director Beth Hiatt on the Summer Reading Program.

Beth just returned from the TLA Conference where they learned about grants, programming, legislative issues, book banning and freedom to read. She said it was a great conference.

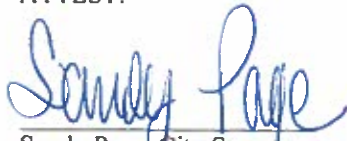
The Summer Reading Program's theme this year is "Oceans of Possibilities". It will run in June and July on Tuesdays at the Community Center 10 am and Thursdays at the Library 1 pm. The Tuesday programs are for ages 0-12 years, while the Teens are 12-17 years.

Public Comments

None

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

ATTEST:


Sandy Page, City Secretary


Gaylynn Burris, Mayor