

Regular City Council Meeting
July 11, 2022

STATE OF TEXAS
COUNTY OF MONTAGUE
CITY OF BOWIE

On this the 11th day of July, 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

July Jam will be July 30th.

Public Hearing:

2021 Annual Drinking Water Quality Consumer Confidence Report.

Mayor Burris opened the public hearing at 6:03 p.m.

There were no citizens comments or questions. The City retains its superior water rating. All contaminant levels are within safe parameters. The water loss audit shows 21,183,892.

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

City Manager Report

Cunningham spoke with Gary Miller, who is the BTU General Manager this past week and ask how our rates were holding since natural gas prices have been spiking. BTU has always had long term gas contracts and these gas contracts are long enough so that temporary price hikes do not affect our cost. In fact, he stated that even though they have bought some high dollar gas, they have been selling enough excess load to more than even out any price increases. His exact statement was "We are still in budget and we see no rate increases in the near future." This is great news considering some investor-owned utilities in Texas have experienced rate increases as much as 70%.

The Street Department has been busy paving several streets in town.

The Ussery Street Sewer Line project is nearing completion. All of the line has been laid and they are now finishing up the man holes and we will soon be ready to tie the line in. The construction crew, C&A, has done a good job of getting the job done correctly and finished on time and in budget.

We have received the Engineering Feasibility Report Approval letter from the TWDB which is basically permission for our engineering firm, Hayter Engineering, to begin the engineering design phase of the project.

I will have some highlights of the proposed budget for 2022-2023 to point out later in the meeting.

Councilor Shaw questioned the streets and how long they should last. Stony Lowrance said they should last 5 years. Shaw questioned what we could do the prolong the life.

Consent Agenda Items: Approval of Minutes –June 13, 2022 Regular Meeting; Resolution 2022-22- Authorizing City Manager to write off uncollected utility accounts over 15 months delinquent; and Resolution 2022-23- Authorizing City Manager to write off uncollected library overdue fines over 15 months delinquent.

Councilor Love moved, with a second from Councilor Bates, to approve the consent agenda items. Motion carried with Councilors Bates, 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.

Councilor Bates moved, with a second from Councilor Shaw, to table until next meeting and the City Manager research permit fees. Motion carried with Councilors Bates, Hefley, and Shaw voting Aye. Councilors Love and Post voted Nay.

Approve Hotel/Motel quarterly report.

Beginning Balance was \$139,441.99, Recorded activity \$70,051.88, Expenditures (\$22,578.18) which left a balance for the quarter of \$186,915.69. Councilor Hefley moved, with a second from Councilor Post, to approve the Hotel/Motel quarterly report. Motion carried with Councilors Bates, Hefley, Love, Post, and Shaw voting Aye.

Approve New Film Friendly Guidelines.

These guidelines follow a template prepared by the state that helps outline possible locations for filming of anything from movies to commercials as part of an economic development program.

Councilor Hefley moved, with a second from Councilor Post, to approve the New Film Friendly Guidelines. Motion carried with Councilors Bates, Hefley, Love, Post, and Shaw voting Aye.

Consider P&Z recommendation on request from Windol Robbins to replat Lot 2 & 3, Block 6, Revised North Park Subdivision. Creating Lot 3R, Revised North Park Subdivision, known as 1602 N. Mason Street.

Councilor Shaw 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.

Consider P&Z recommendation on request from Tonya Babilonia to replat 1.19 acres in the TE&L Survey No. 2857, A-785, Part of Lot 1 thru Lot 6, Block 1 & part of Lot 8 thru Lot 10, Block 2, E.W. Russey's Addition. Commonly known as 512 Jones Street. Creating Lot 1R, Block 1, E.W. Russey's Addition.

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

Montague County Tax Appraisal District:

a. Approve proposed 2023 Budget.

Councilor Hefley moved, with a second from Councilor Shaw, to approve the Montague County Tax Appraisal District 2023 Budget. Motion carried with Councilors Bates, Hefley, Love, Post, and Shaw voting Aye.

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 Bates, to approve Ordinance 2022-03. Motion carried with Councilors Bates, Hefley, Love, Post, and Shaw voting Aye.

Consider request for \$63,800 out of the infrastructure fund for Decatur St. water line.

There are 17 homes being served by this line and they have very low pressure and flow due to a corroded two-inch steel pipe slowing the flow. The project will install a six-inch line, which is now required by the state. It will be 1,420 feet with 17 taps and 3 new fire hydrants. Councilor Shaw moved, with a second from Councilor Bates, to approve \$63,800 be taken out of the infrastructure fund for the Decatur Street water line. Motion carried with Councilors Bates, Hefley, Love, Post, and Shaw voting Aye.

Presentation of Draft 2022/2023 City of Bowie Municipal Budget.

City Manager Cunningham presented the draft budget which is fully balanced if tax projections and revenue estimates hold. This budget proposal will be the first one to include sewer rate increases to accommodate the TWDB loan payments on the \$9.7 million loan for sewer line replacement of some 57,000 linear feet of aged line. It also has the recently implemented credit card fees for processing utility bill payments. There is a 3% salary increase which will be allocated by the department heads to their employees. The Utility fund revenues come in at \$12,005,050, with expenses estimated at \$11,516,160. General fund revenues come in at \$9,534,348, with expenses estimated at \$9,533,283.

Set Public Hearing on proposed budget for August 8, 2022.

Councilor Love moved, with a second from Councilor Post, to set the Public Hearing on proposed budget for August 8, 2022. Motion carried with Councilors Bates, Hefley, Love, Post, and Shaw voting Aye.

Councilor Love moved, with a second from Councilor Bates, to have a workshop for the budget on August 8th at 4:00 p.m. Motion carried with councilors Bates, Hefley, Love, Post, and Shaw voting Aye.

Public Comments

Bowie News will be celebrating their 100th Anniversary on July 15th at the Bowie News office. Everyone is invited to come by help them celebrate.

Mayor Burris called to go into Executive Session at 7:37 p.m.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Texas Government Code Section 551.072-Deliberations about real property and 551.071-Consultation with Attorney.

1. Discuss the 24.35 -acre tract of city owned land in the Daniel Farris Survey A-262, Montague County, Texas.

Mayor Burris closed Executive Session at 8:07 p.m.

Mayor Burris convened into Open Session at 8:08 p.m.

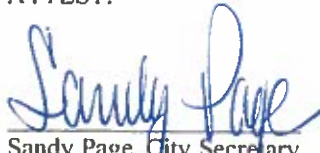
ACTION FOLLOWING EXECUTIVE SESSION: Texas Government Code Section 551.072-Deliberations about real property and 551.071-Consultation with Attorney.

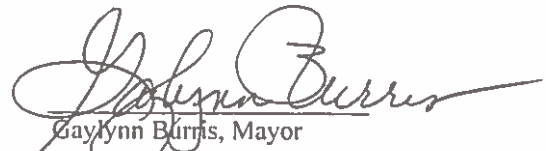
1. The 24.35 -acre tract of city owned land in the Daniel Farris Survey A-262, Montague County, Texas.

No action was taken.

Mayor Burris adjourned the regular meeting at 8:08 p.m.

ATTEST:


Sandy Page, City Secretary


Gaylynn Burris, Mayor