

Special City Council Meeting
July 19, 2021

STATE OF TEXAS
COUNTY OF MONTAGUE
CITY OF BOWIE

On this the 19th day of July, 2021, the council convened in a special meeting open to the public as advertised with four Councilors present. Councilors Bates and Gunter were absent.

Presiding: Mayor Burris
Councilors: Bell, Hefley, Higgins and Love
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

August 9th will be the next council meeting.

Chamber of Commerce Chair Affair was a success.

The City got signed up for the American Rescue Plan.

Honeywell Corporation will be doing an analysis on recommendations on saving the city money.

City Manager Report

None

Consent Agenda Items: Approval of Minutes –July 12, 2021 Regular Meeting; Resolution 2021-22- Authorizing City Manager to write off uncollected utility accounts over 15 months delinquent; and Resolution 2021-23 - Authorizing City Manager to write off uncollected library overdue fines over 15 months delinquent.

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

Second reading of Ordinance 2021-09 – An ordinance of the City Council of the City of Bowie, Texas ordering a Special and General Election to be held on the 2nd day of November, 2021, for the purpose of adopting or rejecting proposed amendments to the Bowie, Texas, Home Rule City Charter and selling Parkland known as Richwood Hills Lake Estates Park, concurrent with the General Election for City Council Members; authorizing the Montague County Elections Administrator to officially conduct the November 2, 2021 General and Special Election; setting forth council positions and terms; establishing regular and early voting places; and establishing an effective date.

Councilor Higgins moved, with a second from Councilor Love, to approve the second reading of Ordinance 2021-09. Motion carried with Councilors Bell, Hefley, Higgins and Love voting Aye.

Consider amending the City of Bowie Community Center Rules and Regulations. Section 16: alcohol Policy tabled from last meeting.

Councilor Bell moved, with a second from Councilor Love, to require a Texas Police Officer if the estimated attendance is 250 people. Motion carried with Councilors Bell and Love voting Aye. Councilors Hefley and Higgins voted Nay. Mayor Burris then broke the tie by voting Aye.

Consider Interlocal Agreement for 9-1-1 Public Safety Answering Point Services between Nortex Regional Planning Commission and the City of Bowie.

Councilor Higgins moved, with a second from Councilor Hefley, to approve the Interlocal Agreement for 9-1-1 Services. Motion carried with Councilors Bell, Hefley, Higgins and Love voting Aye.

Request from Waste Connections on garbage collection rate increase.

Councilor Bell moved, with a second from Councilor Love, to approve the request from Waste Connections on the garbage collection rate increase. Motion carried with Councilors Bell, Hefley, Higgins and Love voting Aye.

Public Comments

Trish Kosa spoke on concerns of the sale of Richwood Hills Park at Amon Carter Lake. Residents around that area would like to keep it. It is the only public beach on that side of the lake. She also complimented the flowers that have been put out in the downtown area.

Presentation of Draft 2021/2022 City of Bowie Municipal Budget.

Based on present figures and pending insurance, the budget may see a \$107,618 utility revenue surplus and about \$70,000 in the general fund. The budget proposal includes a three percent across the board pay increase and uses the present tax rate of .5447. There are no utility and tax rate increases budgeted at this time. Certified property values are projected to provide an additional \$115,788 in tax revenue based on the present rate. Finance Director Carrie Moore said the primary budget figure they are waiting on is for health insurance which is anticipating an increase. Due to the increase, Cunningham said the insurance was bid out to try and get better rates.

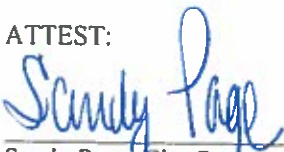
In capital expenses, department heads touched on the following equipment. A bucket truck for the electric department at \$268,000; a backhoe for the water department at \$120,000; two mowers in parks at \$40,630 and a swap-out in the vacator pump truck to a smaller unit at \$49,908. Cunningham said he talked with the city's financial advisor about the best options for financing the larger equipment. Interest rates are 1.85 to 1.9% which is "almost free money," said the manager. Adding up the bucket truck, backhoe and two mowers the payment would run about \$90,933 financed on a five-year term.

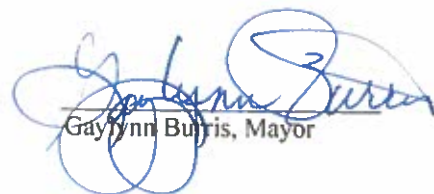
The budget includes one new part-time position in administration for the emergency operations center and one patrol position in the police department. Police Chief Guy Green said the officer requested is not a new position, as the department was previously budgeted for it, but several years ago due to budget constraints they lost one detective and one communication officer. He would like that cop position returned and moved to the night shift providing three officers on duty. The chief also asked to purchase four rifles to equip a new special operations team. He said while there is a rifle in each unit now, these would be assigned to each member of the unit allowing them to respond more quickly if they are off duty at the time and they "would be ready to go."

Fire Chief Doug Page asked the council to consider an additional amount for salaries in the fire department in order to get the salaries closer to the middle range offered in similar size departments. Page said based on the last salary survey in 2018 Bowie is at the "bottom of the pool" for salaries. "We train them and they are gone. We can't draw anyone. I requested \$673,329 which is up from last year's budgeted \$642,950, a 4.72% difference," said Page. The chief explained the department continues to have difficulty filling vacancies and they are using part-time to fill in. "We are losing paramedics and we've already lost our hospital. We don't want to lose them. The request equals about 34 cents more per hour, per employee," said Page. He noted an EMT makes about \$13 an hour and an EMT/paramedic \$14. There are 13 in the department. Cunningham told the council he would get some hard figures from the chief and bring them back for review.

Mayor Burris adjourned the regular meeting at 7:20 p.m.

ATTEST:


Sandy Page, City Secretary


Gaylynn Burris, Mayor