

Regular City Council Meeting
August 9, 2021

STATE OF TEXAS
COUNTY OF MONTAGUE
CITY OF BOWIE

On this the 9th day of August, 2021, the council convened in a regular meeting open to the public as advertised with five Councilors present. Councilor Bates was absent.

Presiding: Mayor Burris
Councilors: Bell, Gunter, 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 Fire Chief Doug Page.

Proclamation:

Jean Angove's 100th Birthday

Public Hearing:

1. 2021/2022 Municipal Budget

Mayor Burris opened the Public Hearing at 6:02 p.m.

Glenda Durham asked if a public copy of budget could be provided. City Manager Cunningham said yes.

Mayor Burris closed the Public Hearing at 6:05 p.m.

City Manager Report

I had a Teams Meeting with members of FEMA this past week. We are at somewhat of an impasse as to how much of our damage they are going to cover from the February Freeze Event. As you will remember I applied for \$1.3 million dollars and they have disallowed most of that request. I would guess based on my conversation with them that I probably worded the application in a way that made it easy for them to reject most of the items. They have offered two things that will allow us to collect \$81,000 now and they are offering to work with me on re-applying for the remainder of a lot of the items. They completely rejected the \$1.2 million request for our electric fuel bill, but there is a glimmer of hope that if we re-word our new application with their help, we might get more money from them. I talked to the person at FEMA that has been working with me today and they do not completely understand how we provide electric service to our citizens which makes the process harder to understand. We will see what happens in the near future.

Stony has made a deal with the paving company doing the paving on Pecan and Matthews Streets (FM 1816) to pave parts of Smythe Street where it crosses Pecan Street. They are going to pave up Smythe Street about 70 feet and down Smythe Street 56 feet or about 797 square yards. It will be milled down and paved with 2" of asphalt. This will insure that the intersection will be paved very well and last a long time. Sunmount Paving is also going to repair the pavement just down from McDonalds on Wise Street where we had the water leak a couple of weeks ago. We have to use the type of pavement they used on the resurfacing when Jaugo did the work, so this is an opportunity for us to not have to buy a large amount of asphalt for such a small job.

The Mayor, Jay Evans and I attended the Texas Public Power Assn. annual meeting July 26th, 27th and 28th. We attended several seminars about the electric utility from cybersecurity, to the operations of the PUC and ERCOT. It was the best TPPA meeting that I have attended because it is mostly about the contacts that are made in the meetings. We also had a great meeting with BTU which is always informative and full of useful information. We are very fortunate to have BTU as our wholesale supplier which was proven during the February Freeze. We fared much better than almost all of the electric utilities in the ERCOT system. There is still a lot of fallout from the freeze which now is mostly about new rules for generators and transmission companies. We will have new rules to operate by but not like the generators and transmission companies as they are mostly concerned with weatherization and operating procedures during bad summer and winter weather.

City Manager Report (continued)

I am beginning the process to apply for a FEMA BRIC grant and also beginning the process of doing a Mitigation Grant for some of the Infrastructure Money that the Biden administration is pushing through congress. I will apply for a grant to fix the creek from Hwy 59 to Patterson Street and for the Transformer at the Substation which were both in our Mitigation program.

Consent Agenda Items: Approval of Minutes –July 19, 2021 Special Meeting and Financial ending June, 2021.

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

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

Cunningham said the budget is balanced although they are still waiting to receive a final figure on health insurance. The General Fund capital expenses total \$559,344 and overall expenses are budgeted at \$8,660,692. Utility Fund capital expenses total \$770,436 with overall expenses coming in at \$9,568,281. Councilor Higgins moved to remove the paid position and benefits for the Emergency Management Coordinator and leave the position voluntary. Motion died for the lack of a second. Councilor Love moved, with a second from Councilor Bell to pass this budget. Motion carried with Councilors Bell, Gunter, Hefley, and Love voting Aye. Councilor Higgins abstained.

2021 Tax Rate:

a. Record vote of Proposal to Consider a Tax Rate.

Councilor Gunter moved, with a second from Councilor Hefley, to approve the tax rate of .5447. Motion carried with Councilors Bell, Gunter, Hefley, Higgins, and Love voting Aye.

b. Schedule public hearing for August 23, 2021.

Councilor Higgins moved, with a second from Councilor Bell, to set the tax public hearing for August 23, 2021. Motion carried with Councilors Bell, Gunter, Hefley, Higgins, and Love voting Aye.

Resolution 2021-24- A resolution of the City Council of the City of Bowie, Texas, approving a negotiated settlement between the Atmos Cities Steering Committee and Atmos Energy Corp., Mid-Tex Division regarding the company's 2021 Rate Review Mechanism filing; declaring existing rates to be unreasonable; adopting tariffs that reflect rate adjustments consistent with the negotiated settlement; finding the rates to be set by the attached settlement tariffs to be just and reasonable and in the public interest; approving an attached exhibit establishing a benchmark for pensions and retiree medical benefits; approving an attached exhibit regarding amortization of regulatory liability; requiring the company to reimburse ACSC's reasonable ratemaking expenses; determining that this resolution was passed in accordance with the requirements of the Texas Open Meetings Act; adopting a savings clause; declaring an effective date; and requiring delivery of this resolution to the company and the ACSC's legal counsel.

Councilor Love moved, with a second from Councilor Hefley, to approve Resolution 2021-24. Motion carried with Councilors Bell, Gunter, Hefley, Higgins and Love voting Aye.

Approve quarterly Hotel/Motel Report.

Mayor Burris presented the Hotel/Motel report with \$39,664.16 in receipts and \$29,714.36 in expenses. Burris said all expenses were stopped when covid shut down businesses and during the tornado. Hopefully things will begin to come back.

Councilor Hefley moved, with a second from Councilor Bell, to approve the quarterly Hotel/Motel report. Motion carried with Councilors Bell, Gunter, Hefley, Higgins and Love voting Aye.


Public Comments

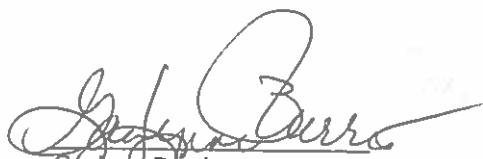
Glenda Durham addressed the council about concerns of hiring for the Emergency Coordinator position. Durham accused several city officials of making a "back-room" deal, which led to her removal from the council chambers.

Mildred McCraw thanked the city for honoring Jean Angove on her 100th birthday.

Mayor Burris adjourned the regular meeting at 6:46 p.m.

ATTEST:


Sandy Page, City Secretary


Gaylynn Burris, Mayor