

Regular City Council Meeting
September 25, 2023

STATE OF TEXAS
COUNTY OF MONTAGUE
CITY OF BOWIE

On this the 25th day of September, 2023, 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: Gunter, Love, Post, Shaw, and Sproles
City Secretary Page
City Manager Cunningham

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

Invocation

Invocation was given by Fire Chief Doug Page.

Proclamation

Mayor Burris presented a proclamation for Teachers' Day.

Items of Community Interest

Chicken and Bread Days will be October 7th.

Sip n Stroll will be October 6th.

Bowie Pro Rodeo is this weekend.

City Manager Report

We received information from TDEM that we were successful on the second phase of the FEMA grant for the generators for the Wastewater Plant, East Lift Station and three trailer mounted generators for powering lift stations. This means we can still provide sewer service when we lose power.

We were also awarded a solid waste grant from TCEQ through Nortex this last week. Our scoring on the grant was originally out of the running but the applications that did score well did not use all the available money, so we got funded for a 14 ft. dump trailer at the cost of \$15,350.00. We will be reimbursed by TCEQ after we buy the trailer.

I had previously told you about the Downtown Revitalization Grant which is in the \$350,000 range for doing sidewalk work, ADA work, and ADA handrails and additional lighting on Smythe Street. We got some pushback from the Texas Dept. of Agriculture about some of the curbs and gutters on the street and now the engineers are re-designing that portion of the plans. The improvements will include Smythe Street north to Wise and up to Tarrant Street. This grant includes repairing the brick streets.

I finished a new grant application for a grant called the Neighborhood Access and Equity Program (NAE). The grant is for rebuilding the bridges at Rock and Pillar Streets, Mill Street and Cooper Street. The amount of the application is \$3,250,000 which should be enough to do all three bridges. The grant can be a 100% paid grant which is what I am trying for, but it could also be a 20% match which would be \$650,000. If we are successful with the grant, we can also get a low interest loan from the TWDB to pay for our share if there is a match.

We were scheduled for construction to begin on the Nelson Street Bridge Project on October 9, but there is a snag. October 9th is a federal holiday-Columbus Day- so the bonds cannot be sold on that day. We will have to wait for our next scheduled meeting which is October 23rd.

I have been on the Board of Directors of the Association of Rural Communities in Texas for about a year. The targeted aim of this organization is to promote and protect the interests of Rural Communities and Rural Counties in Texas. Members of ARCIT are cities, counties, economic development corporations, and we now admit rural school districts. The ARCIT board has decided that we need to go around the state to provide one day educational opportunities for rural cities and rural counties. We had one in Hughes Springs in East Texas last week. We are also having one in Post, Texas in November and one in Sinton, Texas in February. Our annual meeting will be in Granbury on April 2nd, 3rd, and 4th. We have several sponsors that are paying for these events, which includes the venue and the lunch. I hope that some of the council will want to attend the annual meeting in Granbury in April.

Consent Agenda Items: Approval of Minutes –September 11, 2023 Regular Meeting; Resolution 2023-35 Authorizing City Manager to write off uncollected utility account receivables over 15 months delinquent; and Resolution 2023-36- Authorizing City Manager to write off uncollected library overdue fines over 15 months delinquent.

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

Second reading of Ordinance 2023-04 – An ordinance levying an annual ad valorem tax rate for the City of Bowie, Texas for the tax year 2023.

Councilor Shaw moved, with a second from Councilor Gunter, that the property tax rate be increased by the adoption of a tax rate of 0.5430, which is effectively a 0% increase in the tax rate. Motion carried with Councilors Love, Gunter, Post, Shaw, and Sproles voting Aye.

Ordinance 2023-05-An ordinance amending the adopted municipal budget for fiscal year 2022/2023 for specified funds, account and line-item designations; declaring all other appropriations of the budget document unchanged; instructing the city manager to make necessary revisions to the city's accounting records; declaring a severability clause; and providing for an effective date.

Councilor Post moved, with a second from Councilor Sproles, to approve Ordinance 2023-05. Motion carried with Councilors Gunter, Love, Post, Shaw, and Sproles voting Aye.

Approve Hotel/Motel report.

Councilor Sproles moved, with a second from Councilor Post, to approve the Hotel/Motel report. Motion failed with Councilors Love, Gunter, and Shaw voting Nay. Councilors Post and Sproles voted Aye.

Councilor Shaw moved, with a second from Councilor Gunter, to table until the next meeting and bring back expenditures list. Motion carried with Councilors Gunter, Love, and Shaw voting Aye. Councilors Post and Sproles voted Nay.

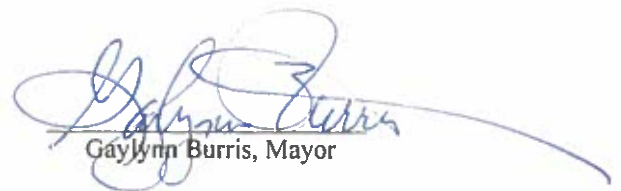
Public Comments

Colleen Crawford-Williams asked if as a community member are we educated on what we are spending Hotel/Motel Funds on. Mayor Burris replied that we spend mostly on advertising for things such as Jim Bowie Days and Bowie Sports Association. Activities that are not budgeted through the city that bring "Heads in Beds" is what the money can be spent on.

Mayor Burris adjourned the regular meeting at 6:25 p.m.

ATTEST:


Sandy Page, City Secretary


Gaylynn Burris, Mayor