

CITY OF WINONA
Regular City Council Meeting
520 Dallas St. Winona, TX
Tuesday, May 21st, 2024

MINUTES

On this 21st day of May 2024, the Winona City Council convened at the Community Center located at 520 Dallas St, Winona, Texas at 6:31 pm in a Regular City Council Meeting. The meeting was open to the public and the following were present:

Members Present: Mayor Rachel Moreno, Mayor Pro-Tem Dee Roden, Alderman Craig Attaway, Alderman Gary Fox, Alderman Laney Barnes

Members Absent: None

Guest Present: Craig McCollum, Sonny Hubbard (Piney Woods/ Live Oak), David Shechtman (TexSTAR)

A. CALL TO ORDER

FIRST ORDER OF BUSINESS

Roll Call. Public notice of this meeting has been given and a quorum is present.

B. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE & INVOCATION

At this time Mayor Rachel Moreno asked everyone to observe in the Pledge of Allegiance and Mayor Pro-Tem Dee Roden gave the invocation prayer.

C. VISITORS OPEN FORUM

David with Hilltop Securities spoke at this time regarding local government investment pools. Letting the council know about their services of government fund investing.

D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

1. Approval of Meeting minutes.

Minutes will be updated at the next meeting.

E. FINANCIALS:

1. Update of Financials

Financials updated. No questions asked at this meeting.

F. MONTHLY REPORTS OR UPDATES:

1. Utility Department

a) Monthly report: Glenn Trimble gave the water utility update on the loss and managers' report. Craig McCollum gave an update on the remaining utility department and updated on AEP-SWEPCO.

b) RRC audit report: Updated by Craig McCollum. The audit went decently, we only had 5 write-ups that are already being corrected.

2. Park/City Beautification

Updated by Alderman Dee Roden. Would like to get the Winona logo done in a metal sign to add to the outside of the pavilion, the baby swing has been ordered, order picnic tables.

3. Mayor Updates

a) Update on permits submitted for processing.

Three builders have pulled permits in Nolan Farms and have been approved.

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G. DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEMS:

- 1. Discussion and possible action to acknowledge the rate increase from Piney Woods Sanitation a.k.a Live Oak and to approve the increase to be passed on to the customers.**
Alderman Craig Attaway made the motion to accept the increase and to pass it through to the customers and seconded by Alderman Laney Barnes.
All in favor; none opposed. Motion carried unanimously.
- 2. Discussion and possible action to appoint an Alderman to the vacant seat for a 1yr term.**
Alderman Craig Attaway made the motion to appoint Gary Fox for the vacant seat for 1 year and seconded by Alderman Laney Barnes.
All in favor; none opposed. Motion carried unanimously.
- 3. Discussion and possible action on the designation of an official newspaper.**
Alderman Laney Barnes made the motion to keep Tyler Morning Telegraph and seconded by Alderman Gary Fox.
All in favor; none opposed. Motion carried unanimously.
- 4. Discussion and possible action on the designation of an official bank for the City of Winona.**
Mayor Pro-Tem Dee Roden made the motion to keep 1st National Bank of Hughs Springs and Southside Bank and seconded by Alderman Laney Barnes.
All in favor; none opposed. Motion carried unanimously.
- 5. Discussion and possible action on appointing the City Attorney.**
Alderman Laney Barnes made the motion to keep Blake Armstrong and seconded by Alderman Gary Fox.
All in favor; none opposed. Motion carried unanimously.
- 6. Discussion and possible action on appointing the City Judge.**
Mayor Pro-Tem Dee Roden made the motion to keep Curtis Wulf and seconded by Alderman Craig Attaway.
All in favor; none opposed. Motion carried unanimously.
- 7. Discussion and possible action to continue the use of Acker and Co as the city auditors.**
Alderman Gary Fox made the motion to keep using Acker and Co and seconded by Alderman Craig Attaway.
All in favor; none opposed. Motion carried unanimously.
- 8. Discussion and possible action on appointing someone to head the Park/City Beautification committee.**
Alderman Craig Attaway made the motion to appoint Mayor Pro-Tem Dee Roden and seconded by Alderman Laney Barnes.
All in favor; none opposed. Motion carried unanimously.

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9. Discussion and possible action to appoint the Mayor Pro-Tem. (1-yr term)

Alderman Gary Fox made the motion to table until next meeting and seconded by Alderman Laney Barnes.

All in favor; none opposed. Motion carried unanimously.

10. Discussion and possible action to adopt the Ordinance for the new gas rates.

Alderman Laney Barnes made the motion to accept the Ordinance and seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Dee Roden.

All in favor; none opposed. Motion carried unanimously.

11. Discussion and possible action to consider rate increases for the water, sewer, and gas.

Mayor Pro-Tem Dee Roden made the motion to increase the gas rates by \$0.50 on the base rate and increase the city cost up by \$0.0005 per cf (\$0.50 per Mcf), increase the water and sewer rates by \$0.25 to the base each and \$0.00025 per gallon (\$0.25 per 1000 gallons) to be effective on the July billing and seconded by Alderman Craig Attaway.

Three (3) in favor; one (1) opposed. Motion carried majority vote.

12. Discussion and possible action to consider rate structure change for commercial deposits.

Alderman Laney Barnes made the motion to table until next meeting and seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Dee Roden.

All in favor; none opposed. Motion carried unanimously.

13. Discussion and possible action to approve a new phone and tablet purchase for the mayor.

Alderman Gary Fox made the motion to approve the mayor to get a new phone and tablet and seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Dee Roden.

All in favor; none opposed. Motion carried unanimously.

14. Discussion and possible action to open another bank account for the funds not covered by the FDIC.

Mayor Pro-Tem Dee Roden made the motion to give the mayor the permission to gather further information and bring back to the council for approval and seconded by Alderman Gary Fox.

All in favor; none opposed. Motion carried unanimously.

15. Discussion and possible action to hire a part-time worker in the utility department.

Mayor Pro-Tem Dee Roden made the motion to hire one full-time worker and one part-time worker and seconded by Alderman Craig Attaway.

All in favor; none opposed. Motion carried unanimously.

16. Administering the Oath of Office to the new council members.

City Secretary Deana Powell administered the Statement of Officers and the Oath of Office to Mayor Rachel Moreno and Alderman Dee Roden and Alderman Gary Fox.

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H. EXECUTIVE SESSION:

The City Council reserves the right to convene into executive session at any time during the course of this meeting to discuss any of the matters listed above, as authorized by the Texas Open Meeting Act, Government Code, Section 551.071 (Consult with Attorney), 551.072 (Deliberations about Real Property), 551.073 (Deliberations about Gifts and Donations), 551.074 (Personal Matters), 551.076 (Deliberations about Security Devices), and 551.087 (Economic Development). This session is a closed session.

I. ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Pro-Tem Dee Roden made the motion to adjourn this meeting at 7:58 pm.

Seconded by Alderman Gary Fox.

All in favor; none opposed. Motion carried unanimously.

With no further business to come before the council, this meeting was adjourned.

Rachel Moreno, Mayor

Deana Powell, City Secretary