

**CITY OF WINONA**  
**Regular City Council Meeting**  
**520 Dallas St. Winona, TX**  
**Tuesday December 19<sup>th</sup>, 2023**

**MINUTES**

**On this 19<sup>th</sup> day of December 2023, the Winona City Council convened at the Community Center located at 520 Dallas St, Winona, Texas at 6:30 pm in a Regular City Council Meeting. The meeting was open to the public and the following were present:**

**Members Present:** Mayor Rachel Moreno, Alderman Craig Attaway, Alderman Gary Fox, Alderman Laney Barnes, Alderman Dee Roden, Alderman Pat Land

**Members Absent: None**

**Guest Present:** David Beck, Craig McCollum, Barbara L Bude, Ben Kirsee, Jim Lambeth, Kim Perez, Meme Thomson, Olga Salinas, Ronnie Pilcher, Rusty Smith, Fonteyn Beck, Linda Sandoval, Candace Dillon

**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 visitor David Beck gave the invocation prayer.

**C. VISITORS OPEN FORUM**

Fonteyn Beck spoke at this time on the vulnerability of Winona and asked the Council to address the need for a true city plan to protect the growth of Winona's future. Become proactive instead of reactive. David Beck spoke at this time about the development at 620 Dallas St (packet handed out) stated needing a legal opinion on development if it is admissible to proceed forward on this project. Thomas Banks spoke at this time to say that he is a new resident in Owentown and on 11/02 his gas services were cut off for non-payment. He is requesting the council to change the policy to at least notify customers of disconnects. Seeking a refund of late fees and reconnect fees. Lathen Pilcher spoke at this time regarding the development at 620 Dallas St. The roads will be private roads within the development. Winona is a poor community and can barely afford a 1200sqft home, much less the ability to build a 2-story home. Some lots inside the city really are not big enough to build 1200sqft. There were no other speakers after this closing out the visitor's open forum.

**D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

**1. Approval of November 21<sup>st</sup>, 2023, Regular Minute**

Alderman Laney Barnes made the motion to approve the November 21<sup>st</sup> minutes with the corrections to Mayor Pro-Tem Dee Roden from Alderman and seconded by Alderman Pat Land.

All in favor; none opposed. Motion carried unanimously.

**E. APPROVAL OF FINANCIALS:**

**1. Approval of Financials**

No Financials, Spoke with Mary today at the final stage of 2022 audit.

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**F. MONTHLY REPORTS OR UPDATES:**

**1. Utility Department**

a) **Monthly report:** Craig McCollum gave an update on the utility department. Owentown is booming, been busy all month. Installed 2 water meters and 3 gas meters this month, Glenn was out sick today so we will have this months updates with next months report.

**2. Park/City Beautification**

Updated by Alderman Dee Roden. Finished getting the Christmas decorations up. Poured the slab at the park for the pavilion.

**3. Mayor Updates**

a) **Update on permits submitted for processing.**

Solar Permits, generators came.

b) **Clean-up around town, Veterans tree, Office Closures**

Dumpsters at the maintenance barn for clean-up around town, Smith County Sheriff's Office will be delivering the presents to the veteran's home on Friday at 1pm. Need a Santa for this date and time.

**G. DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEMS:**

**1. Discussion and possible action on the tabled discussion to update Ordinance 221**

**Establishing Square Foot Minimum for single family homes to input verbiage to include offsite built homes/structures and to include verbiage to build upward if a lot is too small to fit a 1200sqft home/structure.**

Alderman Gary Fox made the motion to table until next meeting and seconded by Alderman Craig Attaway.

All in favor; none opposed. Motion carried unanimously.

**2. Discussion and possible action to pass by Resolution 2023-01 to terminate the Interlocal Agreement for Assessment and Collection of Tax with Smith County.**

Alderman Laney Barnes made the motion to approve Resolution 2023-01 and seconded by Alderman Craig Attaway.

All in favor; none opposed. Motion carried unanimously

**3. Discussion and possible action to pass by Resolution 2023-02 to require Smith County to assess and collect its taxes all as contemplated by Section 6.22(c) of the Texas Property Tax Code.**

Mayor Pro-Tem Dee Roden made the motion to approve Resolution 2023-02 and seconded by Alderman Laney Barnes.

All in favor; none opposed. Motion carried unanimously

**4. Discussion and possible action to adopt the current tax abatement policy as an incentive to continue economic development efforts in Winona and Smith County.**

Alderman Craig Attaway made the motion to adopt the policy and seconded by Alderman Laney Barnes.

All in favor; none opposed. Motion carried unanimously

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**5. Discussion and possible action to approve applying for a grant for comprehensive zoning and planning for the city.**

Alderman Pat Land made the motion to apply for the grant for comprehensive zoning and seconded by Alderman Laney Barnes.

All in favor; none opposed. Motion carried unanimously

**6. Discussion and possible action to for approval to buy playground equipment and build the pavilion at the park.**

Alderman Craig Attaway made the motion to approve to build the pavilion and add playground equipment as long as we have the funding and seconded by Alderman Pat Land.

All in favor; none opposed. Motion carried unanimously

**7. Discussion and possible action to adopt the same sound ordinance as Tyler, TX.**

Alderman Laney Barnes made the motion to leave our sound ordinance as it is and seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem.

All in favor; none opposed. Motion carried unanimously

**8. Discussion and possible action to add streetlights where needed around town.**

Mayor Pro-Tem Dee Roden made the motion to add where needed and seconded by Alderman Laney Barnes.

All in favor; none opposed. Motion carried unanimously

**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**

Alderman Laney Barnes made the motion to adjourn this meeting at 7:40 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.

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Rachel Moreno, Mayor

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Deana Powell, City Secretary