

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING

July 13, 2020

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mayor Ray Schultz  
Mayor Pro tem Sherrie Williams  
Councilwomen Kelly Ewing and Lori Shierry  
Councilmen Andy Payne  
Brad Wynn (by telephone)

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

PERSONNEL: Jerry Flemming, City Manager  
David Sherrill, Public Works Director  
Steve Davis, Chief of Police  
David Owen, Economic Development Director  
Jason Griffin, Parks and Recreation Director  
Lewis Skinner, Fire Chief  
Amie Schultz, Library Director  
David Mauldwin, Police Lieutenant  
Ethan Dishman, Police Officer  
Janice Newman, City Secretary

VISITORS: Dolores Hamilton

AGENDA ITEM NO. 1: Call to Order.

The Mayor called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 2: Invocation.

The City Manager gave the invocation.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 3: Recognition of Special Guest(s)/Action(s).

No individuals registered to participate in the citizens' input.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 4: Citizens' Input.

No individuals registered to participate in the citizens' input.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 5: General Consent.

A. Acceptance and Approval of the Minutes of the Regular City Council Meeting of June 22, 2020.

Motion was made by Councilwoman Williams and seconded by Councilman Payne accepting and approving the general consent agenda as presented. Motion carried with five ayes. (Unanimous)

AGENDA ITEM NO. 6:     Ordinance.

- A. An Ordinance of the City of Iowa Park, Texas Amending the Code of Ordinances at Section 2.02.008 (4) Reducing the Number of Hours an Animal Can be Tethered; and at Section 2.06.008 (1) Reducing the Distance From Any Building Being Occupied by Humans for the Keeping of Poultry, Fowl or Rabbits.

The Chief of Police briefed the Council on the proposed ordinance changes. He explained the proposed tethering requirements will be consistent with State regulations. The proposed distance requirements were requested by a local resident. Currently the distance between chicken coops and buildings being occupied are one hundred feet. The proposed ordinance would reduce that to fifty feet. Motion was made by Councilwoman Williams and seconded by Councilwoman Ewing approving and adopting Ordinance Number 1290 amending the Code of Ordinances at Section 2.02.008 (4) reducing the number of hours an animal can be tethered; and at Section 2.06.008 (1) reducing the distance from any building being occupied by humans for the keeping of poultry, fowl or rabbits. Motion carried with five ayes. (Unanimous)

AGENDA ITEM NO. 7:     City Manager's Report.

- A. Discuss and Consider an Encroachment Agreement With the Iowa Park Consolidated Independent School District to Allow Construction of the W.F. George Middle School on the East Park Avenue and North Texowa Street Rights-of-Way.

The City Manager explained the City has been approached by the Iowa Park CISD regarding a right-of-way that is on North Texowa. This right-of-way contains a new force main and another wastewater main that serves the North Texowa Lift Station. The school district is planning renovations and additions to the W.F. George Middle School. Their architectural firm has submitted plans and specifications that includes building over the right-of-way. City staff has not approved the project since there is not a formal right-of-way encroachment agreement. The City Attorney has prepared an encroachment agreement with input from both the City and school staff. This proposed ninety-nine year agreement will allow the school to encroach on the right-of-way and the City retains all rights to operate and maintain the public infrastructure on the right-of-way. Motion was made by Councilwoman Shierry and seconded by Councilman Payne approving an encroachment agreement with the Iowa Park Consolidated Independent School District to allow construction of the W.F. George Middle Scholl on the East Park Avenue and North Texowa Street rights-of-way. Motion carried with five ayes. (Unanimous)

- B. Discuss and Consider Staffing Levels at the Police Department.

The Chief of Police reminded Council that a full-time police officer position was frozen for the 2010/2011 budget year. That position has remained frozen. Currently there are eleven full-time police officers, including the Chief and Lieutenant positions. The department has been one short for several months due to illness. This has put a strain on the officers trying to cover all shifts. It was noted that from January 2020 through this past pay period, the Lieutenant has covered 572 hours working patrol while the Chief has covered twenty-four hours. Councilman Wynn stated he doesn't feel the City has a choice but to unfreeze that twelfth position during this fiscal year. Total start-up cost, including an additional vehicle is estimated at \$101,000.00. There was also discussion on adding a second police officer position. The Chief also explained that his department is wanting to go to twelve hour shifts. This would allow more time off and should result in less over-time pay. The U.S. Department of Labor allows for law enforcement personnel to work an eight-six hour two week pay period instead of a forty hour work week. The City Manager stated he has authorized the temporary transition to the twelve hour shift. Any long term change will result in a minor ordinance change for employee pay and benefits. It was the consensus of the Council to bring back actual costs of unfreezing the twelfth police officer position.

At this time, Councilman Wynn left the meeting.

C. Discuss and Consider an Unbudgeted Expenditure of Up to \$35 Thousand to Purchase a Heart Monitor for the Fire Department.

The Fire Chief explained that his department has two heart monitors. The oldest one, purchased in 1994, is inoperable and cannot be repaired. The newest one, purchased in 1998, has been experiencing problems. The manufacturer believes they have replacement parts but informed the Chief that effective December 31, 2020, the FDA will no longer recognize this monitor as a serviceable cardiac monitor. The Fire Chief received a quote from Stryker Medical for a new monitor in the amount of \$34,163.13. Motion was made by Councilman Payne and seconded by Councilwoman Williams approving the unbudgeted expenditure of up to \$35 thousand to purchase a heart monitor for the Fire Department. Motion carried with four ayes. (Unanimous)

D. Discuss and Consider Vehicle Allowances for the Fire Chief and Assistant Fire Chief.

The City Manager explained that in lieu of replacing the Fire Chief's vehicle during the next budget year, the Fire Chief has proposed a vehicle allowance for him and the Assistant Fire Chief. The Fire Chief asked the Council to consider a \$500.00 per month vehicle allowance for the Fire Chief and a \$250.00 per month vehicle allowance for the Assistant Fire Chief. Motion was made by Councilwoman Williams and seconded by Councilwoman Ewing to include \$6,000.00 vehicle allowance for the Fire Chief and \$3,000.00 vehicle allowance for the Assistant Fire Chief in the FY 2020/2021 budget. Motion carried with four ayes. (Unanimous)

E. Discuss and Consider the Proposed Strategic Plan for 2020.

Staff has included all items Council asked to be placed in the strategic plan. Motion was made by Councilwoman Williams and seconded by Councilwoman Ewing approving the proposed strategic plan for 2020. Motion carried with four ayes. (Unanimous)

F. Discuss and Consider the Local State of Disaster for Public Health Emergency Adopted by the City Council on March 23, 2020.

On March 20, 2020, the Mayor declared a local state of disaster and on March 23, 2020, the Council voted to extend the declaration until further notice. The City Manager briefed the Council on the latest information from the Wichita County Health Department. As of this date there are 507 active COVID-19 cases and five deaths reported in the County.

The meeting adjourned at 8:11 p.m.

PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED this 27<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2020.

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Mayor Ray Schultz

ATTEST:

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City Secretary Janice Newman