

CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
TUESDAY, MAY 14, 2019  
5:00 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mayor Kyle Kutch, Barbara Ray (outgoing), Dana Mizell (incoming), Joe Stephens, Thomas Cash, Kevin Hood

MEMBERS ABSENT: Greg Hulett

STAFF PRESENT: Charlie Smith, Jason Maxted, Brian Russell, Terry Roach, Billy Morgan, Peggy Williams, Randy Dodson, Tracey Fears, Stuart Johnson

GUESTS PRESENT: Stacy Anderson, Floyd Winco, Jim Bardwell, Selina Tabor, J.D. Shipp, M. Nealy, Brian Green, Bill McBride, Kevin Phillips, Robin Kelm, Elijah Anderson, Ricky Tow, Al Harrison, Bob Watson, Brian Wilkerson, Kelly Johnson, Greg Weaver

1. CALL TO ORDER – 5:03 p.m.
  - a. Invocation
  - b. Pledge of Allegiance
  
2. PRESENTATION to Dr. Barbara Ray, outgoing Councilmember Place 1  
  
Mayor Kutch presented Dr. Ray with a token of appreciation for her 14 years of service on the council.
  
3. OATH OF OFFICE for Dana Rawlings Mizell, Place 1; Joseph Stephens, Place 2; and Thomas Cash, Place 3  
  
Notary Public Peggy Williams administered the Oath of Office.
  
4. CONSIDERATION OF CONSENT AGENDA
  - a. City Council minutes for April 16, 2019
  - b. Resolution 2019-05 to suspend the effective date proposed by CenterPoint Energy Resources Corp., Beaumont/East Texas Division, to increase rates under the Gas Reliability Infrastructure Program for 45 days  
Councilmember Cash moved to approve, seconded by Councilmember Stephens. Carried 4-0.
  
5. CITIZEN COMMENTS
  - a. Kevin Phillips requested to be on the next agenda to discuss drainage at the intersection of Justin and Creekbend. He said the street floods and he asked for restitution this summer.

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b. Greg Weaver spoke regarding a home inspection that failed due to plumbing, fire alarm issues and other petty things.

c. J.D. Shipp, Mayor of Gladewater, along with Mayor Pro-tem Elijah Anderson, City Manager Ricky Tow and Inspector Al Harrison expressed appreciation to the City of White Oak for their assistance with the police department during a time when they were short-staffed.

6. CONSIDERATION of authorizing City Administrator to proceed with obtaining information regarding possible Sabine River pump station

City Administrator Charlie Smith stated our primary water source is Big Sandy Creek. We have experienced several line breaks in the past along that 15-mile stretch of pipeline and it costs about \$5,000 to repair each break. Our back-up water supply comes from the City of Longview. With the assistance of SPI Engineer Jeremy Buechter, he asked for authorization to explore the possibility of obtaining water from the Sabine River. He said it will not change the way our water is treated and there is no cost to investigate.

Councilmember Stephens moved to authorize, seconded by Councilmember Cash. Carried 4-0.

7. CONSIDERATION of local road assessment and repairs and funding for same

City Administrator Charlie Smith said he has asked SPI Engineer Jeremy Buechter to do a road assessment. He has come up with a prioritized list of 25 streets for an estimated cost of \$6.5 million. He said we have used Gregg County for some street work in the past, but we are at their mercy regarding time frame. Mr. Smith asked for authorization to move forward with cost estimates and funding options. He said he would like citizens to vote on it.

Councilmember Cash moved to authorize, seconded by Councilmember Hood. Carried 4-0.

8. CONSIDERATION of funding for White Oak Community Library

WOEDCO has funded the library for the past 3-4 years. WOEDCO has been very active in offering incentives and only has about \$260,000. The city is better able to support the library especially since we no longer have to pay \$90,000 per year for ambulance service.

Councilmember Hood moved for the city to take over funding for the library, seconded by Councilmember Mizell. Carried 4-0.

9. CONSIDERATION of variance to Sign Ordinance Section 70-153(k) by request of Shaun Baker for signs located at 101 W. U.S. Hwy 80

City Administrator Smith said he talked to TxDOT and found that Mr. Baker's permits are valid, but they do not supersede our ordinance. City Attorney Blake Armstrong also

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rendered an opinion that Mr. Baker's signs do not meet the billboard standards and are in violation of our sign ordinance.

Shaun Baker expressed disagreement with the attorney's opinion and argued that he was receiving unfair treatment and has been singled out.

Mayor Kutch stated the previous decision was to vote down the variance request, then subsequently he was allowed to keep the signs up until the contracts ran out. He said we have our attorney's opinion to go by. No action taken. Previous decision stands.

10. CONSIDERATION of Resolution 2019-06 authorizing WOEDCO to enter into an economic development performance agreement with White Oak Radiator Service, Inc.

Councilmember Stephens moved to approve, seconded by Councilmember Cash. Carried 4-0.

11. CONSIDERATION of Resolution 2019-07 authorizing WOEDCO to enter into an economic development performance agreement with Coffee-ology

Councilmember Cash moved to approve, seconded by Councilmember Stephens. Carried 4-0.

12. EXECUTIVE SESSION pursuant to Government Code §551.074 for the following;
- a) hiring a full-time Fire Chief
  - b) future Building Inspector position

The council recessed into executive session at 6:10 p.m.

13. RECONVENE into open session and take any action necessary regarding
- a) hiring a full-time Fire Chief
  - b) future Building Inspector position

The council reconvened into open session at 6:46 p.m. and took the following action;

- a) Councilmember Stephens moved to hire a full-time fire chief, seconded by Councilmember Mizell. Carried 4-0.
- b) Councilmember Hood moved to authorize City Administrator Smith to investigate future building inspector options. Motion seconded by Councilmember Cash. Carried 4-0.

14. CITY COORDINATOR REPORT

- a. Update on capital improvement projects
  - 1. Hwy 80 lift station pumps – Public Works Director Tracey Fears will talk with SPI Engineers to make sure the quotes we received are comparable.
- b. Administrative updates
  - 1. The White Oak Lions Club donated \$1,686 for dog park fencing and Anytime Fitness also donated some black fencing. We will be able to fence off a small and a large dog park area.

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15. ADJOURN

Councilmember Mizell moved to adjourn at 6:53 p.m., seconded by Councilmember Cash. Adjourned by consensus.

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Kyle Kutch, Mayor

Attest:

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Melba Haralson, Asst. City Manager/City Secretary