

Regular City Council Meeting  
March 14, 2022

STATE OF TEXAS  
COUNTY OF MONTAGUE  
CITY OF BOWIE

On this the 14th day of March, 2022, 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, Hefley, Love, Post and Shaw  
City Secretary Page  
City Manager Cunningham  
City Attorney Rotramble

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

#### **Invocation**

Invocation was given by Pastor John Little.

#### **Items of Community Interest**

The Community Center has Game Night the first Thursday of every month, and Monday night volleyball for ages 14 and up.

Second Monday will be April 8<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup>.

Check out the Community Center website or Facebook for upcoming concerts.

#### **City Manager Report**

We have been working on a Solid Waste Grant through NORTEX which will be for an incinerator for destroying evidence and drugs for the police department. The cost will run around \$5,500. The police department has been stockpiling evidence for several years and we can only destroy it by incineration leaving only ashes.

Also, a new grant that is coming out of the President's Infrastructure legislation is a grant called a RAISE grant. The grant is slanted toward repairing bridges and roads within an area like a city. The application will be for \$6,000,000 and we will try to rebuild all of the bridges in our local watershed creeks. We have engineering estimates from the past for rebuilding the bridges, but given time and price increases, we are asking for more than the engineer's estimate.

The workers are putting on a new roof at the hospital. At this time, we do not have any information when the ER might open, but progress is being made.

Jay, Kirk and I sat through a PUC workshop on requirements to have emergency operation plans in case of disasters. The plan should cover such emergencies as emergency operation plans in case of disasters. The plan should cover such emergencies as weather, load shed, pandemic and epidemic, wildfires, cybersecurity and physical security. MOU utilities have until June 1, this year to turn our plans in. This requirement came from Senate Bill 3 because of the February Freeze last year. It is one of several unfunded mandates put on us by the legislature.

We have a bid opening on the South Side Sewer Line project on March 31<sup>st</sup> at 1 p.m. We had the engineering on this project done a year ago but were delayed because we could not obtain an easement in a timely manner. The delay is going to cost the city about \$63,000 additional because of price increases in pipe, manholes and labor.

We are just about ready to present last year's audit. The finance director and I are meeting with Mathis, West, and Huffines auditors on Friday to discuss their findings and make any necessary adjustments.

We are meeting with Enterprise about our vehicle purchases for next year and will go over our list of current vehicles that need replacing and get this information ready for our budget process later in the summer.

Credit card fees will be talked about later on the agenda.

#### **Consent Agenda Items: Approval of Minutes –February 28, 2022 Regular Meeting.**

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

#### **Consider intent to proceed with Honeywell, tabled from last meeting.**

Councilor Gunter moved, with a second from Councilor Love, to not proceed with Honeywell. Motion carried with Councilors Gunter, Hefley, Love, Post, and Shaw voting Aye.

**Consider appointments/re-appointments to the Parks Board:**

**a. Janice Blahuta**

**b. Justin Hoffman**

**c. Margin Latham (re-appointment)**

**d. Dillon Steen**

Councilor Love moved, with a second from Councilor Post, to re-appoint Margin Latham to the Parks Board. Motion carried with Councilors Gunter, Hefley, Love, Post, and Shaw voting Aye.

Councilor Love moved, with a second from Councilor Post, to appoint Janice Blahuta to the Parks Board. Motion carried with Councilors Gunter, Hefley, Love, Post, and Shaw voting Aye.

Councilor Gunter moved, with a second from Councilor Hefley, to appoint Justin Hoffman to the Parks Board. After discussion of only having a 7-person board, councilor Hefley rescinded her motion as this would make it 8. The motion then died for a lack of a second.

Dillon Steen pulled his name from the list, so no vote was taken on him.

**Resolution 2022-12- A resolution of City of Bowie authorizing the filing of a grant application with the Nortex Regional Planning Commission for a regional solid waste grants program grant; authorizing Bert Cunningham, City Manager to act on behalf of City of Bowie in all matters related to the application; and pledging that if a grant is received City of Bowie will comply with the grant requirements of the Nortex Regional Planning Commission, The Texas Commission On Environmental Quality and the State of Texas.**

Councilor Love moved, with a second from Councilor Shaw, to approve Resolution 2022-12. Motion carried with Councilors Gunter, Hefley, Love, Post, and Shaw voting Aye.

**Request for \$72,000 out of the infrastructure fund for southside sewer project.**

Councilor Love moved, with a second from Councilor Shaw, to approve the request for \$72,000 out of the infrastructure fund for the southside sewer project. Motion carried with Councilors Gunter, Hefley, Love, Post, and Shaw voting Aye.

**Discussion of Credit Card Fees:**

**a. Change processor to "Certified Payments" or;**

**b. Ordinance 2022-01 – An ordinance of the City Council of the City of Bowie, Texas, authorizing the acceptance of payment of utility bill charges and fees by credit card; establishing a processing fee to be collected at the point of sale for the use of a credit card to pay utility bill charges and fees; providing for the collection of a service charge if, for any reason, a payment by credit card is not honored by the credit card company on which funds are drawn; providing a penalty clause, effective date; and providing for the publication of the caption hereof.**

At this time the city is looking at more than \$92,000 in credit card fees. Cunningham had originally prepared an ordinance, but has since found a company that handles the payment process, so he asked for additional time to research "Certified Payments".

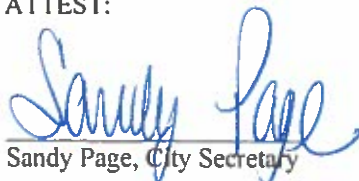
No action was taken on this item.

**Public Comments**

Dillon Steen said he pulled his application for Parks Board to focus on Beautify Our Bowie program. He hopes the Parks Board and Beautify Our Bowie can work together. He also agrees with the Credit Card fee.

Mayor Burris adjourned the regular meeting at 6:48 p.m.

ATTEST:

  
Sandy Page, City Secretary

  
Gaylynn Burris, Mayor