

STATE OF TEXAS
COUNTY OF MONTAGUE
CITY OF BOWIE

On this the 8th day of March, 2021, the council convened in a regular meeting open to the public as advertised with all Councilors present.

Presiding: Mayor Burris
Councilors: Bates, Bell, Gunter, Hefley, Higgins, and Love
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 Councilor Gunter.

ITEMS OF COMMUNITY INTEREST

2nd Monday was a success this past weekend.

The Community Center along with the Library will hold "The Story Walk in the Park" on 3-20-21 and will also be holding 2 concerts that have sold out.

CITY MANAGER REPORT

Rundown of the winter weather event from Sunday, February 14 to Friday, February 19.

Our electric system stayed up and running the whole time with just a few minor outages.

The water leak on Mill Street almost drained the water towers. Other water leaks added to the problems. As we were trying to recover from the Mill Street water leak, for some unknown reason we could not get enough water into the water plant to treat it. (It turned out later to be debris that had collected over the intake opening.) Our crews were out at the water plant trying to open a valve to allow water into the plant directly from the lake. In trying to open the valve, a nut was broken off of the valve and so the guys had to dig up the valve to try to get it open. It is my understanding that four of our crew were trying to open the valve with a large pipe wrench and could not budge it. So, they put the bucket of the backhoe on to the wrench and finally pushed the valve open. As we got plenty of raw water into the plant, we began to catch up from the leaks draining the towers. Because we lost pressure and volume from the leaks, we instituted a Boil Order that lasted for four days until we could get the water tested to make sure it was safe to drink. It took the combined efforts of all of our field crews to find and repair leaks all over town. As we got the major leaks repaired, we began to see a return to normal. But normal that week was filled with overtime for our crews fixing leaks, expenses that were directly related to the cold weather and turning off water from residences who had water leaks from frozen pipes. As all of you know, we opened up the community center for anyone who had lost power which was mostly folks from out in the county. I would like to thank all of the volunteers who helped with the staffing of the community center and especially Bonnie Kinder who coordinated everything at the center. Senator Drew Springer had water delivered to the center for us to give out to citizens during the boil order.

We are doing a survey to see if there is any help for local citizens who do not have water because of broken pipes. See our city Facebook page for details.

Last year we made application for the remaining \$226,028.00 of our Covid19 relief. We received the check this week. It took 6 months to get the check.

There are grants that we have registered for – one from TDEM and we qualified for a FEMA program that will help the city with our cost for the winter weather event. We are waiting to hear from TDEM and FEMA on how to apply for the grants. We have been collecting information and cost of the weather to the city. FEMA is also offering a program for our citizens who have uninsured losses from the weather event. We have been putting information out on our web site and Facebook page as well as the survey mentioned before.

I am getting emails from Texas Water Development Board and our loan for the sewer line replacement is scheduled to be presented to the Board in the April Board Meeting. They continue to ask for more information from our engineers and they have come up with the following schedule. Loan Closing, June 1, 2021 – Engineering Feasibility Report Completion (End of Planning Phase), June 27, 2021 – Design Phase Completion, April 2022 – Start of Construction, January 2023, - Completion of Construction, December 2026.

Consent Agenda Items: Approval of Minutes –February 8, 2021 Regular Meeting; Resolution 2021-06- Authorizing City Manager to write off uncollected utility accounts over 15 months delinquent; Resolution 2021-07 - Authorizing City Manager to write off uncollected library overdue fines over 15 months delinquent.

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

Appoint Board of Adjustment & Appeals Board member:

a. Bradley Earp.

Councilor Gunter moved, with a second from Councilor Bates, to approve Bradley Earp to the Board of Adjustments and Appeals. Motion carried with Councilors Bates, Bell, Gunter, Hefley, Higgins, and Love voting Aye.

Accept annual Racial Profiling Report by Police Chief Guy Green.

Councilor Higgins moved, with a second from Councilor Hefley, to approve the annual Racial Profiling Report. Motion carried with Councilors Bates, Bell, Gunter, Hefley, Higgins, and Love voting Aye.

Appointment to the Parks Board:

a. Randy West.

Councilor Gunter moved, with a second from Councilor Higgins, to approve Randy West to the Parks Board. Motion carried with Councilors Bates, Bell, Gunter, Hefley, Higgins, and Love voting Aye.

b. Rayford Pullen.

Councilor Bates moved, with a second from Councilor Hefley, to approve Rayford Pullen to the Parks Board. Motion carried with Councilors Bates, Bell, Gunter, Hefley, Higgins, and Love voting Aye.

c. Todd McMurray.

Councilor Higgins moved, with a second from Councilor Gunter, to approve Todd McMurray to the Parks Board. Motion carried with Councilors Bates, Bell, Gunter, Hefley, Higgins, and Love voting Aye.

d. Bill Enlow.

Councilor Love moved, with a second from Councilor Bell, to approve Bill Enlow to the Parks Board. Motion carried with Councilors Bates, Bell, Gunter, Hefley, Higgins, and Love voting Aye.

e. Janet Monkres.

Councilor Love moved, with a second from Councilor Hefley, to approve Janet Monkres to the Parks Board. Motion carried with Councilors Bates, Bell, Gunter, Hefley, Higgins, and Love voting Aye.

f. Margin Latham.

Councilor Love moved, with a second from Councilor Bates, to approve Margin Latham to the Parks Board. Motion carried with Councilors Bates, Bell, Gunter, Hefley, Higgins, and Love voting Aye.

g. Dillon Steen.

Councilor Bates moved, with a second from Councilor Higgins, to approve Dillon Steen to the Parks Board. Motion carried with Councilors Bates, Bell, Gunter, Hefley, Higgins, and Love voting Aye.

h. Brent Shaw.

Councilor Love moved, with a second from Councilor Gunter, to approve Brent Shaw to the Parks Board. Motion carried with Councilors Bates, Bell, Gunter, Hefley, Higgins, and Love voting Aye.

i. Laura Sproles.

Councilor Higgins moved, with a second from Councilor Hefley, to approve Laura Sproles to the Parks Board. Motion carried with Councilors Bates, Bell, Gunter, Hefley, Higgins, and Love voting Aye.

PUBLIC COMMENTS


Glenda Durham had questions on the Nelson and Lamb project. She questioned if the trenches will be paved? She has had citizens comment to her that the trenches went a short distance and stopped and so they are wondering if the trenches will be completed and also lined?

Another question was on City Boards. Do you have to live in city limits to be on boards? City Manager Cunningham said he will discuss this with her later as he cannot during public comments.

Mayor Burris adjourned the regular meeting at 6:25 p.m.

ATTEST:


Sandy Page, City Secretary


Gaylynn Burris, Mayor