

STATE OF TEXAS §
COUNTY OF RUNNELS §
CITY OF BALLINGER §

On the 16th day of October 2023, the Ballinger City Council meet in regular session at 5:30 p.m., in the Council Chamber of City Hall located at 700 Railroad Avenue with the following members present:

Dawni Seymore
Richard "Rick" Morrish
Ken Manley
Ryan Lange
Steve Gray

Mayor
Mayor Pro-Tem
Councilmember Place #1
Councilmember Place #3
Councilmember Place #4

Staff Present:

Blaine Ross
Sharon Hicks
Cord Bowman
Ray Cornutt

City Secretary/Interim City Manager
City Attorney
Public Works Director
Chief of Police

1. **Call meeting to Order:** Mayor Seymore called the meeting to order at 5:35 p.m.
2. **Prayer and Pledges:** Councilmember Lange gave the invocation and lead the pledges.
3. **Citizen Presentations for Items not on the Agenda:** Mr. Hardy expressed his concern about low hanging trees in roadways and bushes obstructing street views.
4. **Public Comment on Agenda Items other than a Public Hearing:** None
5. **Consent Agenda:**
 - a. Approve Minutes from the September 18th, 21st and 28th, 2023 City Council Meetings. Councilmember Gray made a motion to approve the minutes of all three meetings. Councilmember Manley seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.
6. **Regular Agenda Items for Discussion, Consideration and/or Action:**
 - a. Electricity Contract renewal. Bob Forman with Priority Power presented the council current rates for 12–36-month commitments. Councilmember Lange made a motion to approve a 36-month contract, starting July 1st, 2024, with Reliant Energy at a rate of \$0.06812, or the current rate on Wednesday, October 18th, 2023. Councilmember Gray seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.
 - b. Employee Health Insurance. James Pickett presented the council with options for switching from TXHB (TMLH) to Blue Cross Blue Shield direct. City Secretary Ross will canvass City Employees with options.

- c. Presentation by Kasey Coker with High Ground Economic Development Group. Kasey explained the group's economic benefits and participation information.
- d. Mark Turner. McShan Parking lot lease for BBQ trailer. Mr. Tuner did not attend. He has moved his trailer off the city property.
- e. City Park Board: Trunk or Treat, 10/31/2023, 6/8p.m.: consider request to close 8th Street between Hutchins and Railroad Ave. Carrie Flores made the request to council. Councilmember Gray made a motion to approve the road closure. Councilmember Lange seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.
- f. Park Board. Consider appointing Board Members. City Secretary Ross presented the council with names of Ballinger Citizens that would serve as Board Members.

Carrie Flores	Three-year term
Tony Flores	Three-year term
Jennifer Flores	Three-year term
Elaine Paske	Two-year term
Cheryl King	Two-year term

Councilmember Manley made a motion to approve the Board appointments.

Councilmember Morrish seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

- g. Agreement with BSD to use the bus barn for parking Fire Equipment during the winter months. Police Chief Cornutt stated that if council would allow to use city employees to help empty the space, BSID would allow the city to use the bus barn for fire equipment storage. Councilmember Lange made a motion to approve an Intergovernmental Agreement with BSID at the next council meeting. Councilmember Gray seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously. City Attorney Hicks will prepare the Agreement.
- h. Runnels County Tax Office. Approval of Tax Roll Balancing Sheet. City Secretary Ross presented the Balancing sheet to the council. Councilmember Lange made a motion to approve the Tax Roll Balancing Sheet. Councilmember Gray seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.
- i. Street Sweeper Disposition. Consider a purchase offer by B&J Sweeping and Striping, LLC. City Secretary Ross stated the offer is for \$150,000. As of 10/16/2023 the city owed \$177,883.00, a difference of \$27,883.00. The first annual payment of \$28,415.00 is due on January 19th, 2024. Councilmember Manley made a motion to approve the purchase offer. Councilmember Manley seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.
- j. Request from Misti Rose to forgive a City Lien on 1308 N 7th Street. The lien is for clearing the property after a house fire. If Ms. Rose would deed the property to the city, the lien would be forgiven. City Secretary Ross will research the deed. Item j. tabled.
- k. Resolution No. 2023-10-001 termination of the prior resolution regarding day-to-day oversight of the Police Department from City Manager back to City Council. Councilmember Lange made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2023-10-001. Councilmember Gray seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

7. City Manager's Report:

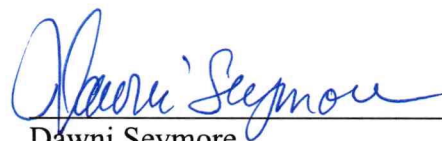
- a. Police Report for the Month of September 2023. Police Chief presented the monthly reports.
- b. Public Works Update. Streets, Wastewater, Water, Water Treatment Plant. Public Works Director Bowman reported on water mains and sewer repairs. The street department has dug a drainage ditch at 12th Street and East Ave to prevent flooding at the residence of 1201 East Ave.
- c. Ballistic Shield Grant. City Secretary Ross reported that this grant has been closed without completion due to missed deadlines by prior administration.
- d. Finance Report. City Secretary Ross reported that Mr. Martella suggested that any finance report would be too inaccurate to present due to unfinished audits dating back to FY2021.
- e. Update on Fiscal Year 2021 Audit. City Secretary Ross informed the Council that Tara Boiles with Condley and Associates had stated that this audit should be completed by the end of November 2023.

8. Executive Session: Council Adjourned into Executive Session at 7:15 p.m. pursuant to Texas Government Code.

- a. **Section 551.071 Consultation with the City Attorney.**
- b. **Section 551.072 Deliberations about Real Property.**
- c. **Section 551.074 Personnel Matters.**

9. Reconvene and take Action if needed from Executive Session: The City Council reconvened in open session at 8:22 p.m. Mayor Seymore stated that no votes or actions were taken.

10. Adjourn: Councilmember Maley made a motion to adjourn. Councilmember Gray seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 8:22 p.m.


Dawni Seymore
Mayor

ATTEST:


Blaine A. Ross
City Secretary