

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

On the 27th day of June 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	Mayor
Richard "Rick" Morrish	Mayor Pro-Tem
Ryan Lange	Councilmember Place #3
Steve Gray	Councilmember Place #4

Staff Present:

Blaine Ross	City Secretary
Sharon Hicks	City Attorney
Cord Bowman	Public Works Director
Ray Cornutt	Chief of Police

Absent:

Brian Frieda	City Manager
John Pierik	Assistant City Manager
Ken Manley	Councilmember Place #1

1. **Call meeting to Order:** Mayor Seymore call 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:** None
4. **Public Comment on Agenda Items other than a Public Hearing:** None
5. **Consent Agenda:** None
6. **Regular Agenda Items for Discussion, Consideration and/or Action:**
 - a. Budget and Finance. Attorney Hicks asked for this item to be moved to after the executive session.
 - b. Policing and Staffing Report from Police Chief Cornutt. New hire Officer Kristen New has resigned. Chief Cornutt stated that a fully staffed Police Department consists of 10 officers. Staff as of now totals 7 officers.
 - c. Consider engaging Texas First Group to provide financial services. Attorney Hicks asked for this item to be moved to after the executive session.

7. **Executive Session:** Council Adjourned into Executive Session at 5:50 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.**

8. **Reconvene and take Action if needed from Executive Session:** The council reconvened in open session at 6:23 p.m.
 - c. **Section 551.074 Personnel Matters.**
 - i. Accept Brian Frieda's retirement. Councilmember Lange made a motion to accept the retirement of Brian Frieda. Councilmember Gray seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.
 - ii. Attorney Hicks suggested to the council to consider naming City Secretary Blaine Ross as Interim City Manager. Councilmember Gray made the motion to approve City Secretary Ross as Interim City Manager. Councilmember Morrish seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

9. **Regular Agenda Items for Discussion, Consideration and/or Action:**
 - a. Update with Water Treatment Plant. Randy Everett explained that last year the Plant was treating the water at the lake with Sodium Permanganate for Manganese levels, which is typically high. Alert notifications were set to a level that did not trigger a low Manganese Level. Brown water started to appear in sections of the city, at which time the Sodium Permanganate feed was adjusted, and the brown water problem was solved. City Manager Frieda contacted engineers from eHT to address the issue. eHT suggested two options: Build a Floating Intake Pump Station, valued at \$1 million plus, or more closely monitor the levels, fix the Lake Pump #3 at the lake that was broken, at a cost of \$35,000 and automate the chemical feed at the Pump Station with a cost of \$20,000-\$30,000. City Manager Freida decided on the Floating Pump Station, with a contract price of \$1,718,514.80, and build the Chemical Injection Station with a contract price of \$214,314.90. Mr. Everett's opinion was to repair the broken Lake Pump, install the chemical feed at the Pump station and continue the project of the Chemical Injection Station to automate the treatment of Ivie's feed. Mayor Seymore asked counsel to investigate cancelling the Floating Pump Station Project. Mr. Everett talked about the SCADA system that operates the Water Treatment Plant. At one time a company called Trak-N-Trol was the supplier of that system. City Manager Frieda decided to switch to SitePro for that system.

10. **Executive Session:** Council Adjourned into Executive Session at 6:35 p.m. pursuant to Texas Government Code.
 - a. **Section 551.071 Consultation with the City Attorney.**

11. **Reconvene and take Action if needed from Executive Session:** The council reconvened in open session at 6:48 p.m.

12. Regular Agenda Items for Discussion, Consideration and/or Action:

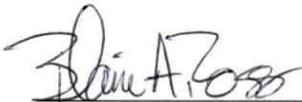
- a. Budget and Finance. The City Attorney asked the council give staff time to familiarize itself with the financial position and reports given the recent departure of Chief Financial Officer Pierik.
- b. Consider engaging Texas First Group to provide financial services. Councilmember Lange made a motion to contact Texas First Group to negotiate for financial services. Councilmember Gray seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

13. Adjourn: Councilmember Lange made a motion to adjourn at 6:51 p.m. Councilmember Gray seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.



Dawni Seymore
Mayor

ATTEST:



Blaine A. Ross
City Secretary