

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

On the 7th day of August 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
Ken Manley	Councilmember Place #1
Ryan Lange	Councilmember Place #3
Steve Gray – Arrived at 6:41 p.m. On item 6.f	Councilmember Place #4

Staff Present:

Blaine Ross	City Secretary/Interim City Manager
Lindsey Byler	Assistant City Secretary
Sharon Hicks	City Attorney
Cord Bowman	Public Works Director
David Brem	Water Treatment Plant Operator
Ray Cornutt	Chief of Police

- 1. Call meeting to Order:** Mayor Seymore call the meeting to order at 5:31 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:** Mayor Seymore asked the council to jump to item 6c. Park Board Circus Event April 2024. Elaine Paske asked the council for approval to have the circus event the first week of April 2024. Councilmember Lange made a motion to approve the circus event. Councilmember Manley seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.
- 5. Consent Agenda:**
 - Approve Minutes from the July 17th, 2023, City Council Meeting. Councilmember Manley made a motion to approve the July 17th, 2023, minutes. Councilmember Morrish seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.
- 6. Regular Agenda Items for Discussion, Consideration and/or Action:**
 - Presentation: Bob Forman with Priority Power, a 3rd party energy consultant, who has worked with the City of Ballinger since 2010, presented the council with options concerning the electric contract that is due for renewal in July of 2024. The council accepted Mr. Forman’s information with no action taken.

- b. Written Resolution: Calling for a General Election on November 7th, 2023 for the purpose of electing the Mayor, Councilmember Place #1 and Councilmember Place #2, approving the agreement to contract with Runnels County Election Office. City Secretary Ross stated the agreement of the contract had previously been approved and the estimated cost of the election would be between \$1500 and \$2000. City attorney Hicks stated the written resolution and Order are standard language each year as required by the state. Councilmember Lange made a motion to approve the election resolution. Councilmember Morrish seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.
- c. Oral resolution authorizing Acting City Manager to seek leasing terms for Peacemaker Computers for the Police Department. Acting City Manager Ross presented to the council an invoice for \$27,540.00, recently received from Peacemaker Technologies, for computers that were installed in police vehicles in February of 2023. Shane Rapp with Peacemaker Technologies offered two options for settlement. Pay the current invoice with 3 additional annual payments of \$27,540.00 for a total of \$110,160.00 or arrange a four-year lease totaling \$110,100.00 that would postpone the first payment until August of 2024. Councilmember Lange made a motion to allow for a lease agreement to be arranged with American National Leasing. Councilmember Manley seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.
- d. Consider hiring Bureau Veritas for Inspection Services. Acting City Manager Ross told the council that the City currently has no employee that is qualified to do inspections for permitted work within the city and Bureau Veritas is a full-service inspection company that could fill that void. Inspections are performed and charged on an as needed basis, and the fees would be passed on to the contractors. Attorney Hicks is reviewing the contract for termination clause. The council moved to item 6e, Budget and Financial update.

Returning back to consider hiring Bureau Veritas for Inspection Services. City Attorney Hicks reported the Bureau Veritas contract has a 30-day termination clause and upon review of a google search, Bureau Vistas has been used by several cities that Attorney Hicks represents, and the rates charged by Bureau Veritas has not changed since 2019. Mayor Seymore called for a motion to approve contracting with Bureau Veritas. Councilmember Manley made a motion to approve. Councilmember Morrish seconded the motion. Councilmember Lange opposed the motion. Mayor Seymore approved the motion to record approval, 3-1.

- e. Budget and Financial Update. Budget and Financial Update. Mayor Seymore called Doug Martella, GoVirtualCFO and introduced him to everyone present. Doug explained the Ad Valorem Tax Rate can be divided into two parts: Maintenance & Operations, and Interest & Sinking. The City currently does not utilize the I&S rate, which is designed to pay bond debt. The M&O portion of the Ad Valorem is limited to state laws and may be increased to a maximum of 3.5% over the no new revenue rate per year without triggering an election. The I&S rate has no restrictions as to