

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

On the 18th day of March 2024, 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	Councilmember Place #4

Staff Present:

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

Absent:

Randy Everett	Interim City Manager
David Brem	Public Utilities Director

- 1. Call meeting to Order:** Mayor Seymore called the meeting to order at 5:34 p.m.
- 2. Prayer and Pledges:** Councilmember Morrish gave the invocation and lead the pledges.
- 3. Citizen Presentations for Items not on the Agenda:**
- 4. Public Comment on Agenda Items other than a Public Hearing:** Citizen Chad Hardy encouraged the council to listen to the citizens in budget matters. Mr. Hardy also asked about the petition he had submitted to council concerning animal control complaints which have not been addressed.
- 5. Consent Agenda:**
 - Approve Minutes of the February 28, 2024 City Council Meeting. Councilmember Lange made a motion to approve the minutes of February 28, 2024. Councilmember Manley seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.
- 6. Regular Agenda Items for Discussion, Consideration and/or Action:**
 - Community Center Use by Non-Profits—consideration of fees. Secretary Ross submitted a preliminary report showing average daily expenditures on the Community Center to be \$55.00 per day, excluding cost of cleaning after an event and property and liability insurance. Councilmember Gray stated that nonprofits

should at least pay for cleaning costs. Mayor Seymore asked staff to update the daily costs to include cleaning costs and liability/property insurance.

- b. Consider new email addresses for the City Council and Mayor instead of @baltx.org email addresses. Secretary Ross asked the council to transition to an iCloud email addresses, resulting in a savings of \$1110.00 per year. Councilmember Gray asked if the iCloud email is capable of forwarding emails to other addresses. Councilmember Manley made a motion to approve the switch to iCloud email addresses. Councilmember Gray seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.
- c. Consider AEP Rate Increase and consider hiring Lloyd Gosselink law firm to intervene on the city's behalf. Attorney Hicks stated this is an ongoing request from AEP to increase rates. The Lloyd Gosselink law firm handles this request for cities as a group and encouraged the council to hire Gosselink to intervene on Ballinger's behalf. Councilmember Lange made a motion to approve the hiring of Gosselink. Councilmember Gray seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.
- d. Consider renewing FCC License, Call Sign KNJM309, currently expiring 05/31/2024. Secretary Ross informed the council that our license is up for renewal. Police Chief Cornutt is checking into details.
- e. Ordinance 2024-03-001 amending Ordinance 10-2-95 as it relates to the Board of Adjustment and its operations. Attorney Hicks stated the Board of Adjustment was created in 1995 and this amendment will bring the ordinance up to current compliance with state law. Councilmember Gray made a motion to approve ordinance 2024-03-001. Councilmember Manley seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.
- f. Mid-Year Fee Schedule Adjustments for Water Meters and Taps. Assistant City Secretary Gayoso asked the council to raise the fees for current water meter and tap installations, as the current fees currently do not cover costs. Councilmember Lange made a motion to approve the fee adjustments. Councilmember Gray seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.
- g. Consider adjustment of police department budget as it relates to salaries and positions. Police Chief Cornutt informed council that Officer Hurst has turned in his resignation, accepting a position with the county that pays more than his current salary. This now leaves the Ballinger Police force with four vacancies. Chief Cornutt asked council to suspend the freeze on the one officer's salary that was put in place during the fiscal year 2024 budget approval, using the funds to increase officer's salaries to retain the positions that are currently filled, and attract qualified applicants. Councilmember Lange made a motion to reallocate the frozen funds to current salaries. Councilmember Manley seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.