

MINUTES
REGULAR CALLED CITY COUNCIL MEETING
August 12, 2024

The City Council of the City of Jasper, Texas met on August 12, 2024, with the following members present to wit:

- Anderson M. Land, Jr..... Mayor/Absent
- Marcus Barber..... Council Member
- DeMarcus Holmes..... Council Member
- Ronald Sample..... Council Member
- Angel McCroskey..... Council Member
- Lequin Hilderbrand..... Council Member

- Greg Kelley..... Interim City Manager
- Liz Jarrell..... City Secretary

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Pro-Tem Angel McCroskey at 6:00pm and opened with prayer by Council Member Lequin Hilderbrand. All members were present to wit except Mayor Anderson Land.

Mayor Pro-Tem Angel McCroskey addressed the council to go over information in their binders regarding SRMPA and SETRPC. Mayor Pro-Tem McCroskey then asked for Departmental Reports. Susan Stover representing David J Waxman, Inc. gave an update on the current grant projects. The most recent is \$3,974,000.00 on a mitigation grant that was applied for two years ago and was finally processed by the general land office. These funds are for specific street and sewer improvements. The Sewer Improvement Grant through the Texas Department of Agriculture is in process and is scheduled to be completed by the end of the year. The 2016 Flood Grant for the Sandy Creek Drainage Improvement Grant is complete with a remaining balance of \$192,000.00. These remaining funds are on this agenda to rebid to make more improvements for Sandy Creek. The Mitigation Grant for the streets is the last active grant. This is a \$13,000,000.00 grant for the street updates we are seeing which are about 50% complete.

Mayor Pro-Tem Angel McCroskey then asked for public comments and there were three. Mr. Joseph Simmons spoke concerning Code Enforcement. Mr. Bowe Limbrick spoke concerning business opportunities. Mr. Keith Scott asked questions regarding issues he wanted to present.

Council Member Ronald Sample made a motion to approve two sets of minutes from July 8 and July 15, 2024. Council Member Marcus Barber seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Council Member Lequin Hilderbrand made a motion for the authorization to begin procurement for Texas Department of Agriculture CDBG funding for 2025-2026. Council Member Demarcus Holmes seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Council Member Ronald Sample made a motion for authorization to bid the final portion of the Sandy Creek Drainage improvements project under GLO Grant 19-076-047-B700. Seconded by Council Member Demarcus Holmes. Motion passed unanimously.

Council Member Demarcus Holmes made a motion to approve the committee's recommendation for grant administrator for the Resilient Communities Program Grant to be David J Waxman, Inc. Seconded by Council Member Ronald Sample. Motion passed unanimously.

Council Member Lequin Hilderbrand made a motion to approve a variance request for 410 Third St. to add a covered porch to the front of the house. Seconded by Council Member Demarcus Holmes. Building Official Jeremy Chesnutt explained the porch measurements do not interfere with the utility right of way. Motion passed unanimously.

Council Member Ronald Sample made a motion to approve payment for an invoice for I-14 Gulf Coast Strategic Highway Coalition for annual membership dues of \$1,250.00. Seconded by Council Member Lequin Hilderbrand. Motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Pro-Tem Angel McCroskey removed the item to discuss and amend the Library's Budget to replace the roof.

Council Member Lequin Hilderbrand made a motion to approve to study and analyze the use of an official City of Jasper Message Board for use by the Mayor, City Council Members, and City Staff only. Message boards are an avenue for all the appropriate city representatives to share comments and thoughts but are available for public viewing. Council Member Ronald Sample seconded the motion. Council Member Hilderbrand explained this is not subject to the open meetings act. Council Member Hilderbrand stated it is a great way to communicate without a quorum present. Mayor Pro-Tem Angel McCroskey explained many cities are using this form of communication, and it would be a great way to keep the city informed. Motion passed unanimously.

Council Member Lequin Hilderbrand made a motion to approve an item to be placed on every agenda prior to adjournment for open discussion for council members. Seconded by Council Member Demarcus Holmes. Council Member Lequin Hilderbrand explained this will give the council the opportunity to communicate about other items as well as previously stated if need be. Motion passed unanimously.

Council Member Demarcus Holmes made a motion to approve no names to be included on any agenda item unless requested, approved, or permitted by the person to be named. Seconded by Council Member Marcus Barber. Council Member Lequin Hilderbrand stated names on agendas are for ongoing projects, specific departments, and grants. Motion passed unanimously.

Council Member Demarcus Holmes made a motion to approve an agreement for the City of Jasper to give Scott Street back to the Scott family, and the Scott family would give easements for all utilities to the City of Jasper. Seconded by Council Member Marcus Barber. Council Member Lequin Hilderbrand stated all utility easements including maintenance and services must be protected by the city. Motion passed unanimously.

Council Member Ronald Sample made a motion to approve authorizing the Interim City Manager Greg Kelley to go out for proposals for a Forensic Audit Firm to be opened and chosen by the City Council. Seconded by Council Member Demarcus Holmes. Motion passed unanimously.

The council then went into executive session at 6:31pm to discuss personnel matters concerning the posting of the city manager position and the attorney. The council reconvened at 7:09pm. No action was taken, and the meeting was adjourned with no further business.



Anderson Land, Mayor

Attest:



Liz Jarrell, City Secretary