

CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Tuesday, March 9, 2021

The monthly meeting of the Paxton City Council was held on Tuesday, March 9, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. in the City Council Chambers.

Mayor Ingold called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Roll call showed the following aldermen in attendance: Cox, Evans, Geiken, Hoedebecke, Pacey, Satterlee, Wilson, and Withers. Also, in attendance were: Mayor Bill Ingold, Treasurer/Comptroller Tammy Jensen, ERS Director Ed Hanson, Police Chief Coy Cornett, and members of the audience and press.

The Mayor led the meeting in the recital of the Pledge of Allegiance.

MINUTES

Mayor Ingold asked if there were any changes, corrections or additions that needed made to the minutes from the February Council meeting. Alderman Withers made a motion to approve the minutes of the February Council meeting. Aldermen Geiken seconded the motion. All approved on a voice vote.

LIST OF CLAIMS

Alderman Withers made a motion to approve the lists of claims, except for the claims for EIEC and Dan Schuering. Alderman Pacey seconded the motion. Roll Call: ayes – Alderman Cox, Evans, Geiken, Hoedebecke, Pacey, Satterlee, Wilson, and Withers. Eight ayes, motion carried.

Alderman Pacey made a motion to approve EIEC bill. Alderman Satterlee seconded the motion. Roll Call: ayes – Alderman Cox, Evans, Geiken, Hoedebecke, Pacey, Satterlee, and Withers. Abstain – Wilson. Seven ayes, one abstain, motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT AND INVESTMENT REGISTER

The reports have been emailed to all Aldermen. Alderman Wilson made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report and Investment Register. Alderman Cox seconded the motion. All approved on a voice vote.

FINANCE/BUDGET

There were no committee meetings and nothing on the agenda.

The new railings at wastewater plant were paid for and installed. The new to us streetsweeper has been paid for and delivered.

Alderman Wilson will work with Treasurer/Comptroller Jensen to get clarification on the bill from the former TIF attorney.

There will be a meeting to close out all of the small business grants through DCEO. This will be held at 6:45 p.m., before April 13th City Council meeting.

PUBLIC WORKS

There were no committee meetings.

The mutual aid agreement with Bayles Lake was discussed. Rod Cardinal was in attendance at tonight's meeting to speak with the Council. Mark LeClair works with Bayles Lake and their water management. Mr. Cardinal is proposing a mutual aid agreement with the City of Paxton and Bayles Lake. If there are any major problem or catastrophes, they would then look at Paxton for additional help. This is not help for every day water issues, strictly emergencies. Mayor Ingold let the Council know that they did contact the City's insurance company regarding this agreement. The City has not heard back from them yet. A question was asked if mutual aid agreements were typically made between units of government and not private entities. Attorney Miller doesn't see any issue with the agreement as long as the insurance company has none. This item was tabled until April when the Council will have more information from the insurance company.

Alderman Geiken had some requests for publishing when the next brush pick up will be. Treasurer/Comptroller Jensen will get the website updated tomorrow with the new dates.

There was a water issue today, Assistant Public Works Director Carleton couldn't be here today, but provided an update on the Chestnut Street station lift. A rubber coating will be put on the panel to try to seal it up. One of the pumps was recently replaced, another pump is failing, but is being fixed.

PUBLIC SAFETY

There were no committee meetings and nothing on the agenda.

Chief Cornett talked about City Ordinances. They will be going out and talking to people about issues with their yard, etc.

Chief Cornett also informed the Council that they hired Conrad Powell as a part-time police officer.

The police department is participating in continuing education classes called On Target Solutions, and other courses regarding new laws going into effect.

ERS Director Ed Hanson gave an update on the siren test. All of them went off, but the one at Chestnut and Union. The siren company will be here to fix that siren.

CITY PROPERTY

There were no committee meetings and nothing on the agenda.

Alderman Evans let the Council know that the new building has been ordered. The overhead doors will be delayed in delivery. Work on the building should be starting in May.

The Tree Ordinance should be on the agenda for April for approval.

Mr. Mike Friend, with Farnsworth Group, gave a brief update of some of the work he, the Mayor, and City Employees have been doing. He especially complimented the housekeeping that our employees are doing in the wastewater plants. It's remarkable!

Mayor Ingold let the Council know that some storage areas have been cleaned up and inventoried.

LICENSE, PERMIT, ZONING & INSURANCE

There were no committee meetings.

There was continued discussion on the rezoning of property at 465 W. Orleans from R1 to R3. The developer wants to take the old school and turn it in to 5 residential apartment units. The anticipated start date is ASAP. The inside of the building will be completely redone. They will try to save as much historic architecture as possible. The building will be tuckpointed. Rent should be around \$800 – \$850 a month. Brad Eichelberger spoke and let the Council know that overwhelmingly at the Planning Commission, the community members did not want the apartment complex in the area and are against the rezoning. They have a great neighborhood and are concerned about changing the fabric of their neighborhood. There's a concern with over-congestion, especially at the park on the corner. There was a discussion on whether this zoning fits in with the new re-zoning project that is ongoing. There was discussion on the actual cost of the City potentially tearing this building down, if the City were to own this property. There was further discussion on this issue. Tabitha Eichelberger is concerned about bringing 5 more potential families to the park that is over-crowded. Traffic is also a huge issue. It's very congested and adding five more families is a concern. Maurice Saldean spoke and relayed his thoughts that the concerns of the immediate neighbors should hold weight with the Council. Alderman Satterlee made a motion to **APPROVE ORDINANCE 21-3 AN ORDINANCE GRANTING A CHANGE IN ZONING CLASSIFICATION TO ZONING ORINANCE NO. 88-30**. Alderman Hoedebecke seconded the motion. Roll Call: ayes – Alderman Cox, Geiken, Hoedebecke, Pacey, Satterlee, Wilson, and Withers. Nays – Evans. Seven ayes, one nay, motion carried. The developer reiterated his intention to be good neighbors and made sure that everyone knows that they will be there for any issues that come up.

There will be another License, Permit, Zoning, and Insurance Committee meeting on April 13th, 6:00 p.m.

COMMUNITY

There were no committee meetings and nothing on the agenda.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

There were no committee meetings and nothing on the agenda.

Alderman Geiken let the Council know that there's a new business coming to town, Euphoria Nails. They will have a six-chair nail salon and are hoping to open at the end of this month.

LONG TERM PLANNING

There were no committee meetings and nothing on the agenda.

OTHER

At 7:50 p.m. Alderman Withers made a motion to adjourn tonight's regular meeting of the Mayor and City Council. Alderman Cox seconded the motion. All approved on a voice vote.

Respectfully Submitted,

Gwen Smith
City Clerk