

CITY OF COOPER
CITY COUNCIL MEETING – REGULAR
JUNE 12, 2017 – 5:00 PM

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT: DARREN BRADY; MAYOR, DAVID PHILLIPS, E. J. CATES, ALLEN FOSTER, AND E. J. CATES

CITY ATTORNEY: CINDY BRADY STOOD IN FOR JAY GARRETT

OTHERS PRESENT: EMILY HOWSE, DELBERT HORTON, LARRY WILLIS, JOHN ROSS, DONNA THOMASON, BRENDA DONALDSON, AMANDA L'ESPERANCE, CARMEN CHESSHER, CHARLA SINGLETON, RICKY SMITH, JAMES JARRELL, CINDY ROLLER, AND JENNIFER DWYER

AGENDA ITEM #1

Mayor Darren Brady opened the meeting and Darren also voiced the prayer.

AGENDA ITEM #2

Willie "Bear" Wilkins made the motion to approve the minutes from the May 8, 2017 and the May 11, 2017 meetings as written. Allen foster seconded. E. J. Cates abstained. Vote carried.

AGENDA ITEM #3

On May 11, 2017 JOANN Preas, who had been a council member for 17 years, presented a letter of resignation. E. J. Cates made the motion to accept JOANN's resignation. David Phillips seconded. Vote unanimous.

AGENDA ITEM #4

Mayor Darren Brady presented to the council the three options of an unexpired term. Darren stated that the council could call for a special election, appoint a member, or leave the place open until the next regular election. Darren asked the council for direction. E. J. Cates stated that he nominated Donna Thomason, by acclamation, to fill the unexpired term left open due to the resignation of JOANN Preas. E. J. Cates made the motion to approve the nomination by acclamation of Donna Thomason to fill the unexpired term. David Phillips seconded. Vote unanimous.

AGENDA ITEM #5

Mayor Darren Brady gave the Statement of Officer to Donna Thomason. Darren also gave the Oath of Office to Donna Thomason.

AGENDA ITEM #6

Mayor Darren Brady presented to the council the possibility of the Delta County Sheriff's Department, with combined efforts of the City and County, of constructing a qualifying firing range on city property.

Sheriff Ricky Smith and Chief Deputy Charla Singleton were present to discuss the need for a site for commissioned peace officers to qualify their firearm abilities. Sheriff Smith stated that

the current qualifying site was no longer available. Sheriff Smith stated that he had previously discussed this matter with former Mayor Scotty Stegall. Sheriff Smith said that the best site would be at the City of Cooper Water Treatment Plant (WTP). Darren Braddy stated that Terry Palmer, Water Plant Superintendent, had contacted TCEQ regarding possible issues with this construction. There were no issues with TCEQ according to Terry Palmer. Sheriff Smith stated that a 30 feet long and 8 feet high berm needed to be constructed. Mayor Braddy stated that the city had an abundance of material at the dumpsite that could be used in this construction. Mayor Braddy also stated that the County Judge Jason Murray would allow the use of their equipment to transport the materials. Sheriff Smith stated that the Sheriff's Department would accept full liability of incidents that could possibly occur. Sheriff Smith also stated that there was no risk to the public. Cindy Braddy, standing in for Jay Garrett, stated that she saw possible issues with this matter. She stated that in her opinion this matter needed to be discussed with Jay Garrett. It was the consensus of the council to allow the construction of the qualifying firing range upon the approval of City Attorney Jay Garrett.

Donna Thomason made the motion to allow construction of the qualifying firing range for the commissioned peace officers upon the approval of Jay Garrett. Willie "Bear" Wilkins seconded. Vote unanimous.

AGENDA ITEM #7

Mayor Darren Braddy presented to the council the proposed zoning change for 151 E. Waco from residential (R1) to Light Commercial (LC). Darren stated that James Jarrell, head of the Zoning Commission, had previously met and it was the consensus of the Zoning Commission to allow this change. James Jarrell stated that a variance was the best way to rezone this property. This would allow the property to revert back to residential if the status of the property was nonconforming for two years. Willie "Bear" Wilkins made the motion to approve the zoning variance change of 151 E. Waco from R1 to LC. David Phillips seconded. Vote unanimous.

AGENDA ITEM #8

Mayor Darren Braddy presented to the council that the electric contract would expire June 2018. Darren stated that we were being bombarded with brokers and consultants trying to get our business. John Ross with Reliant Energy was present to discuss this matter. He presented a packet for the council's review. Darren asked the council if they would like him to search for better rates and possibly allow a broker or consultant to make recommendations on this matter. It was the consensus of the council for Mayor Braddy to find the best rates.

Donna Thomason made the motion to allow Mayor Braddy to solicit the best rates for the city. David Phillips seconded. Vote unanimous.

AGENDA ITEM #9

Mayor Darren Braddy presented to the council the TML Multistate IEBP rerate was at hand. Darren stated that there was a 20 % increase this year. Willie "Bear" Wilkins asked if the city had to provide insurance. Darren stated no but if no insurance was provided then an increase in salary would have to be made in order for employees to purchase insurance. Allen Foster asked if price shopping could be done. Darren stated that there was no time this year but it would be done before next rerate time. Allen Foster asked the term of the insurance contract. Emily

Howse stated that it was a yearly contract. TML Multistate IEBP presented four options in addition to the original proposed option. It was the consensus of the council to continue employee coverage by choosing the lowest cost option which made it a 14.11% increase. David Phillips made the motion to approve TML Multistate IEBP option #4 for employee coverage. E. J. Cates seconded. Vote unanimous.

AGENDA ITEM #10

The Delta County Appraisal District preliminary totals and preliminary budget were up for discussion. Mayor Darren Braddy stated that there looked to be some increases but nothing unusual. The preliminary values were a slight increase from last year. No action was needed. This was a discussion only.

AGENDA ITEM #11

Mayor Darren Braddy presented to the council that the public was inquiring about spraying for mosquitoes. Darren asked the council for their input. The council stated that they would like for Darren to look into the details for spraying. David Phillips made the motion get the details involved in spraying for mosquitoes. Allen Foster seconded. Vote unanimous.

AGENDA ITEM #12

Mayor Darren Braddy presented to the council the need to document employee benefits and retiree benefits which consist of no charge for water as long as the employee/retiree has service. No benefit is given if the employee/retiree does not have water service. Emily Howse stated that Margaret Eudy and Scotty Stegall were the only retirees receiving benefits. Emily stated that the retiree benefit began when Margaret retired and the city would need her assistance periodically. Cindy Braddy intervened that this benefit for employees and retirees needed to be accompanied by a 1099 as this was income. Darren stated that this matter would be discussed at a future date when City Attorney Jay Garrett could be present. E. J. Cates made the motion to table this matter until the next meeting. Willie "Bear" Wilkins seconded. Vote unanimous.

AGENDA ITEM #13

Monthly budget reports were reviewed. Darren stated that the sewer fund was struggling due to the previously lowered rate of TPWD Doctors Creek Unit. He stated that the residential rate was not increased at the time. Emily Howse stated that originally TPWD Doctors Creek Unit was paying a flat fee for sewer then a few years ago the rate was changed to a double charge for usage due to the fact that Doctors Creek Unit is not inside the city limits. No action needed.

AGENDA ITEM ADDENDUM ITEM

Delbert Horton with SURRMA presented to the council the option of the State Highway 24 Construction Project SIB loan previously discussed at the May 8, 2017 meeting. Delbert stated that the project was going to finish under original projected cost and the city had two options. Delbert stated that the city was in partnership with Lamar County and Lamar County wanted the consensus of The City of Cooper on what option they wanted. The city could continue to pay scheduled annual payments of \$10,430.27 and pay the loan off 8 years early or the city

could refinance the loan. Allen Foster made the motion to continue with the original payment schedule and pay the loan off early. Donna Thomason seconded. Vote unanimous.

AGENDA ITEM #14

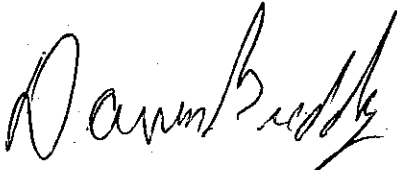
E. J. Cates made the motion to approve accounts payable. David Phillips seconded. Vote unanimous.

AGENDA ITEM # 15

Willie "Bear" Wilkins made the motion to adjourn. Donna Thomason seconded. Vote unanimous.

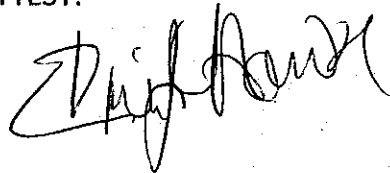
TIME: 6:10 PM

APPROVED:



DARREN BRADDY, MAYOR
CITY OF COOPER

ATTEST:



EMILY HOWSE
CITY SECRETARY