

CITY OF COOPER
CITY COUNCIL MEETING – REGULAR
AUGUST 14, 2023 – 5:00 PM

MEMBERS PRESENT: DARREN BRADDY; MAYOR, DAVID PHILLIPS, SCOTTY DEATHERAGE, LINDA BARNES,
DIANE STEGALL AND JOSH HOSKISON

CITY ATTORNEY: JAY GARRETT

OTHERS PRESENT: EMILY HOWSE, ASHLEY COLVIN, KAREN ATKINS, SUSAN RASER, MELISSA MILLARD, JOE
ADAMS VIA ZOOM AND AMANDA RILEY VIA ZOOM AMANDA RILEY JOINED IN PERSON AT 5:24 PM

AGENDA ITEM #1

Mayor Darren Braddy called the meeting to order and Darren also voiced the prayer.

AGENDA ITEM #2

No public comments were made.

AGENDA ITEM #3

Mayor Darren Braddy presented the council with the July 10, 2023 regular meeting minutes and the July 24, 2023 special budget work session minutes. Linda Barnes asked that the word “adamant” be struck from the minutes on agenda item #4 regarding the search for more cost-effective insurance rates. Linda stated that this was an adjective and words describing feelings should not be used in the minutes. Mayor Darren Braddy asked if the removal was because it was an adjective. Diane Stegall stated that it was negative. Emily Howse asked what word needed to be used. Diane Stegall stated “suggested”. Diane Stegall made the motion to approve the July 10, 2023 regular meeting minutes with the removal of the word adamant in agenda item #4 and replacing it with suggested and the July 24 special budget work session minutes as written. Josh Hoskison seconded. Vote unanimous.

AGENDA ITEM #4

Mayor Darren Braddy presented to the council Ordinance #01-08-23 increasing the water rates from \$23.35 minimum and \$5.00 per thousand over minimum to \$25.00 minimum and \$7.00 per thousand over minimum, sewer rates from \$18.00 minimum and \$6.00 per thousand over minimum to \$20.00 minimum and \$8.00 per thousand over minimum, and water tap fees from \$750.00 to \$1,500.00. It was the consensus of the council to approve this ordinance.

Josh Hoskison made the motion to read Ordinance #01-08-23 by caption. David Phillips seconded. Vote unanimous. City Attorney, Jay Garrett, read:

ORDINANCE # 01-08-23

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION I - GENERAL, SUBSECTION 2 APPLICATION AND FEE FOR WATER AND SEWER TAPS, (a) STANDARD TAP FEE AND SECTION II – SERVICE CHARGES, SUBSECTION 2 WATER RATES, (a), (b), AND SECTION III – SEWER RATES FOR CUSTOMERS USING CITY WATER, (a 1), WHICH REGULATES WATER AND SEWER CHARGES AND ESTABLISHES WATER AND SEWER SERVICE CHARGES; PROVIDING FOR PENALTIES AND VIOLATIONS; PROVIDING A SEVERANCE CLAUSE; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Josh Hoskison made the motion to approve Ordinance #01-08-23. David Phillips seconded. Vote unanimous.

AGENDA ITEM #5

Mayor Darren Braddy presented Resolution #01-08-23 increasing the sewer rates. David Phillips made the motion to read Resolution #01-08-23 by caption. Diane Stegall seconded. Vote unanimous. City Attorney, Jay Garrett, read:

RESOLUTION #01-08-23

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COOPER, TEXAS ESTABLISHING THE SEWER RATES TO BE CHARGED FOR RESIDENTIAL AND COMMERCIAL USERS; AND DECLARING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

David Phillips made the motion to approve Resolution #01-08-23 increasing the sewer rates. Diane Stegall seconded. Vote unanimous.

AGENDA ITEM #6

Mayor Darren Braddy presented Resolution #02-08-23 increasing the water rates. Diane Stegall made the motion to read Resolution #02-08-23 by caption. Josh Hoskison seconded. Vote unanimous. City Attorney, Jay Garrett, read:

RESOLUTION #02-08-23

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COOPER, TEXAS ESTABLISHING THE WATER RATES TO BE CHARGED FOR RESIDENTIAL AND COMMERCIAL USERS; AND DECLARING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Josh Hoskison made the motion to approve Resolution #02-08-23 increasing the water rates. Scotty Deatherage seconded. Vote unanimous.

AGENDA ITEM #7

Mayor Darren Braddy presented to the council that the previously approved joint election agreement with the City, Cooper ISD and Delta County MUD, stating cost sharing details and voting location details, was ready for signatures.

Diane Stegall made the motion to approve the joint election agreement with the City, Cooper ISD and Delta County MUD. Linda Barnes seconded. Vote unanimous.

AGENDA ITEM #8

Mayor Darren Braddy presented to the council the bank depository was at hand for discussion. Darren stated that the two local banks had been solicited but only First National Bank had delivered a proposal. Darren Braddy asked City Attorney, Jay Garrett, if Josh Hoskison should abstain due to the fact that his wife worked at First National Bank. City attorney stated that as long as his wife did not own over 10% of the bank then he could vote on this item. Diane Stegall made the motion to approve the First National Bank depository bid for a two-year term. Scotty Deatherage seconded. Linda Barnes abstained from voting. Vote to accept the one and only bid carried.

AGENDA ITEM #9

Mayor Darren Braddy presented to the council the audit engagement letter from McClanahan & Holmes LLP. Darren stated that McClanahan & Holmes' rate was slightly higher than last year.

Diane Stegall made the motion to approve the audit engagement letter from McClanahan & Holmes LLP as presented. Scotty Deatherage seconded. Vote unanimous.

AGENDA ITEM #10

Mayor Darren Braddy presented to the council that preparation of an incentive agreement for the sale of 550 S.E. 5th which is owned by the city was at hand. Darren stated that City Attorney, Jay Garrett, had prepared a draft policy to be reviewed by the council for implementation into future sale of properties owned by the city.

Diane Stegall made the motion to table this item until a later date. David Phillips seconded. Vote unanimous.

AGENDA ITEM #11

Mayor Darren Braddy presented to the council that preparation of an incentive agreement for the sale of 110 S.W. 1st which is owned by the city was at hand. Darren stated that City Attorney, Jay Garrett, had prepared a draft policy to be reviewed by the council for implementation into future sale of properties owned by the city.

Diane Stegall made the motion to table this item until a later date. David Phillips seconded. Vote unanimous.

AGENDA ITEM #12

Mayor Darren Braddy presented to the council that the upcoming tax rate was at hand. Mayor Darren Braddy stated that the proposed budget was created using the no new revenue rate of 0.663692. After much discussion on this matter, it was the consensus of the council to approve the no new revenue tax rate of 0.663692 to be published as the proposed tax rate.

Diane Stegall made the motion to approve the no new revenue tax rate of 0.663692. Scotty Deatherage seconded. Vote unanimous.

AGENDA ITEM #13

Mayor Darren Braddy presented to the council that the proposed 2023-2024 budget was back on the table for discussion. There was much discussion on items within the budget. Diane Stegall stated that the full-time code enforcer position within the budget was a concern. Diane stated that with the code enforcer position listed as a full time in the budget went against the wish of the council for this to be a part time position. Mayor Darren Braddy stated that it was put in the budget as full time because he didn't think that a part time position would produce an eligible candidate. Mayor Braddy also stated that just because it was budgeted as full time did not mean that a full-time position would be offered. Linda Barnes stated that last year she was not on the council but she was at the meeting when the part time office position was discussed. Linda stated that, as the code enforcer position status is now, the council only agreed to approve a part time office position but the council was forced to hire them full time because it was in the budget as full time. Mayor Darren Braddy stated that the council has the authority to approve or disapprove any item that is presented to be in the budget and the full-time office position was discussed openly in council meetings. Linda Barnes stated that all she wanted was clarity. Diane Stegall and Linda Barnes both state that the code enforcement position needs to be part time. Mayor Darren Braddy stated that he would solicit a part time code enforcer but he did not think anyone would want to do this part time.

Diane Stegall made the motion to table the 2023-2024 budget to be again discussed at the September 11, 2023 meeting. Josh Hoskison seconded. Vote unanimous.

AGENDA ITEM #14

Mayor Darren Braddy presented to the council the request for funds in the amount of \$150.00 for the use of the CISD facility for the play that was presented at the school. Mayor Darren Braddy also presented the air conditioner repair proposal of \$9,500.00 for the McKinney House. Mayor Darren

Braddy stated that he is still waiting on more repair proposals that have not been presented as of yet. Josh Hoskison made the motion to approve the requested funds in the amount of \$150.00. Linda Barnes seconded. Vote unanimous.

AGENDA ITEM #15

Mayor Darren Braddy updated the council on city status and current events.

AGENDA ITEM #16

Monthly budget reports were reviewed.

AGENDA ITEM #17

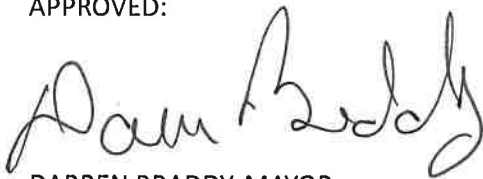
Accounts payable were reviewed.

AGENDA ITEM #18

Linda Barnes made the motion to adjourn. Josh Hoskison seconded. Vote unanimous.

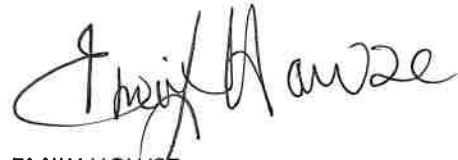
TIME: 6:20 PM

APPROVED:



DARREN BRADDY, MAYOR
CITY OF COOPER

ATTEST:



EMILY HOWSE
CITY SECRETARY