

CITY OF COOPER  
CITY COUNCIL MINUTES – REGULAR  
FRBRUARY 10, 2020 5:00 PM

MEMBERS PRESENT: DARREN BRADY; MAYOR, DAVID PHILLIPS, AMANDA L'ESPERANCE,  
DONNA THOMASON, AND WILLIE "BEAR" WILKINS

CITY ATTORNEY: JAY GARRET

OTHERS PRESENT: EMILY HOWSE, KASEY BRITTON, KAREN ATKINS, SUSAN RASER, SHAUNA  
HOLLOWAY, JEFF HOLLOWAY, KIM COX, LINDA M. MCMAHON, JOE ADAMS, DIANE STEGALL,  
AND JIM BUTLER

ABSENT: ALLEN FOSTER

AGENDA ITEM #1

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

AGENDA TIEM #2

Donna Thomason made the motion to approve the January 13, 2020 minutes as written.  
Amanda L'Esperance seconded. Vote unanimous.

AGENDA ITEM #3

Willie "Bear" Wilkins made the motion to order the election, to elect three council members,  
for Saturday May 3, 2020. David Phillips seconded. Vote unanimous.

AGENDA ITEM #4

David Phillips made the motion to appoint Charlie Steward as election judge, Misty Bates as  
early voting clerk and Betty Holcomb and Ann Ford as alternate judges. These members will  
also make up the early voting ballot board. Donna Thomason seconded. Vote unanimous.

AGENDA ITEM #5

Willie "Bear" Wilkins made the motion to set Monday April 20, 2020 and Tuesday April28, 2020  
as the two twelve hour early voting days. Donna Thomason seconded. Vote unanimous.

AGENDA ITEM #6

Mayor Darren Braddy announced that the drawing to determine the order in which the names  
of the candidates will appear on the ballot would be held on Monday February 24, 2020 at 9:00  
AM at City Hall.

AGENDA ITEM #7

The item of Second Amendment Rights was again on the table for discussion. As stated in the  
January 13, 2020 meeting, some members of the council see the need to try and protect the  
constitutional rights of citizens in the event of the Federal Government passing mandates to

confiscate privately owned arms. As stated also in the previous meeting, this action is a mute point due to the fact that the city does not have their own law enforcement and the city does not govern the County Law Enforcement. It was the consensus of the council to wait and see what the county does on this matter. City Attorney, Jay Garrett, stated that he could prepare a proclamation stating the views of the council in support of the Second Amendment Rights of citizens.

Donna Thomason made the motion to direct, City Attorney, Jay Garrett to prepare a proclamation in support of the constitutional rights of citizens under the Second Amendment. Amanda L'Esperance seconded. Vote unanimous.

#### AGENDA ITEM #8

The 3006/3007 signage posted on City Hall was again on the table for discussion. As discussed in the January 3, 2020 meeting, the state's decision to allow each entity the right to decide whether or not to allow gun carry (concealed or open) was at hand. After much discussion on the signage itself and the need to amend the verbiage to suite the decision of the council, it was the consensus of the council to allow anyone to carry a gun (concealed or open) in council meetings.

Amanda L'Esperance made the motion to allow open or concealed carry of guns in council meetings. David Phillips seconded. David Phillips, Amanda L'Esperance, and Willie "Bear" Wilkins voted Yay. Donna Thomason voted Nay. The Yay vote carried.

#### AGENDA ITEM #9

Amending the animal ordinance was on the table for discussion. Mayor Braddy stated that, in his opinion, the allowing of livestock inside the city should be removed. After much discussion on this matter, it was the consensus of the council to make no changes to the animal ordinance at this time.

Donna Thomason made the motion to make no changes to the animal ordinance. Amanda L'Esperance seconded. David Phillips, Amanda L'Esperance and Donna Thomason votes Yay. Willie "Bear" Wilkins voted Nay. The Yay vote carried.

#### AGENDA ITEM #10

David Phillips made the motion to appoint Cynthia Steward and Regina White to a two-year term on the Cooper Housing Authority Board which will expire in January 2022 and Bill Martin who is filling an unexpired term, vacated by Carolyn Irvin, which will expire in January 2021. Donna Thomason seconded. Vote unanimous.

#### AGENDA ITEM #11

Willie "Bear" Wilkins made the motion to set April 11, 2020 through April 18, 2020 as clean up week #1 and September 5, 2020 through September 12, 2020 as clean up week #2. David Phillips seconded. Vote unanimous.

**AGENDA ITEM #12**

Mayor Darren Braddy stated that himself, the Council and City Attorney Jay Garrett would convene in executive session, at 5:45 PM, to discuss:

- A. Trey Oats structure on city-owned property
- B. Derrick Roberts ordinance violation
- C. Interlocal agreement on tax sale properties for economic development.

At 6:01 PM the Mayor, Council and City Attorney reconvened in regular session.

David Phillips made the motion to

- A. Direct City Attorney Jay Garrett to begin the proceedings to remove the structure that Trey Oats put on city property. Amanda L'Esperance seconded. Vote unanimous.
- B. Donna Thomason made the motion to remove the fence that Derrick Roberts built in violation of city ordinance. Amanda L'Esperance seconded. Vote unanimous.
- C. Donna Thomason made the motion to direct City Attorney Jay Garrett to prepare the interlocal agreement for tax sale properties for economic development. Amanda L'Esperance seconded. Vote unanimous.

**AGENDA ITEM #14**

Mayor Darren Braddy updated the council on maintenance projects.

**AGENDA ITEM #15**

Monthly budget reports were reviewed.

**AGENDA ITEM #16**

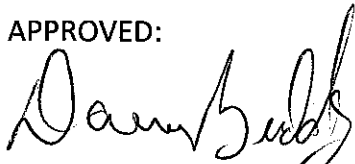
Willie "Bear" Wilkins made the motion to approve accounts payable.

**AGENDA ITEM #17**

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

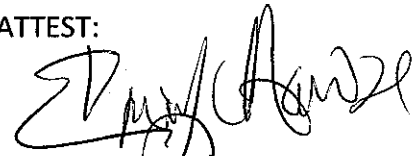
TIME: 6:15 PM

APPROVED:



DARREN BRADDY, MAYOR  
CITY OF COOPER

ATTEST:



EMILY HOWSE  
CITY SECRETARY