

CITY OF COOPER
CITY COUNCIL MEETING – PUBLIC HEARING AND REGULAR MEETING
FEBRUARY 13, 2023 – 5:00 PM

MEMBERS PRESENT: DARREN BRADDY; MAYOR, DAVID PHILLIPS, AMANDA L'ESPERANCE, DIANE STEGALL AND JOSH HOSKISON

CITY ATTORNEY: JAY GARRETT

ABSENT: ALLEN FOSTER

OTHERS PRESENT: EMILY HOWSE, JOHNNY LAND, MICKIE JO LAND, KENNETH APPLGATE, DORTHY RUTLEDGE, KASEY BRITTON, RACHEL DARDEN AND LINDA BARNES

AGENDA ITEM #1

Mayor Darren Braddy opened the public hearing and turned it over to Mayor Pro-Tem David Phillips. David stated this public hearing was to discuss the dilapidated structure located at 650 S.E. 1st. David asked Darren Braddy to elaborate on the situation. Darren stated that the structure had burned, and the owners are not responding to contact attempts. Darren stated that this area is a danger and potential health hazard and needs to be cleaned up. Mayor Pro-Tem David Phillips asked for comments from the public. No comments were made.

AGENDA ITEM #2

Mayor Pro-Tem David Phillips closed the public hearing at 5:02 PM.

AGENDA ITEM #3

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

AGENDA ITEM #4

Mayor Darren Braddy asked for public comments on the agenda items. No comments were made.

AGENDA ITEM #5

Diane Stegall made the motion to approve the January 9, 2023 minutes as written. Amanda L'Esperance seconded. Vote unanimous.

AGENDA ITEM #6

The annual audit was not complete therefore this item was tabled.

AGENDA ITEM #7

Mayor Darren Braddy presented to the council that action needed to be taken on the demolition of the dilapidated burned structure located at 650 S.E. 1st Street. Emily Howse stated that there was a typo on the public notice. The notice stated 651 S.E. 1st Street and the actual location is 650 S.E. 1st Street. It was the consensus of the council to move forward with the process of the clean-up of this property. David Phillips made the motion to approve the demolition of 650 S.E. 1st Street. Diane Stegall seconded. Vote unanimous.

** Note: Due to the typo on the notice, this item will need to be re-published and posted on the property site and discussed at the March meeting.**

AGENDA ITEM #8

Mayor Darren Braddy presented to the council that Mirella Montejano-Jackson is asking the council for development incentives for 35 (at this time) structures to be built in the city. These structures will consist of single-family homes, townhomes, and duplexes in different areas of the city. Mayor Braddy stated that Mirella was in the process of replating several locations that would need to go before the Planning & Zoning before approval. After much discussion on this item, it was the consensus of the council to allow City Attorney, Jay Garrett, to prepare documents stating 50% off price discount for water and sewer taps with deadlines for structure completion.

Amanda L'Esperance made the motion to approve the 50% discount for water and sewer taps for Mirella Montejano-Jackson for multiple new construction locations with deadlines for completion. David Phillips seconded. Vote unanimous.

AGNEDA ITEM #9

Mayor Darren Braddy presented to the council that Johnny and Mickie Jo Land were present to discuss liens that are on properties that they purchased. Johnny stated that he had purchased property from Amanda L'Esperance of which Amanda had purchased from the delinquent tax sale at the courthouse. Johnny stated that he nor Amanda were aware of any liens on the property. Johnny stated that he had been to the courthouse to see if any liens were on the property and whomever he talked to said there were no liens on the property. Johnny stated that he had obtained permits from the city for the construction of the house that is on the property with the lien, and he was not told of the lien on the property. Mayor Darren Braddy stated that the new construction permit was issued after the Johnny purchased the property.

City Attorney, Jay Garrett, stated that the proper way to purchase any property is to have title search done (which any title company will do). Jay stated that the office in which Johnny inquired about a lien were not title search specialists and if they didn't track the property owners all the way back to the beginning they would not know of any liens. Jay stated that due diligence is the responsibility of the purchaser. Jay also stated that the city could not "donate" any thing of value to private parties but an agreement with developers could be made prior to purchasing property that have liens. Jay stated that this is an unfortunate situation in which the city has no option to accommodate.

Diane Stegall made the motion to take no action on this item. Josh Hoskison seconded. Vote unanimous.

AGENDA ITEM #10

Mayor Darren Braddy presented to the council the need to appoint two members to the Planning & Zoning Commission Board. Darren stated that two individuals, Matt Weathers and Ronny Gonzales, had contacted him with interest in being on this board. Darren has been serving as a board member but the original ordinance states that the city official is an ex officio member and shall serve in an advisory capacity.

Josh Hoskison made the motion to appoint Matt Weathers and Ronny Gonzales to the Planning & Zoning Commission Board to fill the unexpired term of Darren Braddy and P.J. Knickerbocker. Diane Stegall seconded. Vote unanimous.

AGENDA ITEM #11

Mayor Darren Braddy presented to the council that the order of the May 6, 2023 election was at hand. Amanda L'Esperance made the motion to order the City of Cooper election, to elect a mayor and two council positions, to be held on May 6, 2023. Diane Stegall seconded. Vote unanimous.

AGENDA ITEM #12

Josh Hoskison made the motion to appoint Charlie Steward as the election Judge and Misty Bates as the early voting clerk and two alternate judges to be determined by the appointed Judge, Charlie Steward, at a later date, of which will make up the early voting ballot board. Amanda L'Esperance seconded. Vote unanimous.

AGENDA ITEM #13

Diane Stegall made the motion to set Monday April 24, 2023 and Tuesday May 2, 2023 as the two 12-hour early voting days. Amanda L'Esperance seconded. Vote unanimous.

AGENDA ITEM #14

Mayor Darren Braddy announced that Monday February 27, 2023 at 10:00 am is the date and time for the drawing to determine the order in which names of candidates are to be printed on the ballot.

AGENEDA ITEM #15

David Phillips made the motion to set April 29, 2023 through May 6, 2023 as Spring clean up week and September 9, 2023 through September 16, 2023 as Fall clean up week. Josh Hoskison seconded. Vote unanimous.

AGENDA ITEM #16

Mayor Darren Braddy presented to the council that Elmo Robinson should be appointed to the Foreman position. Mayor Braddy stated that Elmo has been working in the Foreman capacity for a while and all the employees seem to work well with him. Darren stated that Elmo works well with all personnel and, in his opinion, should assume the Foreman position officially.

Amanda L'Esperance made the motion to appoint Elmo Robinson to the Foreman position. Diane Stegall seconded. Vote unanimous.

AGENDA ITEM #17

Mayor Darren Braddy introduced Rachel Darden to discuss details of the Frankie McKinney Arts Alliance operations. Rachel stated that it was the desire of the Frankie McKinney Arts Alliance Board members to periodically open the McKinney House for tours. Rachel said that they had a group of people who were willing to volunteer to host the tour events. Mayor Darren Braddy stated that the tour and venue rental operations of the McKinney House were solely up to the board members. Darren stated that any fund request should still be brought before the council for approval. Darren also stated that any event that was considered to support the "arts" would be allowed to receive payment, which could include but not limited to, cleaning and upkeep of the facility.

No action was needed or taken on this item.

AGENDA ITEM #18

Mayor Darren Braddy updated the council on the sluice gate repair, and street maintenance.

AGENDA ITEM #19

Monthly budget reports were reviewed. Amanda L'Esperance questioned the meter reader expense. Emily Howse stated that this looked to be miscoded. Emily later verified that it was miscoded and corrected she stated that it should have been meter repair and maintenance (6685) not meter reader (6500).

AGENDA ITEM #20

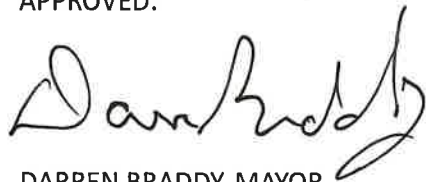
Accounts payable were reviewed.

AGENDA ITEM #21

David Phillips made the motion to adjourn. Amanda L'Esperance seconded. Vote unanimous.

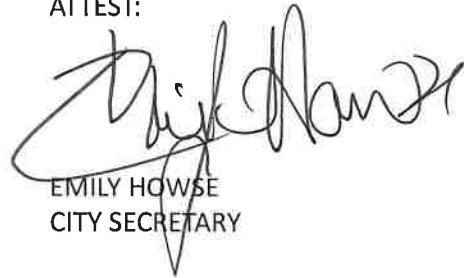
TIME: 6:28 PM

APPROVED:



DARREN BRADDY, MAYOR
CITY OF COOPER

ATTEST:



EMILY HOWSE
CITY SECRETARY