

CITY OF COOPER  
CITY COUNCIL MEETING – REGULAR  
OCTOBER 12, 2021 – 5:00 PM

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT: DARREN BRADDY; MAYOR, DAVID PHILLIPS, DIANE STEGALL, AND AMANDA L'ESPERANCE VIA ZOOM.

CITY ATTORNEY: JAY GARRETT

OTHERS PRESENT: EMILY HOWSE, ARNOLD BERNARDINO, TANNER CRUTCHER, DOROTHY RUTLEDGE, DARLENE WILSON, KASEY BRITTON, JAMES COFFEY, DEBBIE COFFEY, DONNA THOMASON, JOE ADAMS, AND LINDA BARNES.

ABSENT: ALLEN FOSTER AND ELMO ROBINSON

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 on the agenda items.

AGENDA ITEM #3

Diane Stegall made the motion to approve the September 9, 2021 public hearing, September 13, 2021 public hearing, September 13, 2021 regular meeting, the September 16, 2021 public hearing and the September 16, 2021 special meeting minutes as written. David Phillips seconded. Vote unanimous.

AGENDA ITEM #4

Arnold Bernardino was present to ask the council to consider his company, Ameri-Tex Services, for garbage services for the city. Mr. Bernardino thanked the council for allowing him to speak. Mr. Bernardino stated that they were a locally owned company and had been in business for 20 years. He stated that they had a multitude of services to offer which included poly carts, dumpsters, roll-offs, sludge removal, porta potties, and once a month no charge bulk pick up. Mayor Darren Braddy asked Mr. Bernardino if Ameri-Tex Services had the means to do dilapidated structure demolition. Mr. Bernardino stated that Ameri-Tex did not specifically have the equipment for demolition but roll off containers could be provided and only charge the city for the weight of the debris when delivered to the dumpsite. Mr. Bernardino stated that there was no uniform contract, the contracts are based upon the specific needs of each city. The council thanked Mr. Bernardino and acknowledged that they would consider his company when the city's contract nears the renewal date which is April 2022. Emily Howse stated that notice must be given, 60 days before the contract ends, to Sanitation Solutions if the city opts to get out of the contract.

No action on this item.

AGENDA ITEM #5

Diane Stegall made the motion to approve the amended Delta County Sheriff's annual contract which reflected the change in wording to state that deputies would be in the city limits "as needed" and removed "at all times". David Phillips seconded. Diane Stegall and David Phillips voted yay. Amanda L'Esperance voted Nay. The amended Delta County Sherriff's contract passed with the majority two yay votes.

AGENDA ITEM #6

Mayor Braddy asked City of Cooper Fire Chief, Tanner Crutcher to present this item. Tanner stated that Bill Crow, Delta County ESD President, had asked that this agreement be drawn up. The interlocal agreement between the City of Cooper, The Delta County ESD, and Delta County will legally state the binding cost and details that each entity is responsible for. It was brought to attention that Delta County had not put their portion of this cost in their budget. Tanner assured the council that Judge Jason Murray said that the Delta County budget would be amended to reflect Delta County's cost share. Diane Stegall made the motion to table this item until further details and changes could be made. Amanda L'Esperance seconded. Vote unanimous.

AGENDA ITEM #7

Mayor Darren Braddy presented to the council the interlocal agreement which would allow The City of Sulphur Springs, Hopkins County Fire Department, Hopkins County EMS District, Delta County Fire Department, City of Cooper, Lamar County OEM, and Franklin County Fire Department to apply for a Regional FEMA Assistance to Firefighter Grant that would supply updated communication devices. Tanner Crutcher stated that bigger groups had a better chance of getting the grant award. Tanner stated that the grant has a 10% match and the cost would be divided where each entity is responsible for the dollar amount that each entity is awarded. Tanner stated that the amount of the grant had not been released yet. He also stated that this grant could be declined if the city could not meet the match requirement. It was the consensus of the council to enter into this interlocal agreement to apply for the grant.

Amanda L'Esperance made the motion to allow Mayor Darren Braddy to sign the interlocal agreement between The City of Sulphur Springs, Hopkins County Fire Department, Hopkins County EMS District, Delta County Fire Department, City of Cooper, Lamar County OEM, and Franklin County Fire Department to apply for the Regional FEMA Assistance to Firefighter Grant. Diane Stegall seconded vote unanimous.

AGENDA ITEM #8

David Phillips made the motion to again table the Doctor's Creek Sewer contract. Amanda L'Esperance seconded. Vote unanimous.

AGENDA ITEM #9

Mayor Darren Braddy introduced James and Debbie Coffey, who were there to ask the council to ask for a set back variance for 720 E. Paris Avenue. Mr. Coffey stated that the current house had a concrete porch that extends beyond the 25' city set back requirements by 4' and they were in the process of remodeling and wanted to build a porch that would extend over the existing concrete but not beyond it. It was the consensus of the council to allow the set back variance for the existing concrete porch.

Diane Stegall made the motion to read ordinance #01-10-21 by caption. Amanda L'Esperance seconded. Vote unanimous. City Attorney, Jay Garrett, read:

**ORDINANCE 01-10-21**

**AN ORDINANCE GRANTING VARIANCE FOR PROPERTY LOCATED AT 720 E. PARIS AVENUE FROM CERTAIN ENCROACHMENT OF THE HOUSE AND COVERED PORCH IN THE REGULATIONS PRESCRIBED BY THE CITY CODE FOR AN EXISTING STRUCTURE SET BACKS AND PROVIDING AN EXPIRATION FOR THE VARIANCE. BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COOPER:**

David Phillips made the motion to approve ordinance #01-10-21 allowing the set back variance for 720 E. Paris. Diane Stegall seconded. Vote unanimous.

5:38 PM Diane Stegall excused herself and would attend via Zoom. At 6:00 PM Diane was on Zoom.

#### AGENDA ITEM #10

Mayor Darren Braddy presented to the council his schedule of repair for the American Rescue Plan use of funds. Darren stated that priority #1 was water line from about midway on W. Cooper Avenue from N.E. 1st then south on N.W. 2<sup>nd</sup> to W. Waco. And also reroute some of the lines servicing The Emma Grace. Priority #2 was sewer line on N.W. 5<sup>th</sup> between W. Dallas Avenue to W. Bonham Avenue. Priority #3 was sewer line on N.E. 2<sup>nd</sup> between E. Dallas Avenue and E. Bonham Avenue. Diane Stegall made the motion to agree with the plan as presented. Amanda L'Esperance seconded. Vote unanimous.

#### AGENDA ITEM #11

Mayor Darren Braddy presented to the council that the Hazzard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) would allow the city to purchase a generator to supply the Water Treatment Plant. The city would have a 25% match for funds awarded. It was the consensus of the council to allow application for the HMGP Grant.

Amanda L'Esperance made the motion to apply for the Hazzard Mitigation Grant Program for the purchase of a generator for the Water Treatment Plant. David Phillips seconded. Vote unanimous.

#### AGENDA ITEM #12

Mayor Darren Braddy presented to the council that the city had been renting a mini excavator for several months. Darren stated that this piece of equipment is much needed for small area access to certain areas. Darren stated that Associated Supply Company Inc, (ASCO) would allow \$6000.00 of previously paid rental fees to go toward the purchase of the mini excavator. Diane Stegall stated that streets should be a priority.

Diane apologized and excused herself from the meeting at 6:25 PM due to prior responsibilities. On this action there was not enough for a quorum therefore no more action could be taken on agenda items.

No Action Taken.

#### AGENDA ITEM #13

Adult use of the Delta County Baseball Field will be discussed at a later date due to no quorum.

#### AGENDA ITEM #14

The 2021-2022 Holiday schedule was reviewed.

#### AGENDA ITEM #15

Mayor Darren Braddy stated that he was scheduled to meet with two different contractors this week to discuss options for covering the streets that had been repaired with gravel. Darren stated that he knows that the dust is a problem and he is trying to figure out a solution. Darren stated that, in his opinion, E. McKinney Avenue, S.E. 1<sup>st</sup> Street, W. Pershing Avenue and S.W. 7<sup>th</sup> Street were the priority. Linda Barnes stated that S.W. 13<sup>th</sup> Street was a more traveled street than most people realize and in her opinion, S.W. 13<sup>th</sup> Street should be a priority.

No Action Taken.

AGENDA ITEM #16

Darren updated the council on the city operations.

AGENDA ITEM #17

Monthly budget reports were reviewed.

AGENDA ITEM #19

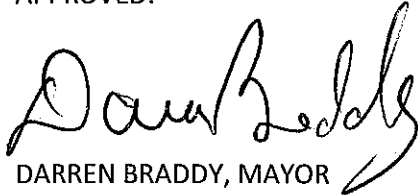
Accounts payable were reviewed.

AGENDA ITEM #20

David Phillips made the motion to adjourn. Amanda L'Esperance seconded. No vote...No quorum.

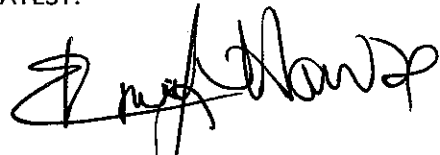
TIME: 6:41 PM

APPROVED:



DARREN BRADDY, MAYOR  
CITY OF COOPER

ATEST:



EMILY HOWSE  
CITY SECRETARY