

City of Wallis
Regular City Council Meeting
Wednesday, January 18, 2023

This is a true and correct copy of the minutes of the regular City Council Meeting for the City of Wallis, Texas held on Wednesday, January 18, 2023 at 6.00pm.

1. **Call to Order**

Councilmember James King called the meeting to order at 6.00pm.

2. **Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance**

Led by Councilmember Joell Prado

3. **Roll Call and Certification of Quorum**

A quorum was present. Present were Councilmember James King, Councilmember Melissa McFarland, and Councilmember Joell Prado. Mayor Pro-Tem Clark Main Jr. joined the meeting at 6.26pm.

4. **Communication from the Public**

Belinda Halfin announced that Tesla has signed a lease on a facility in the Empire West Business Park Brookshire. The facility is more than 1 million square feet in size.

5. **Consent Agenda**

Motion made by Councilmember Melissa McFarland, second by Joell Prado, to approve the Minutes from the December 21, 2022 Regular Council Meeting and the November 23, 2022 Special Council Meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

6. **Department Report**

- a. Public Works – No action on monthly report.

Royce Macha reported that the Westgate subdivision lights have been installed and are operational.

Two of the generator gas lines have been installed (Railroad Street and Janicek) and we are waiting on CenterPoint to put the meters in. We are 2 weeks out with the lines to service Marek St and the Fire station.

- b. Police Department/Admin Monthly reports – No action on monthly report.

Chief Moseley was pleased to report that the Police Department has been awarded the Grant for Bullet Resistant Shields in the amount of \$49,608. This should cover 8 of these ballistic shields. The Wallis PD has also been asked to sit on the Hedwig Village PD hiring board. Chief further noted that we need updated information for all contractors who access our water towers and sewer plant so background checks can be run.

- c. Police Department Annual Report – No action on monthly report.

- d. Code Enforcement Monthly Report – No action on monthly report

- e. Municipal Court – No action on monthly report.

7. Financial Review

No amendments to be made to bills or payments. Motion by Councilmember Melissa McFarland and second by Councilmember Joell Prado to approve the financial reports and payment of monthly bills. All in favor and motion passed unanimously.

8. New Business

Due to the engineer time constraints, Agenda item 8.o. was brought to the top of the New Business section for discussion.

o. Discussion and Possible Action on update from engineer on CDBG MIT Project # 22-085-054-D311

The project engineer gave an overview on where we are with the above-mentioned project. The project is in 2-parts.

Part 1 – Fix the drainage and wastewater in the town. Many of the old, existing sewer pipes are clay and the manholes are brick and mortar. Plan is to replace the clay pipes with polyethylene and the manholes with cement. Old clay pipes will be broken and new piping will be pulled in. Looking at replacing the worst of the pipes now and will work on the others at a later date. There may be a few hours of service disruption as the work is taking place. Looking to go out to bid late spring/early summer and will take approximately a year to do the work.

Part 2 – Stormwater – project is to direct water away and out of town. This will involve interceptor ditches, grading and culvert improvements on individual driveways, as well as retention ponds. Grading of ditches will be 3:1 side slope and gentle enough to mow. This has the potential to be a disruptive project and will take time (around a year).

- a. Discuss and Act on the single bid received for the City of Wallis Smart meter Project.

Motion by Councilmember James King and second by Councilmember Joell Prado to accept the single bid from Accurate Meter & Supply as the supplier for the Smart Meter project. The motion passed 3-1. Councilmember Melissa McFarland voted against.

- b. Discuss and act on Resolution 2023-001

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WALLS FOR THE REPLACEMENT AND PURCHASE OF EQUIPMENT FOR SMART WATER METERS USING FUNDS RECEIVED UNDER THE AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT OF 2021.

Motion by Councilmember James King and second by Councilmember Joell Prado to pass Resolution 2023-001. Motion passed 3-1. Councilmember Melissa McFarland voted against.

- c. Discuss and act on hiring a new CPA Firm

Motion made by Councilmember James King and second by Councilmember Melissa McFarland to accept the proposal for audit services by Seidel Schroeder and to proceed with the 2021 audit. If all goes well, then the 2022 audit can be looked at. All in favor and motion passed unanimously. Budget will need to be amended.

- d. Discuss and act on the agenda request by Ruthie Kinsey to Beautify Wallis and pick up trash from the City's Rights of Way.

Ruthie and her team have had their first clean-up day around the city and are looking to do this every quarter and volunteers would be appreciated. They want to make a difference to the town and clear away unsightly debris. Ruthie was introduced to our code enforcer.

- e. Agenda Request – John Moreida – Discuss and possible action regarding the project/inspections at 5414 Demel Street.

Mr. Moreida explained to the council, the permit/inspection issues from his point of view and again expressed that he does not want to pull down sheetrock for inspections on construction which has already been completed. Council advised he should get a homestead exemption then they can revisit. Council will also discuss with our legal team.

- f. Discuss and act on Austin County running the May 6, 2023 Elections
Motion made by Councilmember James King and second by Joell Prado to appoint Austin County to run the May 6, 2023 elections. All were in favor and motion passed unanimously.
- g. Discuss and act on Ordering of Election for May 6, 2023
Motion made by Councilmember James King and second by Councilmember Melissa McFarland to Order the May 6, 2023 election. All were in favor and motion passed unanimously.
- h. Discuss and Act on the Amendment of Amended Ordinance 6 (A) to increase the fine from \$200 to \$500.
Motion made by Councilmember James King and second by Councilmember Melissa McFarland to increase the fireworks fine from \$200 to \$500. All were in favor and motion passed unanimously. As a reminder, it was agreed to put this message out in the 4th July and New Year's Eve newsletters.
- i. Accept and approve Application for a K-9 Officer
Chief Moseley and Officer Tyler gave an outline of the K-9 Officer role in locating drugs, human trafficking and money. The Police Department would have an estimated annual cost of around \$1,000 for liability insurance, food and vet bills. The K-9 would stay with one handler for the duration of its service.
Motion made by Councilmember James King and second by Melissa McFarland to authorize the application for a K-9 Officer Grant. All were in favor and motion passed unanimously.
- j. Discuss and Act on Interlocal Agreement for Street Maintenance between Austin County and City of Wallis
Motion made by Councilmember James King and second by Councilmember Melissa McFarland to once again, enter into the Interlocal Agreement for Street Maintenance between Austin County and the City of Wallis. All were in favor and motion passed unanimously.
- k. Resolution # 2023-002
Motion made by Councilmember James King and second by Councilmember Clark Main Jr. to apply for the continuation of the grant for – Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program – Criminal Investigator, to be operated for the fiscal year 2023-2024. All were in favor and motion passed unanimously.
- l. Resolution # 2023-003
Motion made by Councilmember James King and second by Councilmember Joell Prado to apply for the continuation of the grant for Victims Service Advocate, to

be operated for the fiscal year 2023-2024. All were in favor and motion passed unanimously.

m. Discussion and Possible action on pay for part time City Administrator Duties
Motion made by Councilmember James King and second by Councilmember Joell Prado to look into the budget and present recommendation for next month regarding possible pay for part time City Administrator Duties. All were in favor and motion passed unanimously.

n. Discuss and possible action on Council's commitment in September budget meeting to revisit employee raises in January to bring them up to a total of 10% for the 2022-2023 budget year.

No motion was made, but Councilmember Clark Main Jr. suggested that the budget be looked at for the CPA shortfall, City Administrator payment and revisiting employee raises. If a separate budget workshop is required, then we will schedule one. It may be necessary to wait for the implementation of the smart meters.

o. Discussed above

p. EDC Updates

Marti Frost gave a status update on the Downtown Revitalization Grant. Preliminary drawings are being submitted with a few minor changes. Work will start between 1st and 2nd Streets on sidewalks, lighting and ADA ramps. There will be some short-term traffic hinderance on 1st Street and Hwy 36 but minimal lane closures. Looking at 30 days for approvals, 75 days out to bid and then 75 days after that to start work.

q. Planning Committee Updates

No report

r. Future Agenda Items

- i. Set up workshop for Subdivision Ordinance Review and update
- ii. Budget amendment or workshop to discuss increased CPA costs, Part Time City Administrator compensation and employee raises.

9. Adjourn Meeting

Motion by Councilmember James King and second by Councilmember Clark Main Jr to adjourn the meeting at 8.00pm. Motion passed unanimously.

Clark Main Jr.

Clark Main Jr., Mayor Pro-Tem

Lesley Doherty

Lesley Doherty, City Secretary

ATTEST: