

STATE OF TEXAS
COUNTY OF CHEROKEE
CITY OF WELLS

MARCH 8, 2021

Members present at the Regular Meeting were Mayor Tony McKnight, Councilmembers Billie Petty, Clint Smith, and Gordon Cole. Councilmembers Eva Alexander and Robert Kalka were not in attendance.

Employees: Melanie Pounds, Harold Rapsilver, Carl Pennington, and Roy Shanks.

Visitor: Jed Morris, Goodwin Lasiter & Strong, Stacey McKnight, Misty Shanks, Justin Hathorn, and Sonia Smith.

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm.

Justin Hathorn led the Invocation, and Councilmember Billie Petty led the Pledge of Allegiance.

A motion was made by Councilmember Gordon Cole and second by Councilmember Clint Smith approving minutes of the regular meeting held on February 8, 2020, with noted changes being made. Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor McKnight welcomed the visitors and asked if anyone had signed up to speak to address the council. There were no visitors signed up to speak.

Jed Morris with Goodwin Lasiter and Strong presented the council with the 2019 TxCDBG grant status. Mr. Morris asked the council's permission to proceed with the advertisement for contractors' bids on the sewer improvement grant. The engineer will be at Wells city hall on April 12, 2021, at 2:00 pm to receive opening bids. The grant awarded the city \$275,000 with a city match of \$17,500.00. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Councilmember Clint Smith and second by Councilmember Billie Petty approving ordering the May 1, 2021 Election. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Councilmember Billie Petty and second by Councilmember Gordon Cole approving canceling the May 1, 2021 Election. All council members will run unopposed. Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor McKnight presented the council with information on the city audits. Mayor McKnight found one CPA that could take our audits at this time. Kim Johnson, CPA with Todd, Hamaker & Johnson, LLP, will review the city QuickBooks files and present a quote to the audit competition council. This item will be placed on April 12, 2021, agenda. No action at this time.

Mayor McKnight presented the council with information on purchasing a 2008 Backhoe for the city utility department. If the city wins the online auction, the city will go through CBTx for financing with a 4.0-4.5% interest. Mayor McKnight, Operator Carl Pennington, Councilmember Gordon Cole, and Roy Shanks will view the backhoe before bidding on the backhoe.

A motion was made by Councilmember Billie Petty and second by Councilmember Gordon Cole approving the online auction and purchase for the 2008 backhoe, with bid and purchase not exceed \$38,000.00. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Councilmember Billie Petty and second by Councilmember Gordon Cole to pay the monthly bills. Motion carried unanimously.

The February 2021 budget comparisons for the General Fund and the Water and Sewer Fund were reviewed; no action was taken as this is a discussion item only.

Department Reports:

Water and Sewer – Carl Pennington, Operator: The plants are both running great. Roy Shanks updated the council on the Fire hydrants; there are ten fire hydrants left to check. Roy is working on getting certified for confined spaces so that he can enter maintenance holes when need. The council was updated to the February 2021 snowstorm damage to the water plant and sewer plant.

The extreme cold damaged the pumps at the sewer plant, and few broken pipes were repaired. The City of Frankston is donating a mud pump to the City of Wells to make the needed repairs. The water plant had significant freezing in the chlorine chamber. The employees worked around the clock to keep the city's utilities working.

The lift station on Forest Rd will be repaired next week when parts arrive. The lift station on Booker and Highway 69 has some electrical problems that are being repaired.

Roy requested that the city council purchase a generator for the sewer plant, 50 watts or more significant. The utility superintendent will look into getting quotes.

A motion was made by councilmember Clint Smith and second by Councilmember Gordon Cole to amend the city budget to increase General Fund line-item No. 569.4, increasing the Fire Hydrant Repairs from \$5,000.00 to \$47,000.00. Motion carried unanimously.

Police Department – Harold Rapsilver, Chief: Chief Harold Rapsilver thanked the council for their support. Chief Rapsilver notified the council that the traffic was average for the month.

Type of calls	Totals February
Assisted Cherokee County	4
Arrest	8
Calls inside the city limits of Wells	12
Traffic Stops	190
Citations Issued	201

VFD - Robert Kalka, Chief: Chief Kalka was not in attendance.

City secretary - Melanie Pounds: Eighteen customers received the \$100.00 Nonpayment customers and, one customer received the \$50.00 Nonpayment fee in February.

The council asked that information be collected on the city's ability to install individual shut-off valves and valve boxes on the customer's side of the meter at the customer's cost. Place this item on the April 2020 agenda.

Convened to executive session at 8:18 pm per Texas Government Code ANN 551.074 to discuss employees.

This was a discussion only, and no minutes from the executive session were filed. The meeting reconvened from the executive session at 8:35 pm for action relative to the discussion in the executive session.

A motion was made by Councilmember Billie Petty and second by Councilmember Gordon Cole to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 8:18 pm.

Mayor

City Secretary

MINUTES APPROVED BY THE COUNCIL ON 4/12/2021, ORIGINAL SIGNATURE FOUND IN CITY HALL.