

Approved  
2/22/21

**MINUTES – COUNCIL MEETING – TUESDAY, JANUARY 19, 2021 – 6:00 P.M.**

**LOCATION: ALAMO COMMUNITY CENTER**

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Mayor Pamela Lee, Bobby Cox, Dondrea Geter, Steve Jones, Harry Lewis, Patricia Woodard, and Thomas Lott (Zoom).

**Called to order by Mayor Lee at 6:01 pm.**

1. **Invocation** – Joshua Simmons
2. **Pledge of Allegiance**
3. **Approve Minutes from 12/21 Regular meeting** – Lott made the motion to approve the minutes, Woodard 2<sup>nd</sup>, unanimously approved.
4. **Approve Agenda** – Lewis made the motion to approve with adding **Fire Report (15) under new business**, Woodard 2<sup>nd</sup>, unanimously approved.
5. **Murray Farmer** – Has been in contact with Mayor Bess concerning putting a Family Dollar/Dollar Tree at the end of Snowhill. Mr. Farmer is a real estate agent for Family Dollar/Dollar Tree which is a new concept that they are bringing out. It's where a lot of markets are too small for a dollar tree and a family dollar to compete with Dollar General. They have several already opened and seem to be doing very well. The corporate offices like this location but they have recently added a mandate that they will not take a location if there is no permitted use of sale of beer or wine. They are requesting a letter stating that beer and wine is not prohibited. The stores currently do not sell beer & wine, but if they ever decide too, they do not want anything in the way to stop them. Phase 1 and 2 is currently complete but they just need the letter to continue further. The only thing in question is the church across the street. Is there 100 yards door to door? If not, is there a way around it? Attorney R. Clark will look into the situation, but members of the church will be ok with letter being issued. Lott made the motion for R. Clark to look into the situation and send the letter, Geter 2<sup>nd</sup>, unanimously approved.

**OLD BUSINESS**

6. **Code Enforcement** – Floyd has received all the pictures and reports of the properties inspected by Mr. Scarborough from Dublin. Floyd presented the council with a property maintenance ordinance that needs to be looked over and approved at the next meeting. The ordinance also covers junk cars and other different things.
7. **Old Rec. Dept. Update** – CBA sports has been working on the court. So far, they have pulled up the old basketball goals, squared it off, patched holes and worked on killing the weeds in the cracks. Floyd is still waiting on a date of the fencing, so when the topping is completed, may have to put a barrier up around until the fencing is complete.

8. **2021 LMIG Update** – application has been approved and the check should be coming in the next couple of weeks. The streets to be done are the end of E. First St. (off Snowhill) and street will be W. Lucille (the section between N Broad and N. Pine St.)
9. **New City Hall** – Woodard proposed a Strategic Planning Committee. She is not saying to tear what the city currently has down, but to look at what will be best for the city. The current City Hall does not have a back door and if something were to happen, there would be no way out beside the front door, there is water coming in which has created mold inside and most of all the City Hall does not meet the ADA requirements. The current PD does not have a bathroom and it should. Woodard believes that if the council expects the city to grow and look nice, we need to “bite the bullet” and look at the City Hall and PD. **A copy of the strategic planning committee overview is attached.** There will be applications at the City Hall for the citizens to pick up if willing to donate time and effort to help the city and see what the probability is for this. At the next council meeting, the council members will go through the applicants and select the 4 they feel are best for the job. **Woodard made a motion to go ahead and develop a strategic planning committee to work on avenues that will help enhance the City Hall. Geter 2<sup>nd</sup>, unanimously approved.**
10. **Garbage Contract** – has been discussed in previous meetings. Ryland gave a quote of \$10.00/per can and \$135 per load of limbs/leaves + weight. Republic gave quote of \$10.65/per can and \$175 per load of limbs/leaves but NO weight. Republic gave a rate so there will be no increase in at least the next 3 years. The city has had Republic for the last 3 years and really has not had any major issues with them. The city is losing money on limbs and leaves. If the city continues to pick up limbs/leaves the rate will have to go up for that. **Woodard made the motion to keep Republic and sign the new contract, Lewis 2<sup>nd</sup>, unanimously approved. Also, Woodard made the motion to go from \$10.50/per can to \$12.50/per can which go effective Feb. 1<sup>st</sup> but will not show on water bill until Mar 1., Lott 2<sup>nd</sup>, unanimously approved.**

#### NEW BUSINESS

11. **Approve City Court Judge** – Paul Calhoun is currently the court judge. He filled in after Tommy Smith was elected a superior court judge. He has submitted a letter of interest to continue handling our municipal court hearings and has requested \$100 per court. Mr. Bobbit has shown interest but has requested \$200 per court. **Woodard made a motion to continue using Mr. Paul Calhoun, Jones 2<sup>nd</sup>, unanimously approved.**
12. **Collect Delinquent taxes** – There are outstanding taxes for the last 7 years. Marie will get with GTS to help with the collection of the delinquent taxes. A letter was sent out during first part of 2020 on intent to collect will send another out. **Geter made a motion to send the letter out, Woodard 2<sup>nd</sup>, unanimously approved.**
13. **City Manager Report** – report is attached.
14. **Police Report** – Report attached. For the month of December, the PD answered approx., 344 calls, issued 15 citations, 3 warning and done 15 reports.

**15. Fire Report – report attached.**

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:**

- Ameer Vassey – gave appreciation to the city for extending their contract.
- Joshua Simmons – asked about the last time council/mayor got a raise? Cox responded about 20 years. Simmons thinks that the council/mayor need a pay raise because the citizens will not cut any slack and they have a duty to fulfill. He stated that the council still talks about the PD not having a bathroom and the City Hall still having issues, but he does not see a priority list on getting things done.
- James Lee – likes how the council now discusses everything before getting a vote.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION (employee matters) – went into executive session 7:49 pm with Lewis making the motion, Woodard 2<sup>nd</sup>, unanimously approved. Mayor Lee asked City Clerk, Marie Carrillo to leave and she would take minutes from Executive session.**

**Following executive session, Cox made the motion that no city vehicles leave city limits unless it is official business, Lott 2<sup>nd</sup>, Lewis and Geter approved, but Jones opposed. Also, Woodard made the motion to advertise 1 fulltime and 1 parttime police officer in the paper, Cox 2<sup>nd</sup>, unanimously approved.**

**Meeting adjourned at 8:38 PM with Geter making the motion, Lewis 2<sup>nd</sup>, unanimously approved.**

**Submitted By:**

*Marie Carrillo*

**Marie Carrillo, City Clerk**

*2/22/21*