

CITY OF RECTOR
CITY COUNCIL MEETING

November 10, 2014

The Rector City Council met in regular session at 7:00 P.M. on Nov. 10, 2014, at Rector City Hall. Those present were Mayor G. David Freeman, Aldermen Lavern Manchester, Cam Cate, David Romine, and Teresa Roofe, City Attorney Kimberly Dale, Supt. Todd Watson, Police Chief Glenn Leach, Fire Chief Huston Bowden and City administrative assistant, Kim Romine. Recorder/Treasurer Shelia Dale was absent. Mayor Freeman called the meeting to order and asked for the review of the minutes.

The minutes were approved with one amendment. Alderman Cate moved to accept the minutes with that correction; Alderman Roofe 2nd; all voted Aye and the minutes were approved.

From the audience:

Chris Kell with Impact Energy Solutions met with the council to discuss implementing an energy savings program to the city within homes and businesses. He presented a plan using Entergy Electric incentives whereby his company did testing to determine loss of energy and solutions that would pay for themselves in 13 months. The Rector Housing Authority had just completed the program with 80 units retrofitted within the program. Council asked for more written information to study.

Mr. Kenneth Stanley approached the council re: 402 E 4th St. He is buying that home from Michelle Bearden and advised that he has done some improvements as requested. He advised the council that the yard had been cleared, floors in the home repaired and although he had no deed to the property yet, he will continue, with council's 30 day extension, to make needed improvements. He did offer a written plan as asked. The council was in agreement for the extension of 30 days and appreciated his efforts.

Public Library request for new light.

Supt. Watson advised that with change of time, library employees asked for better lighting situation in that parking lot. Entergy Electric is to upgrade the existing street light before any new lighting is done to see if that may alleviate the problem. Discussion followed about the blinding lights in the city that had become a problem for some drivers.

Backhoe-

Supt. Watson advised the council that presently 2 backhoes, 07 Case Super M and a 96 Super L 2 wheel drive are in use. He asked to upgrade in the near future replacing the 96 model. There is currently a high demand for the older models and they are bringing top dollar (\$20-25,000). Also Government bid for an upgrade cost will be approximately \$65,000. He advised council that backhoes keep the city running like no other piece of equipment can. And the importance of the city having a back-up backhoe is great.

Ordinance on Fallis property-

Attorney Dale advised that a notice to discuss the amount of the lien to Wagsters and Fallis requesting their presence at Dec.6,2014 at 6:00 PM meeting will be sent out. The city will be placing amount of lien on that property. Alderman Cate moved to place this matter on the agenda for Dec. Alderman Roofe 2nd. All voted Aye and the motion passed. The public hearing will be at beginning or end of meeting time.

Council discussed new meeting time of 6 PM with recent time change.

Items 4-10, departmental spreadsheets were reviewed by the council. Mayor Freeman noted that mandated audit of Water dept. at cost of \$6500 on report.

Community Center-

Nov 22 Fall Craft fair will take place followed by the Thanksgiving service on Nov. 23rd at 5 PM.

Upcoming events – The annual Christmas parade will take place Dec. 8th at 6 PM. If inclement weather there will be reception only at the community center.

Property Issues-

Supt. Watson addressed 402 E. 4th St. mentioned prior, and 615 E 4th St. owned by Roy Ballew and Jamie Gaines. Several times he had asked for a written plan on repairing broken windows, fallen-in roof, yard overgrown. Nothing was ever given to council in response. A resolution was prepared for condemnation; a motion was made by Alderman Romine to read Res. 2014-6. The Resolution was read by Attorney Dale. Alderman Roofe moved to accept the reading of Res. 2014-6; Alderman Romine 2nd; all voted Aye and the reading was accepted.

Gore house-

Supt. Watson recommended action be made on the 1215 S. Phillips home owned by Dale Gore. Conditions at this home were known to be deplorable: dirt floors, roof falling in.. DHS had been to the home in the past 2 years, at least, and made no efforts to be involved. Children live in the home. History: Dale Gore asked to re-zone the lot for commercial use to build his shop on. Later he asked to put a mobilehome on that commercial lot and he was to tear down the old house. The tear down did not happen; his kids moved into old house. Alderman Cate moved to send letter to Gore; Alderman Roofe 2nd. All voted Aye and motion passed. Supt. Watson will send request for Gore to appear re: the house.

Other business:

Discussed what cut off date for mosquito spraying? Decision to “spray until first frost” was made.

Supt. Watson advised that Rural Water will train employees in the fire hydrant testing but will offer NO financial help to do this job.

Streets- Differing views on the patching vs. scabbing work recently done on city streets. Mayor

Freeman has list of streets that present most pressing problems. List is at City Hall for viewing. Application is done for available monies from state for 2016. 1994 was last date that major street work was done with 26 miles of new streets being laid at that time.

Proposed Budget 2015

Mayor reviewed line item the new significant changes from 2014 (page 1 of budget). Many items made possible by new one- cent county sales tax voted in by voters this year. Kim Romine advised council that approximately \$13-15,000 each month comes to city due to this tax.

Alderman Cate requested that all councilmen review the full budget proposal during Nov. before the Dec. 1 meeting.

Alderman Roofe welcomed all the new aldermen in attendance tonight. She also will miss the out-going members.

Dec. 7 a drop-in reception will be held at 2-4 at the Community Center for Mayor Freeman, Alderman Manchester and Alderman Cate as they retire from service.

Atty. Dale asked council if they are in agreement with the payroll increases given on the budget proposal she will have ready an ordinance for Dec. meeting.

Discussion re: employee Christmas bonus and or/increase in salaries. Also incentive pay vs. Christmas bonus. Council chose to address this at December's meeting.

Alderman Cate moved to adjourn; Alderman Romine 2nd and all voted Aye. The meeting adjourned.

G. David Freeman, Mayor

Shelia Dale, Recorder-Treasurer
