

The Early City Council met in regular session on Tuesday, March 9, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. with the following members present:

Mayor Mangrum
Council members:
Leland Acker
Travis Eoff
Benny Allcorn
Charles Matlock
Garry Forisha

City Administrator Tony Aaron
Economic Development Director Larry McConn
City Secretary Brenda Kilgo
City Attorney Mark Bessent

Establishing a quorum present, Mayor Mangrum called the meeting to order. Mr. Acker gave the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Consideration of the minutes of regular meeting held on February 23, 2021.

Mr. Matlock made motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Mr. Eoff, and all members present voted "aye".

Citizen's comments

No comments from citizens.

Consideration to approve final plat for subdivided property for three (3) lots of the Jacob Duckworth Survey No. 56, Abstract 240 located on Salt Creek Drive.

Mr. McConn stated that the "Curt Tunnell Addition" is the subdivision of a two lot tract, approximately 2 acres, into three lots. The Planning & Zoning Commission met last night and approved a recommendation to the Council for the subdivided plat as presented.

Mr. Acker made motion to approve final plat as presented. Mr. Matlock seconded the motion and all members voted "aye".

Consider approval of Resolution 2021-R04, authorizing continued participation with the Steering Committee of cities served by ONCOR, and authorizing payment to fund regulatory and related activities related to ONCOR.

Mr. Aaron explained that this is an annual participation and renewal item; further stating that the service of the steering committee is a great asset for the cities. The annual participation invoice is a total of \$189.60.

Mr. Allcorn made motion to approve Resolution 2021-R04 authorizing the continued participation with the Oncor Steering Committee and the assessment fee payment of \$189.60. Mr. Acker seconded the motion and all members present voted "aye".

Consider approval of Ordinance 2021-02, to adopt a new official City Seal.

Recent research determined that the City has never officially adopted a City Seal. The design presented is similar to the State seal with the City of Early added to the bottom of the seal. Mr. Aaron stated this is more a formality of record but recommends the adoption of an Ordinance for the approval.

The Texas Department of Criminal Justice is able to make a symbol of the Seal for display in the updated Council / Court room.

Mr. Forisha made motion, seconded by Mr. Matlock, to approve Ordinance 2021-02 adopting a new official City Seal. All members present voted "aye".

Discuss progress and update on City Park improvements regarding sidewalks and drainage project.

Mr. Aaron reported that the sidewalk project is fully underway by Ribble Construction and should be nearing completion this week. He noted that the project will come in over budget due to changes required for ADA compliance on the grades and elevation levels. The total dollar amount is still pending and will update the Council, along with pictures, as soon as possible.

Other field improvements will be addressed next after the completion of the sidewalks project. Scoreboards are one item being looked into, however, the cost of a new board is approximately \$8000. There has been one company that has contacted the City that is interested in the donation of funds to purchase a new scoreboard.

Mr. Aaron noted that a couple of years ago the topic of constructing a new ball field facility was discussed and pushed back due to an estimated cost of \$5 million. With the improvements that have been completed and currently in progress to be approximately at the halfway point of updating all the fields, the total estimated cost of improvements is about \$500,000 and evident of solid improvement to the community in quality and vision to be viewed with pride.

Consideration to approve support for the Texas Department of Transportation 2021Transportation Alternative (TA) grant.

The purpose of this grant is to provide connectivity between residential, commercial and school locations within the City. Graphics showed the proposed path of sidewalks, with lighting, along the new street proposed on the old Kelcy property; also to include other sections along Old May Road to CC Woodson, Heartland Drive, Early Blvd to City Park (Oak Street), Longhorn Drive

to Skyview and Industrial to Sudderth Drive; for a total estimated project cost of \$1,393,379. Mr. Aaron stated that as a part of the application process, verbal approval from the Council in support of the application is required. A formal resolution approved by the Council may be needed at a later date but that will be determined as we move further along through the application process.

The City has all of the right-of-ways needed for the project, so no additional cost will be required as part of the project.

Mr. Allcorn made motion, seconded by Mr. Matlock, to approve support for the Texas Department of Transportation 2021 TA grant. All members present voted "aye".

Discuss and consider any action as necessary regarding Local Disaster Declaration DD 2021-01 for Severe Winter Storm beginning on February 11, 2021.

The Local Disaster Declaration was approved by Council on February 23, 2021 with an effective date through today, March 9th. Mr. Aaron reported that approximately \$30,000 (roughly 10% of the overall utility system budget) in damages resulted due to the effects of the Severe Winter Storm. He also noted that any significant damages from the storm have been determined and that there probably is no need to extend the date of the Declaration.

No motion was made for any action on the item; therefore, the Local Disaster Declaration DD 2021-01 is expired as of March 9, 2021.

Discuss and consider any action as necessary regarding declaration of local state of disaster due to COVID-19 pandemic made effective as of March 18, 2020 at 5:00 p.m.

The local state of disaster due to Covid-19 included an indefinite expiration date. With the Governor's new order issued on March 2, 2021, that removed some of the restrictions related to Covid response, the City's declaration may need to be reviewed and determine if want to include an end date. Mr. Aaron stated that any decision made will not affect any FEMA or TDEM funding.

Mr. Acker made motion to modify the declaration to include an expiration date of Midnight on March 9, 2021. Mr. Forisha seconded the motion and all members present voted "aye".

Consideration to approve financial support to the City of Brownwood for the Brownwood/Brown County Health Department expenses related to vaccination efforts beginning March 1, 2021 through April 30, 2021.

Mr. Aaron stated that the City received a letter from City of Brownwood requesting financial support for expenses related to the COVID vaccination efforts provided by the Brownwood/Brown County Health Department. He stated that through the CRF Grant (TDEM) the City is eligible for approximately \$174,000 as reimbursement of expenses paid from the

General Fund that was not budgeted and would not otherwise have been used if it not been for items directly related to the COVID pandemic. The City has submitted two reimbursement requests for those funds, mainly payroll related but also including items such as PP&E, cleaning and disinfecting supplies, various technology items for the ability to hold meetings and work remotely. Mr. Aaron noted that the costs for these items have already been expended from unbudgeted funds and that if the requests for reimbursement are approved the funds received will be just that, a reimbursement to replenish the General Fund.

The request from Brownwood Health Department is in the amount of \$10,611.08 for the expenses for payroll, supplies, building maintenance, and technology items that occurred in March and April 2021.

Lisa Dick, Brownwood/Brown County Health Department, addressed the Council and reported that the Health Department COVID response began in February/March 2020. She explained that most of the expenses from that time forward has been covered by various types of grant funding; however, those grant funds and grant availability started to dwindle in 2021. It is the decrease in grant funds that has prompted the financial support request submitted to the cities within Brown County.

Councilman Leland Acker made several inquiries to Mrs. Dick relating to salary increases over the months as listed, the number of staff members, and the source of volunteers. Mrs. Dick responded that the decrease in grant funds resulted in the increase shown in the salary line item. She also stated that the staff members include an administrator and scheduling personnel; most grants will not cover staff salary if the tasks are not within their normal scope of job responsibilities; approximately 14 staff members are needed (and currently looking to hire) at \$13/hour; hospital and Ranger College are among the volunteer resources.

Mrs. Dick also explained that while the budget presented was a very lean and conservative budget it is subject to the availability and amount of grant funds. It is for this reason that they are recommending an incremental funding approval for March and April only instead of a long term commitment from the neighboring cities.

Councilman Eoff inquired as to the per capita basis used for the calculation requested from each city; of the 3118 population of City of Early how many Early residents (within city limits) have received the vaccination through the Health Department. Mrs. Dick stated that the specific number would be difficult to determine due those having an Early zip code but not differentiated as outside or inside city limits. She added that it would take additional staff time to go through the records to obtain the specific number.

Mrs. Emily Crawford, City Administrator for Brownwood, also addressed the Council stating that if the structure of the financial support distribution is considered unfairly weighted they are open to ideas/recommendations to present to the County Commissioners Court.

Concluding the open discussion, Mayor Mangrum indicated that an Executive Session may be needed to address the City's Attorney on the matter. Mr. Eoff made motion, seconded by Mr. Acker, to enter into Executive Session. All members present voted "aye", entering into closed session at 6:53 p.m.

Reconvene into Open Session and consider action, if any, on items discussed in executive session.

Mr. Acker made motion, seconded by Mr. Allcorn, to reconvene into Open Session. All members present voted "aye", coming out of closed session at 7:24 p.m.


After entering back into Open Session, Mr. Acker stated to Mrs. Dick and Mrs. Crawford that the responsibility of financial support falls to the County by statute and encourages the City of Brownwood to impress that upon the County Commissioners.

Mayor Mangrum opened the floor to a motion for consideration of financial support to the Brownwood/Brown County Health Department. No action was taken due to lack of a motion.

Adjourn

Having no Administrator's report or any further announcements, Mr. Matlock made motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Forisha seconded the motion and all members present voted "aye", adjourning the meeting at 7:27 p.m.


CITY SECRETARY

03-23-2021
DATE

MAYOR



COUNCIL MEETING

Early Visitors and Event Center – 419 Garmon Dr.

TUESDAY MARCH 23, 2021 6:00 PM

AGENDA

- A. Call to order, Invocation, Pledge of Allegiance
- B. Consideration of the minutes of regular meeting held on March 9, 2021.
- C. Citizen's comments.
- D. Special Recognition and Presentations:
 - 1. Service Recognition of Beautification Commission Board (*Mayor Mangrum*)
 - a. Patrick Mooney
 - b. Helen Tatum
 - c. Lisa Ritter
 - d. Charles Matlock
 - 2. Service Recognition for Police Officer Sgt. Brandon McMillian (*Chief Mercer*)
 - 3. Service and Retirement Recognition for K-9 Officer "Jambo" (*Chief Mercer*)
- E. Matters of New Business
 - 1. Consideration to approve proposed changes to Early Police Department pay scale. *By: Chief Mercer*
 - 2. Consideration to approve surplus or salvage items for sale or disposal. *By: Chief Mercer*
 - 3. Discuss and consider to approve Resolution, 2021-R05, designating a professional engineering firm for the 2021-2022 TxCDBG Community Development Fund application and project implementation, administered by the Texas Department of Agriculture *.By: Tony Aaron*
- F. Executive Session in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 551, Texas Government Code.*
- G. Reconvene into Open Session and consider action, if any, on items discussed in executive session.
- H. Administrator Report
- I. Announcements
 - 1. Unified Development Code (UDC) progress update meeting – April 26th
- J. Adjourn

*The City Council for the City of Early reserves the right to adjourn into executive session at any time during the course of this meeting to discuss any matters listed above, as authorized by Texas Government Code Sections: 551.071 (Consultation with Attorney), 551-072 (Deliberations about Real Property), 551.073 (Deliberations about Gifts and Donations), 551.074 (Personnel Matters), 551.076 (Deliberations about Security Devices) and 551.086 (Economic Development).