

The Early City Council met in special session on Tuesday, October 7, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. with the following members present:

Mayor Mangrum

Council members:

Benny Allcorn

Travis Eoff

Garry Forisha

Charles Matlock

City Administrator Tony Aaron

City Secretary Brenda Kilgo

Economic Development Director Larry McConn

City Attorney Mark Bessent

Council member Leland Acker was absent.

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

Consideration of the minutes for regular meeting held on September 10, 2024

Mr. Forisha made motion, seconded by Mr. Allcorn to approve the minutes as presented. All members present voted "aye".

Citizen's comments

There were no citizen comments however Mr. Aaron took this opportunity to introduce new employee, Accounts Payable/Receivable clerk, Celena Mejia-Wilker to the Mayor and Council.

Consideration to approve Resolution 2024-R12, regarding a financing contract for the purpose of procuring a tractor for agricultural purposes.

Chief Mercer, in the capacity of his agricultural role for the City, provided information on a 2021 John Deere 5090E Tractor as the purpose of the financing contract. The tractor only has 13 hours of use, in great condition and for sale by Kris Sparks for \$60,000. Currently, the city has a 2008 John Deere tractor of comparable size (little smaller) with 1400 hours. Chief Mercer stated that the current shredder we have will work with the 2021 model although a new hay fork will be needed, approximately \$700.

Mr. Aaron noted that this purchase was not included within the budget but that the financing contract with MC Bank included a one-year financing term with the payment due in October 2025. This payment would be included within the 2025/2026 fiscal year budget and could determine at that time whether to pay off balance or refinance for a longer term. In addition, Chief Mercer stated that the 2008 tractor could be sold on the auction website, estimating around \$30,000, to use towards the payment of the note. Per the depository contract between MC Bank and the City of Early, the finance rate is to be 65% of prime resulting in the interest rate for this contract to be approximately 5%.

Mr. Eoff made motion, seconded by Mr. Matlock, to approve Resolution 2024-R12 to authorize a financing contract for the purchase of the 2021 John Deere tractor as presented. All members present voted "aye".

Consideration to approve the disposal or sale of items as salvage or surplus.

Items listed for disposal or sale as salvage or surplus include the aforementioned 2008 John Deere tractor and the 2006 AutoCar side load trash truck. The trash truck was purchased used from the City of Brownwood in 2016 and has 71,000 miles.

Mr. Matlock made motion, seconded by Mr. Forisha, to approve the items requested for disposal or sale as salvage or surplus. All members present voted “aye”.

Executive Session in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 551, Texas Government Code Sections 551.071-Consult with Attorney, 551.072-Real Property, and 551.087-Economic Development.

Mr. Allcorn made motion to enter into closed session. Mr. Matlock seconded the motion and all members present voted “aye”, entering into closed session at 6:13 p.m.

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

Mr. Matlock made motion, seconded by Mr. Forisha, to reconvene into open session. All members present voted “aye” and Open Session resumed at 6:20 p.m.

Consideration to approve entering into an agreement for a Hotel Occupancy Tax grant approved within the 2024-2025 Fiscal Year CVB Budget.

Mr. Allcorn made motion, seconded by Mr. Matlock, to approve entering into an agreement for a Hotel Occupancy Tax grant as provided in the 2024-2025 fiscal year budget. The motion passed by all members present voting “aye”.

Administrator's Report

Community Wildfire Protection Plan and the Community Wildfire Defense Grant

As authorized by Council in September, the city along with the county applied for the Wildfire Defense grant through the Forrest Service. The protection plan for the City will include all properties with the Early Fire Department response areas by mitigating hazard areas as well as identifying specific target areas. Potentially, the County could receive up to \$10 Million and the City up to \$4 Million through this grant program.

Also included within the City's protection plan would be to approach and provide assistance to the citizens within those specified target areas inside city limits, for them to apply for grant funds for their properties as well.

Currently, approximately \$150,000 of funds have been identified directly to the City for use within right-of-ways, tree clearing, and etcetera.

Old Water Treatment Facility

The herd of goats are still within the facility yard for the purpose of thinning the overgrown weeds, brush, and etcetera; some fencing issues have occurred but have been able to recapture the wandering stock back into the facility grounds; has been and continues to be a successful process.

Boardwalk Project Update

Approximately 60 of the 221 piers are complete; most are at 14-feet deep but some are within the 25-35 feet range; certain depths are required for certain weight capacity; in negotiations with the contractor on the depth of the piers so any additional cost would require a change order; current construction contract is \$2.2 Million and a change order is anticipated to be less than \$100,000;

Sewer line replacement project – Crescent Drive

Sewer line replacement portion is complete; street rehabilitation for Kings Court, Grandview, Crescent and Park Drives are in progress and should be wrapping up within the next couple of weeks.

McDonald Park

Upcoming projects include install of new curb as well as some type of surface work for the parking lot.

Announcements

October 12th, 6PM - Movie in the Park at McDonald Park

October 15th, 1:30PM - Brown County Appraisal District Open House

October 31st, 4:30PM – Halloween Spooky Spectacular at Town Center

Something scheduled every week/weekend in the City of Early parks over the next six weeks.

Adjourn

Mr. Matlock made motion, seconded by Mr. Forisha, to adjourn the meeting. All members present voted “aye” adjourning the meeting at 6:41 p.m.

11-12-2024

DATE

Peter J. Mangan

MAYOR

Benda Kitzs
CITY SECRETARY