

**Regular City Commission Meeting (Tuesday, May 16, 2023)**

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A. MEETING OPENER

Procedural: 1. Call To Order - Roll Call

**The meeting was called to order by Mayor Redman at 6:00pm.**

**In Attendance - Commissioners Redman, Stegall, Huggins, Hendrix, Sirmones  
City Attorney Maines and Interim Manager Tillis.**

Procedural: 2. Opening Prayer

**Opening Prayer led by Mayor Redman.**

Procedural: 3. Pledge of Allegiance

**Pledge of Allegiance led by Mayor Redman.**

Action: 4. Approval of The Agenda Format

Recommended Action: Motion to approve the agenda format.

**Motion to approve the agenda format was made by Vice Mayor Stegall. Seconded by Commissioner Hendrix.  
Unanimous approval.**

B. CITIZEN INPUT

Information: 1. Provision for Citizen Input

**Margo Van Peterson - 770 NE 1st Street.**

**Mrs. Peterson is representing the Lake Butler Woman's Club, and is reading a letter on behalf of Monica Bayer.**

**The Lake Butler Woman's Club thanks Mike Banks and Public Works for taking care of the weeds in the bump-outs on Main Street.**

**The Lake Butler Woman's Club has proposed a sponsorship to the replenishment of these flower beds.**

**413-346-7776 is the contact number for any further questions.**

**The Lake Butler Woman's Club has proposed this proposal for the commission review and consideration.**

**The City has 8 total flower beds. Coast to Coast Delicious BBQ and Catering has sponsored one flower bed, and the Lake Butler Woman's Club has sponsored 3 flower beds, which leaves 4 flower beds open for sponsorship.**

**Commissioner Hendrix suggested that the Commission and City review the FDOT contract that is between DOT and the City before moving forward with consideration for this volunteer project.**

**Tillis was not aware that FDOT has the flower beds as part of the FDOT Greenscape agreement between the City and FDOT.**

**City Attorney Maines recommends that an exchange of emails between Tillis and DOT should suffice as communication for permission to oversee and approve this project.**

**Fred Sirmones, Jr - 835 SW 6th Place**

**Mr. Sirmones states that he has tried in the past to start a youth center for the community, and has gotten a lot of figures needed to start this project.**

**One of the projects the youth center has been working on is a food delivery service for Lake Butler, which does not have an active delivery service. This service would benefit the schools, housing authority residents, and those who need delivery services.**

**Mr. Sirmones suggested the Commission select a member to be on the youth center board.**

**The youth center group has been given land close to the sports complex, for a possible place for a water park.**

**Mr. Sirmones stated that the County is not able to provide financial support for this project, however, is in talks with the County for the use of their building.**

**Pat Issac - 9978 SE 8th Court**

**Ms. Issac addressed the Commission on the situation with stray cats around the trail and City Hall building, and stated that her and a fellow resident had received a warning from the sheriff's office to stop feeding the cats or further action would be taken.**

**The Commission did inform Ms. Issac that the feeding of cats has started to attract flocks of buzzards, and Interim Manager Tillis commented that he has been seeing 20-30 buzzards behind and beside City Hall when he arrives each morning.**

**The Commission informed the resident that the procedure on how this situation was handled would be reviewed.**

**C. AGENDA ITEM NUMBER**

**Action (Consent), Minutes: 1. Consent Agenda**

**Sprayfield Bid Process:**

**The Commission discussed the sprayfield bid process, and questions were raised on the process in which the bids were opened.**

**The Commission suggested that Interim Manager Tillis contact the County for possible use of their batwing mower for future mowing of the sprayfield until an alternative solution is found.**

**The Commission has requested clear communication and transparency moving forward.**

**Vehicle/Fuel Logs:**

**The City Commission reviewed the fuel logs, and asked questions regarding the process in which the logs are filled out, the approval process, and the overall procedure that has taken place with the vehicle/fuel logs.**

**Interim Manager Tillis informed the Commission that him and Finance Director Sapp had been working on these logs with Public Works Director Banks and Assistant Public Works Director Stewart to create a concise, clear log that clearly states that all city vehicles are being maintained properly.**

**Motion to approve the consent agenda made by Commissioner Hendrix. Seconded by Commissioner Huggins. Unanimous approval.**

**Information: 2. Presentation by Sherrie Steadman with Isaiah 117 House**

**Presentation by Sherrie Steadman provided to the Commission with a packet of information explaining the project. The organization is currently building a home in Baker County, and construction is underway. This home is for children who are removed from parents by DCF, and this organization is trying to provide housing for the kids currently staying in DCF offices and sleeping on conference room floors.**

**The organization is adamant about providing care, love, and appreciation to the kids and staff with the situation they are enduring.**

**This home being built will service Baker County as well as several surrounding counties, including Union, which is the reason for the organization reaching out to the City regarding the project.**

**The organization has been in contact with the interim manager on the project.**

**Mr. Tillis clarifies the definition of their project.**

**Information: 3. City Manager's Report**

**City Manager report was presented by Interim Manager Tillis.**

**Mayor Redman asked about the status of the audit. Tillis Stated that Mr. Sapp had spoken with the auditors, and that we should be getting the review copies by the end of this week.**

**Commissioner Hendrix requested to confirm that the Zenner water meter system is back up and running, and Mr. Tillis confirmed.**

**Commissioner Hendrix suggests that the Commission discuss at a future meeting with what to do with the old Welch's property.**

**Commissioner Hendrix clarifies on the status of the survey for the current Public Works building with the future sale of the property.**

Information: 4. Financial Reporting for Period Ending April 30, 2023

**Financial report for period ending April 30, 2023, was presented to the Mayor and Commission by Finance Director Sapp.**

**The Commission reviewed the financial report, and check register provided to them by Finance Director Sapp.**

**Questions were raised on certain expenditures, and those expenditures were explained by Finance Director Sapp.**

**Motion to approve the financial report was made by Commissioner Sirmones. Seconded by Commissioner Huggins. Unanimous approval. Motion carried.**

Action: 5. Current Budget Amendments

**Interim Manager Tillis presented the budget amendment and explained that the budget amendments have balanced the budget.**

**Motion to approve the current budget amendments was made by Commissioner Hendrix. Seconded by Commissioner Sirmones. Unanimous approval. Motion carried.**

Discussion: 6. Recommendations on Telephone System

**Motion to table the recommendation on the telephone system was made by Commissioner Hendrix. Seconded by Vice Mayor Stegall. Unanimous approval. Motion carried.**

Action: 7. Sale of 2021 Suburban

**Motion to declare the 2021 Suburban as surplus and to approve to advertise sale of 2021 Suburban with a minimum bid of \$35,000 was made by Commissioner Hendrix. Seconded by Vice Mayor Stegall.**

**Motion to amend the above motion designated as surplus to have a minimum bid of \$40,000 was made by Commissioner Hendrix. Seconded by Vice Mayor Stegall. Unanimous approval. Motion carried.**

Discussion: 8. Fuel Logs (Commissioner Huggins)

**Discussion was made earlier in this meeting during the discussion and approval of the consent agenda.**

#### D. REPORT OF CITY ATTORNEY

**Mr. Maines stated an email was sent out to the entire Commission regarding the mediation between the City and Dale Walker's attorney on the discussion regarding final payout.**

**Motion to begin mediation between the City and Dale Walker's attorney was made by Commissioner Hendrix. Seconded by Vice Mayor. Unanimous approval. Motion carried.**

**Mr. Maines recommends that Commissioner Hendrix is the representative from the Commission attending the mediation meeting.**

**Motion to designate Commissioner Hendrix as the representative for the mediation between the City and Dale Walker's attorney was made by Commissioner Huggins. Seconded by Vice Mayor Stegall. Unanimous approval. Motion carried.**

#### E. COMMENTS OR REMARKS BY COMMISSION

**Mayor Redman- Farm Share in May benefited 240 families. Mayor Redman attended the Union County Band awards ceremony, in which the City was awarded a letter of appreciation. Suggested that the City Commission sponsor the UCHS band again next year.**

**Vice Mayor Stegall - No comment.**

**Commissioner Huggins - Briefly explains the issues he had discussed with Tillis, and states that he hopes to stay proactive on these issues and get them addressed and resolved.**

**Commissioner Hendrix - Stated that at the recent county commission meeting, the discussion was held regarding the previous conversation between Union County and former Mayor Schenck regarding the lift station/force main out by the Livestock building by RMC and OJ Phillips Complex.**

**Commissioner Sirmones - No comment.**

F. ADJOURNMENT

Action: 1. Adjourn

Recommended Action: Motion to adjourn.

**Motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Hendrix. Seconded by Commissioner Huggins. Unanimous approval. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:40pm.**