

**CITY OF SHEPHERD
BOARD OF ALDERMEN
Regular Called Meeting
10251 Hwy 150- Shepherd Community Center
Monday, June 14, 2021 6:30 PM
OFFICIAL MINUTES**

Regular Called Meeting:

Members Present: Charles Minton, Curtis Ainsworth, Ray Marrs, Yvonne Cones, Mark Porter, Kurtz Stowers

Members Absent:

City Staff Present: City Secretary Debra Hagler, Larry Foerster

Others Present: Terri MacIntyre, Steve Watson, Tammy Russel, Larry Jones, Jamie Branham, Bunny Irwin, Andrew Tanner, Anna Lopez, Mr. Soto and family, Walterine, Quinetta, and Deputy Koen.

CALLED TO ORDER /INVOCATION

Mayor Minton called the meeting to order. Curtis Ainsworth led in prayer. The pledges were recited.

PUBLIC INPUT:

Andrew Tanner: Questioning why the City doesn't use his business for things like oil changes. He informed council that the dump truck has a serious safety issue-axel seal is leaking.

Walterine Carr: Inquiring about the City's part of her obtaining a license from TABC- She also asked about the lights at the pavilion.

PUBLIC INPUT FOR ITEMS NOT LISTED ON AGENDA:

NONE

REPORTS:

Library Director Terri McIntyre: Gave a report on her first 90 days on the job. She stated the library is on probationary status with the state but has been given grace to stay accredited. Staying accredited allows us to be eligible for grants. The library's social media presence has been updated. She reported on Fund Raising and donations from businesses for special projects. She states there's good teamwork and a balance of duties. She proudly announced that the library traffic has doubled from an average of 200 to an average of 400 a month. She added that the state requires tracking how many patron visit the library. She informed council of the donations that have been received from Half Price Books.

Pct. 2 Constable's Office: Deputy Koen presented a written report. She stated she has been taking some classes and the Code Enforcement Class is scheduled next. The subject of dogs arose and Deputy Sparta has been having great success in taking dogs to some northern states where they are eagerly adopted.

OLD BUSINESS

Discuss and take action on a request from Juan Moncivais Torres for a Manufactured Home Variance on Ross Street

Mark Porter made a motion to deny this request. Kurtz Stowers seconded and the motion passed with a unanimous vote. The House presented was 7 years old. City Attorney Larry Foerster stated that there must be an inspections before the council can grant the variance. He also suggested checking with the neighbors.

Discuss and take action regarding options for S. Railroad to accommodate bus traffic

Mark Porter made a motion to have Mayor Minton negotiate with the school to share some of the expense. Yvonne Cones seconded. The council suggested a quote be obtained from Goodwin Lassiter's office and approach the superintendent or possibly the school board.

Discuss and take action necessary regarding culvert and ditches on 10th street.

Kurtz Stowers made a motion to waive the \$50.00 culvert permitting fee. Curtis Ainsworth seconded and the motion passed with a unanimous vote. The weather has been wet which has delayed progress. Mr. Branham asked that since the City would be able to provide sewer to the location would they waive the culvert permitting fee? Mr. Watson took this opportunity to mention his culvert needed jetting and that he would pay the city to jet it.

Discuss and take action regarding clearing of wooded area to allow access to Ms. Anna Lopez’s property.

Kurtz Stowers made a motion to approve the work to be done with City supervision and the width of City Streets. Mark Porter seconded and the motion passed with Ray Marrs opposing. This is an undeveloped City Street that needs to be cleared to give Ms. Lopez access to her property. Her crew will be clearing N. Ross Ave between 5th Street and 10th Street. Plus she will be clearing a portion of 5th Street to the East of N. Ross. Her crew has insurance coverage. A recent survey was done by Washburn so the stakes are available to see that the crew works within the easements. The Council wants City oversight of this project.

Discuss and take action to finalize the closure of the Alley on Town site Block 59.

Mark Porter made a motion to table this item to finalize this all at one time. This will include the Auto Parts metes and bounds, and an ordinance to abandon alley on block 52 & 59 which will include the purchase of said easements. Curtis Ainsworth seconded and the motion passed with a unanimous vote. Discuss for a purchase fee simple title. The City owns it and will need to determine square foot value. The first step is to abandon the alley. The next step is to calculate the value determined by the CAD- The cost will be paid by the property owner and not the City. Steve Watson agreed to pay for instrument-and attorney fees. Mr. Watson also agreed to pay for the metes & bounds for Mr. Tanner.

Discuss and take action on request from Lorie Davis for a building to be used as commercial at 1831 S. Byrd.

Mark Porter made a motion to deny this. Ray Marrs seconded and the motion passed with a unanimous vote. The Davis’ were not present. The Mayor and the Davis had spoken earlier. The building does not meet code.

NEW BUSINESS

Discuss and take action on concerns from Kathy Foreman regarding mosquitos.

Ms. Foreman was not present. No Action was taken

Discuss and take action on request from Quinetta Griffin for an addition street light to be added near 1104 S. Railroad.

Mark Porter made a motion to table this item to get an estimated cost from Entergy. Curtis Ainsworth seconded and the motion passed with a unanimous vote.

Discuss and take action on request from Nahum Soto to divide his property on Beverly into 4 sections.

Curtis Ainsworth made a motion to allow Mr. Soto to divide his property as long as he follows legal guidelines. Mark Porter seconded. The Council had no problem allowing Mr. Soto to divide his property to give to his children. Mr. Soto was made aware that each section of property must have access to the road. Before the City can give final approval he will have to provide a survey of the changes he intends to make.

Discuss and take action on presentation from Larry Jones from Performance.

Mark Porter made a motion to move forward with the evaluation. Yvonne Cones seconded and the motion passed with a unanimous vote. As an estimate after speaking with Jamie it is estimated that the City has a water loss of 30%. His company offers a pay over time for Advance Meters that use radio signal with a 20 year meter accuracy guarantee.

Discuss and take action to hire a Utility Clerk.

Mark Porter made a motion to hire Novalei and the ability to hire the second choice if she doesn’t work out. Curtis Ainsworth seconded and the motion passed with a unanimous vote.

Discuss and take action to schedule a workshop to discuss Certificate of Obligation

Mark Porter made a motion to attempt to schedule this for June 22 or 29th. Kurtz Stowers seconded and the motion passed with a unanimous vote. The meeting will be scheduled with Bill Blitch, an engineer from Goodwin Lasiter and the City Attorney as well as council to discuss Certificates of Obligations as a source of funding infrastructure projects.

The Council did not go into executive session.

Minutes:

Yvonne Cones made a motion to accept the minutes as presented. Curtis Ainsworth seconded and the motion passed with a unanimous vote.

Payment of the Bills:

Mark Porter made a motion to pay the bills. Curtis Ainsworth seconded and the motion passed with a unanimous vote.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mayor informed Council that the public works department did not install the water line deep enough on 10th Street and will be re-doing the project. He also informed Council that Constable Atchley had spoken to him regarding Deputy Koen.

ADJOURNMENT: 8:29 pm

Kurtz Stowers made a motion to adjourn. Curtis Ainsworth seconded and the motion passed with a unanimous vote.

Charles Minton, Mayor
Prepared by City Secretary, Debra Hagler