

CITY OF SHEPHERD
BOARD OF ALDERMEN
Regular Called Meeting
28 N. Liberty, Shepherd City Council Chambers
Monday, September 8, 2025, 6:30 PM
OFFICIAL MINUTES

REGULAR CALLED MEETING:

Members Present: Charles Minton, Mark Porter, Curtis Ainsworth, Yvonne Cones, Ray Marrs, Billy LaCoste

Members Absent:

City Staff Present: Debra Hagler, Kenneth LaVergne, Matthew Greer, Clint Headley

Others Present: Margaret Williams, Jamie Trevathan, The Middle School JROTC along with M. Stephenson, Joe & Chip Munke, Karl Carr

CALLED TO ORDER /INVOCATION

Mayor Charles Minton called the meeting to order at 6:30pm. Curtis Ainsworth led the prayer. The pledges were recited as the Middle School JROTC presented the flags.

PUBLIC INPUT:

NONE

PUBLIC INPUT FOR ITEMS NOT LISTED ON AGENDA:

NONE

REPORTS:

POLICE: Chief Headley emailed his report to the council. Clint reported that his reserves had been able to help with school traffic during the first few days of school. He announced that a softball tournament is in the planning stages between the County Fire Departments and the County Law Enforcement Officers. It will be on Oct 4 at 9:00am. Mayor Minton told Clint that he expects the Law Enforcement team to win. The Chief went on to report that he currently has twenty active reserves. He reported that Officer Whitten has been stepping up with the Code Enforcement warnings.

PUBLIC WORKS: Matthew reported that they have been busy. He reported work that has been done in the park. Thirteen dead trees were removed as well as the stumps. He stated the Tractor Supply has all their utility work completed and the retention pond has been dug. The opening date is still undetermined as they have had setbacks. Matthew proudly reported that the City is 100% in compliance with Backflow requirements. He is in the process of obtaining an exception with the Sanitary Control Easements that the property owner was unwilling to grant. Matthew stated that his goal is to have the City of Shepherd Water be given the distinction of "Superior Water" by TCEQ standards. The last thing he reported is that the new well communication system is almost ready to "go online" but training will still be needed. Ms. Yvonne Cones took this opportunity to thank Matthew for providing an additional step for her to be able to get onto the dais.

OLD BUSINESS:

Discuss and take action to Adopt Ordinance #353 to regulate Speed Bumps.

Yvonne Cones made a motion for the City Attorney to revise Ordinance #353, specifically requesting that the ordinance be reduced to include only what is required by state law. Curtis Ainsworth seconded the motion. The council voted unanimously in favor of this action. During the discussion, Yvonne commented that the ordinance, as originally presented, contained an excessive amount of information. Matt added that the ordinance should be tailored to fit the needs of the City of Shepherd. After considering these points, the council agreed that the most efficient solution would be to have the City Attorney review and simplify the ordinance so that it complies strictly with state legal requirements.

Discuss and take action to finalize the 25-26 tax rate and budget.

No Action was taken as no changes were made.

NEW BUSINESS**Discuss and take action to hire a contract laborer for the Public Works Department.**

Yvonne Cones made a motion to extend the temporary summer employee as contract labor for one year. Curtis Ainsworth seconded, and the motion passed with a unanimous vote. Matthew requested to extend the employment of his temporary employee for one year. He reported that the temporary worker guy is a good worker, he does not question instructions given to him and he shows up. He further added that this guy has "wowed" him with his work effort. The Mayor added that when Matt first presented this request it was a hard no for him after listening to Matthew and having him answer questions he became sold on the idea. The City Attorney asked if there were any liabilities such as legal issues. He will be paid \$12.00 per hour and will be allowed to work 40 hours a week however he will get no benefits.

Discuss and take action necessary to approve the San Jacinto County Hazard Mitigation Plan by resolution.

Yvonne Cones made a motion to approve the mitigation plan. Mark Porter seconded, and the motion passed with a unanimous vote. Mark Porter asked, "what is the City's responsibility." Debra answered that it is her understanding that when grant opportunities are presented that projects listed in the plan being given a priority if possible.

Discuss and take action to score and select a Grant Administrator for the CDBG DR 2024 DISASTERS

Yvonne Cones made a motion to select Raymond K Vann & Associates as the grant administrator for this grant opportunity. Curtis Ainsworth seconded, and the motion passed with a unanimous vote. Ray Vann was the only applicant, and he was given a score of one hundred.

Minutes:

Yvonne Cones made a motion to approve the minutes of the previous meeting. Ray Marrs seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Payment of the Bills:

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS**ADJOURNMENT: 7:02pm**

Curtis Ainsworth made a motion to adjourn, and Yvonne Cones seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Charles Minton, Mayor
Prepared by City Secretary, Debra Hagler