



CITY OF WHITEWRIGHT
City Council
Regular Meeting
Whitewright Visitor Center
111 W. Grand
April 4, 2017
Minutes

The City Council of Whitewright met for a Regular Meeting Tuesday, April 4, 2017 in the Whitewright Visitors Center, the same being open to the public with the following members present:

Councilmember Bart Bodine
Councilmember Russell Ponder
Councilmember Ruby Howell
Councilmember John Simon

Others present: Mayor, Jeremiah Looney, Tona Shiplet, Mike Martin, Roger Palmer, Larry Jordan, Anita Richardson, Barbara Hughes, Trina Dodson, Skee Dodson, Gregory Owens, Leslie Blanton, Dwayne Henderson, Sarah Owen, Mark Kline, Gwyn Jordan, J. R. McBroom, June G. Purdom, Brent A. Raum and Chris Ely.

1. Call meeting to Order and Establish a Quorum:
Mayor Looney called the meeting to order and established a quorum at 5:31 p.m.
2. Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance:
Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance was given and led by Councilmember Bart Bodine.
3. Action Items:
 - 3a. Approval of Minutes from the Regular Meeting dated March 7, 2017:
Councilmember John Simon made a motion to approve the minutes from the March 7, 2017 meeting. Councilmember Ruby Howell Seconded the motion. Motion carried. 4-0
4. Citizens Forum: *(State law prohibits the City Council from considering or deliberating on any item not listed on the posted City Council agenda. A person may address the Council on items not on the printed agenda. Comments are limited to three (3) minutes. The Council may not comment or deliberate regarding such statements or comments during this period. Any discussion of the subjects must be limited to a proposal to place the subject on the agenda for a future meeting. Sec. 551.042 of Open Meeting Act).*

Mike Martin thanked the Mayor and Council for the sound system installed for city council meetings. Mr. Martin reminded the council that the 2015-2016 audit has not been conducted and emphasized the importance of getting the audit scheduled so that the budget will be completed timely for 2016-2017...

Sarah Beth Owen expressed concern and opposition to action item 5h. She compared 111 W. Grand and 113 W. Grand to the current conditions of the Public Safety Building housing the police department and Emergency Medical Services. She questioned if funds were currently in the budget for carpet replacement. She continued stating that besides the condition of the public safety building, the deteriorating downtown sidewalks and handicap ramps make it difficult to get into the buildings for which the flooring is being requested. She urged the council to carefully consider the importance of the spending in regards to new flooring and spending policies in general.

5. Action Items:
 - 5a. Consider and approve current bills for payment: **Councilmember Russell Ponder moved to approve the bills for payment. Councilmember John Simon seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.**
 - 5b. Consider and approve Monthly Departmental Reports: **Councilmember John Simon moved to approve the Monthly Departmental Reports. Councilmember Russell Ponder seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.**
 - 5c. Consider recognize and Proclaim Whitewright Public Library Week. **Proclamation signed by Mayor Looney.**

5d. Consider, recognize and Proclaim, Recognition Day for National Service. Proclamation signed by Mayor Looney and presented during meeting.

5e. Consider and proclaim the month of May as Motorcycle Safety and Awareness Month. Proclamation signed by Mayor Looney and presented during meeting.

5f. Consider and approve Resolution 446, to close Grand Street for Music on Grand, April 29, 2017 from 10 AM to 10 PM. Councilmember Bart Bodine moved to approve Resolution 446. Councilmember John Simon seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

5g. Approve Amy Shaw as a member of the Whitewright Economic Development Board... Councilmember Ruby Howell moved to approve Amy Shaw as a member of the Whitewright Economic Development Board. Councilmember John Simon seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

5h. Consider and approve request to fund 1/3 of the cost of new flooring for 111 W. Grand, front and back & 113 W. Grand front only.

4B has approved funding 1/3 of the cost. 4A approval of payment is pending city council approval. Councilmember John Simon moved to table the request until a bid is selected by 4A. Russell Ponder seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

6. Informational Reports: (These reports are for information only. No discussion is appropriate unless there is a specific item listed below or there is a request that the item be placed on a subsequent agenda as a discussion and action item. Sec. 551.0415 of Open Meetings Act):

6a. Mayor's Report:

Update on Projects: The Police Department and Emergency Medical Services are completely moved into the temporary offices in the civic center. Bids are being requested for repairing the roof, abating the black mold and asbestos, repairing/replacing the parking lot of the Public Safety Building to evaluate the plan moving forward. There are plans to do another round of pot hole repairs as soon as the weather improves. Vehicle registration will be available next week as training is slated for Friday, 4/7/17.

New Projects The Antero group who is guiding the city on the Brownfield grant is looking for grants to replace the sidewalks downtown as well as in our parks and to add sidewalks from the schools to downtown. April 29, 2017 is Music on Grand. The festival has had great response and has grown beyond initial expectations...

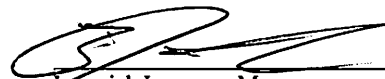
6b. Council Concerns – Councilmember John Simon inquired as to the status of repairing the roads. The Mayor stated that another round of repairs is planned dependent upon weather. He continued to state that the new administration in the White House is cutting funding to smaller cities and the hope is that funding will be reinstated as the year progresses. Councilmember Russell Ponder stated that potholes that were originally repaired on the roads adjacent to the schools needed to be filled again. The Mayor stated that those roads would be on the list again for the next round of repairs. Councilmember John Simon inquired as to the EPA study at the sausage factory. The Mayor stated that Phase I has been completed to see if there are any contaminants and if the building can be used as is. Phase I is more eyes on and paperwork. Phase II is more hands on, to actually open sealed barrels to see what is inside. Councilmember John Simon asked if there was an upcoming Brownfield meeting. The Mayor stated that a Brownfield meeting will be the 24th and 25th of April but it was not a called meeting. They will be meeting with the 4A and 4B boards. The Mayor stated there would be a Brownfield meeting in May as well as a Town Hall meeting.

7. Adjourn:

Councilmember Ruby Howell made a motion to adjourn. Councilmember Russell Ponder seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0. Meeting adjourned at 6:15 p.m.

ATTEST BY:


Tona Shiplet – City Secretary


Jeremiah Looney - Mayor