



CITY OF WHITEWRIGHT

**City Council  
Called Meeting  
MINUTES**

Whitewright Visitor Center  
111 W. Grand  
January 22, 2018  
5:30 p.m.

The City Council of Whitewright met for a Called Meeting Monday, January 22, 2018 at 5:30 PM in the Whitewright Visitors Center, the same being open to the public with the following members present:

Councilmember	Sarah Beth Owen
Councilmember	Bart Bodine
Councilmember	Russell Ponder
Councilmember	John Simon
Councilmember	George Fenner

Others present: City Secretary Tona Shiptet, Gwyn Jordan, Tammy Francis, Tyler Francis, Corby Francis, Larry Francis, Dwayne Henderson, Brandon Latimer, Kelly Selman, Kari Gage, Jerry Tapp, Brian Richie, Steve Spann, Mark Kline, Cathy Pierce, Christina Tillett, Annette Snider, Chris Ely, James Tidwell, Rick Webber, Jay Carlson,

**1. Call meeting to Order and Establish a Quorum:**

*Mayor Looney called the meeting to order 5:37 PM and established a Quorum. Councilmembers Owen, Bodine, Ponder, Simon and Fenner were present.*

**2. Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance:**

*Councilmember Bodine gave the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.*

**3. 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).*

Tammy Francis spoke regarding agenda item listed during Executive Session regarding tax abatements and incentives. She stated that her company had not received any abatements or incentives and that the city should not grant an abatement or incentive to a business that would come to the city when their planned service was already available in town.

**4. Action Items:**

**4a.** Consider and approve Minutes from Called Meeting dated October 18, 2017

Consider and approve Minutes from Regular Meeting dated November 6, 2017.

Consider and approve Minutes from Regular Meeting dated December 4, 2017.

*Councilmember Simon moved to approve Minutes dated October 18, 2017 and November 6, 2017. Councilmember Ponder seconded the motion. The December 4, 2017 minutes were not completed in time for the meeting. Motion carried 5-0.*

**4b.** Consider and approve current bills for payment.

*Councilmember Owen moved to approve the bills for payment with the Skid Steer code to be corrected.*

*Councilmember Bodine seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.*

**4c.** Consider and approve Monthly Departmental Reports.

Library, Police, Fire, EMS, Court, Public Works

Councilmember Owen questioned Fire Chief Henderson as to who was writing the grants and if there was a matching contribution. He stated that with a population under 5000 our grants qualified for a 5% match.

Councilmember Owen inquired as to the STEM program at the Library. Library Director Ely stated that one family checked 4 out over the Holiday break. Councilmember Bodine encouraged those present to register with Amazon so that the Library would receive a percentage of all purchases. It does not add to your total and benefits the Library.

Councilmember Fenner asked Interim Police Chief Webber if there was an increase in traffic stops or vehicle accidents due to the construction on US 69. Webber replied that they had decreased since the lights had been removed. Most are now at the 4 way stop. Councilmember Owen inquired as to the damage to the wrecked unit, which Webber stated was totaled. Councilmember Fenner asked Public Works Director Latimer if there was anything the city could do about the leaks due to the cold. Latimer responded that other than making sure the hydrants are not leaking, there is not much the city can do. Fenner also inquired as to the proposed Tank repair and any warranty. Latimer stated that Cyr stood behind his work and had worked until there was no leak on a previous repair of a different tank he will repair any weld he performed. Councilmember Owen requested that the EMS carport move/purchase be added to the February meeting.

*Councilmember Simon moved to approve the departmental reports. Councilmember Fenner seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.*

- 4d. Consider and approve Tank 5 repair by Luke Cyr in amount of \$8,000.00.

*Councilmember Fenner moved to approve the repair. Councilmember Bodine seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.*

**5. Action Items:**

- 5a. Consider and act on appointment of Garrett Courtney as an Alternate to the Board of Adjustment for a two year term beginning 1/1/18 to replace Doc Hannah.

*Councilmember Owen moved to approve the appointment. Councilmember Ponder seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.*

6. **Executive Session:** The Council may enter into Executive Session to discuss the following: In Accordance with Texas Government Code, Subchapter D, Section 551.087 Deliberation Regarding Economic Development Negotiations, Section 551.071 Consultation with attorney.

The Furniture Mart owners Steve Spann and Brian Ritchie approached the podium to answer questions posed by the council prior to convening into Executive Session. Councilmember Owen posed a series of questions and other Councilmembers also posed questions. Type A Board President, Kelly Selman, approached the podium to answer questions posed by the council regarding the Type A Board's actions.

Mayor Looney convened the Executive Session at 6:36 P.M. in Accordance with Texas Government Code, Subchapter D, Section 551.087 Deliberation Regarding Economic Development Negotiations and Section 551.071 Consultation with attorney.

- 6a. To discuss or deliberate regarding financial/legal information that the governmental body has received and with which the governmental body is conducting Economic Development negotiations;  
1) Furniture Mart Loan  
6b. To discuss or deliberate regarding tax abatement or incentives;  
1) Ace Hardware

Mayor Looney Re-Convened the Regular Meeting at 7:45 P.M.

7. **Consider and act** upon items listed under Section 6. Executive Session as necessary for negotiations:

7a. Furniture Mart Loan

Councilmember Bodine moved to approve the loan. Councilmember Simon seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-1. Councilmember Owen voted against the action.

7b. Ace Hardware

Councilmember Simon moved to table the item. Councilmember Owen seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

8. **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):

8a. **Mayor's Report:**

Update on Projects:

New Projects:

- 8b. **Council Concerns:** Councilmember Owen asked if the two remaining police vehicles would be available at all times since the chief lives in town. Councilmember Simon confirmed that regular meetings would resume the first Tuesday of the month at 5:30 PM. The next meeting is Tuesday, February 6, 2018 at 6:30 P.M.
- 8c. **Future Agenda Items:** Councilmember Fenner requested a parks update at the next council meeting. Councilmember Owen requested 1<sup>st</sup> quarter financials for the Type A and Type B boards.

9. **Adjourn:**

Councilman Simon moved to adjourn. Councilman Ponder seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

ATTEST BY:

  
Tona Shiple – City Secretary

  
Jeremiah Looney – Mayor

**CITY OF WHITEWRIGHT**

**CERTIFIED AGENDA – EXECUTIVE SESSION CITY COUNCIL**

Date of Meeting: January 22, 2018

**A. ANNOUNCEMENT OF PRESIDING OFFICER:**

"The City Council will begin its Executive Session on the 22 day of January, 2018, at 6:37 o'clock p.m." The subject matter of each Executive Session deliberation is as follows:

1. Furniture Mart Loan
2. Tax abatement or incentives for Ace Hardware

Record of Further Action Taken:

1. Approval of Furniture Mart Loan by Whitewright Economic Development Corporation as presented
2. Referred to Whitewright Economic Development Corporation

**B. ANNOUNCEMENT BY PRESIDING OFFICER:**

"The City Council has completed its Executive Session on the 22 day of January, 2018 at 7:43 o'clock p.m."

**C. CERTIFICATION**

I hereby certify that this Agenda of an Executive Session of the City Council of the City of Whitewright is a true and correct record of the proceedings pursuant to Tex. Gov't Code Ann. § 551.103.

Witness my hand this the 22<sup>nd</sup> day of January 2018.

  
Presiding Officer