PROPOSED MINUTES

OF THE WINNSBORO CITY COUNCIL

FOR THE 4/12/2022 REGULAR MEETING

Source of draft presented in the meeting agenda packet for May 10, 2022 retrieved at this link, 5/10/22:

https://winnsborotexas.civicweb.net/document/28405/Minutes.pdf?handle=ADABA6F15CB541CEBE19 6D8625C80667&fbclid=IwAR0RgWCnxIX480rUe3j5ejl4I1zDZycvyAPf7ODogn9qgwJ6kRMdYuF_MGE

EXCERPT, VERBATIM (WORD FOR WORD QUOTE)

7.12. Sigma This item was placed on the agenda by member Hollowell. Mayor Newsom explained that at the last Council meeting, a statement about her son was made. She advised that her son is an operator at the Sigma plant and has been employed since January of 2022. Mayor Newsom stated that upon learning of her son's employment, she notified interim City Administrator, Ronny Knight, and they contacted the City Attorney regarding the matter. The advice of City Attorney, Stan Lowry, was to note any conflict of interest. Lowry further advised, that should a tie-breaker vote ever be called regarding the Sigma facility, Mayor Newsom should recuse herself. Member Hollowell spoke to accusations that the City has not responded to citizen outcry regarding the Sigma plant. Hollowell added that the Council must follow legal procedure and protocol when dealing with this issue. He further detailed some of the City's responses to issues arising from the Sigma plant, including; issuance of 11 citations for nuisance violation, contact with Senator Heffner and the EPA, and hiring an outside firm to perform air, soil and water testing. Hollowell ended with Code Enforcement Officer Sewell's trip to the Boling Texas sister plant, and invited Officer Sewell to speak about his visit.

Scotty Sewell, Code Enforcement Officer; informed the audience of his surprise trip to the Boling plant, which is southwest of Houston. Sewell was denied access to the facility there, but he did speak with management, who claim to have equipment in place that controls 99% of emissions. That equipment takes 8 months to build and 30 days to install. Sewell also spoke with Boling community members, including the Fire Chief and approximately 12 residents. Sewell added that he later received a call from a Boling plant board member, who expressed his sincerity for Winnsboro citizens, and relayed that this problem will be resolved. Hollowell went on to speak about the authority of the City in regard to the possibility of closing the plant, the operating hours of the plant; clarifying that there are no set days of operation, rather, the plant is mandated to operate 40 hours per week. Mayor Newsom also advised that she was contacted by Ryan Hawkins with Sigma, who advised that the City's demand letter had been received and there will be a response. Hawkins also stated that scrubbers; which is a manufactured part, have been ordered and are being built now. Hawkins also informed Newsom that Sigma has further ordered a filter that he expects will remedy the smell. Newsom further noted that the City has, at a great expense, ordered water run-off testing at the Sigma facility on All Star drive; preliminary results of those test is available. Air testing began on April 11, 2022, but Sigma refused soil testing of their property. James Whitehurst, Wastewater Treatment Director; explained the preliminary results of the storm water run-off testing that was conducted by Ana-Lab at 400 All Star drive. Whitehurst noted that the facility will be required to obtain a storm water run-off permit from TCEQ. Scotty Sewell, Code

Enforcement Officer; added that he was informed by TCEQ that Sigma will be cited regarding storm water run-off and permitting. Member Parrish advised that he would like to see a search warrant for a soil sample, possibly seeking legal injunctions until the appropriate equipment is in place, insistence that the plant comes into compliance, and perhaps contacting an environmental attorney to assist the City with this. Parrish cautioned that he is not belittling the efforts of the current City Attorney. Member Morris advised that she was concerned that the plant refused soil samples be pulled and that at a previous meeting, she noted black soil and that after that meeting, the soil was removed. Member Miller added that even speculation of a public health hazard is a legitimate concern; and even if the odor is only harmful to the citizen's mood and perception of life, that is also a valid concern. Odor is subjective, but there has been a significant amount of citizen input and call for action and this issue needs to be addressed. Members discussed that additional test results are forthcoming and the possibility of hiring an outside firm to analyze those results from Ana-Lab. Motion made to approve engaging an environmental attorney or expert to review these results and any other results from any other lab as they come in, pertaining to Sigma."

End of agenda packet quote.

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How Muncipal Minutes Work

[PROCEDURE EXPLANTION]

Editor's comment.

The Winnsboro city council staff prepares the minutes and present the DRAFT document at a subsequent meeting. The "minutes" are presented in what is called an "Agenda Packet" as the proposed draft for council review and approval. At the council meeting, the aldermen will consider, discuss act on accepting the PROPOSED minutes into the final record, with a majority vote to accept "as is" (as presented in the packet), or "with changes." At this point, the approved draft without changes OR the changes requested by council are incorporated into the proposed draft presented, then printed and signed by the Mayor and City Secretary. The final approved document that is signed is called the "ADOPTED MINUTES." Adopted minutes are supposed to be placed on the city's website as prescribed by state law. A reader will know if the minutes on line are adopted, because the document copy online will be signed by the Mayor and City Secretary, and SHOULD reflect the date of adoption: the Council meeting at which the minutes were approved (with or without changes).