THE CITY OF CISCO CITY COUNCIL, REGULAR MEETING May 27, 2025

CISCO, TEXAS § EASTLAND, COUNTY §

The City Council of the City of Cisco met in a regular called session at the Cisco Council Chambers in Cisco as scheduled, and notice was posted 72 hours in advance and prior to the meeting.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

MAYOR	STEPHEN FORESTER
COUNCILMEMBER PLACE I	AMANDA ROGERS-BENNETT
COUNCILMEMBER PLACE II	GLENN BOLES
COUNCILMEMBER PLACE III	SHERRIE ANAYA
COUNCILMEMBER PLACE IV	NATHAN BRUNER
COUNCILMEMBER PLACE V	CHRIS JOHNSON
COUNCILMEMBER PLACE VI	TRAVIS TOOF
PERSONNEL PRESENT:	
CITY MANAGER	SARAH ADAMS
CITY SECRETARY	TAMMY OSBORNE
PERSONNEL ABSENT:	

Guests: James Freeman, Ross Honea, Brian Cross, Ervin Light, Barbara Light, Peggy Ledbetter, Lloyd Fagan, Bunnie Freeman, Rachel Green, Joe Franks, Kenneth Preston, Casey Murer, Roxanne Frazier, CC Rice, Lori Rice, Bert Marsh, Amanda Strickland, Neoma Ingram, Tammy Loran, Logan Loran, Teresa Slaughter, Sam Guthrie, Justin Jaworski

I. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:

Mayor Forester called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

II. PLEDGES

- A. Pledge of Allegiance
- B. Pledge to the Texas Flag

III. INVOCATION:

Mayor Forester gave the invocation.

IV. CITIZEN-VISITOR COMMENTS:

Mr. Freeman spoke in favor of calling an election to terminate the Cisco Development Corporation.

Mr. Franks spoke in opposition of calling an election to terminate the Cisco Development Corporation asking for the new members of Council to have more time to gather information before they are asked to make that decision.

Mr. Rice, a local business owner, added favorable comments for the Cisco Development Corporation, saying that business brings both sales and property tax revenue to the city.

Mrs. Loran, the Director of the Chamber of Commerce spoke in support of the Cisco Development Corporation and opposed calling an election to terminate the corporation.

V. APPROVE MINUTES OF THE MEETING CONDUCTED ON:

• April 28, 2025

Motion was made by Councilmember Boles to approve the minutes as presented, second was made by Councilmember Johnson. Motion prevailed by the following vote:

Ayes:Councilmembers: Rogers-Bennett, Boles, Anaya, Bruner, Johnson, Toof, ForesterNays:None/Motion CarriesVoted:7 to 0Absent:

VI. REPORTS:

- City Manager's Report-Sarah Adams presented the monthly City Manager's report.
- Finance Committee Report-Sarah Adams presented the monthly Finance Committee report.
- Financial Report-Sarah Adams presented the monthly Financial report.

VII. THE CITY COUNCIL MAY DISCUSS AND/OR TAKE ACTION ON ANY OF THE FOLLOWING AGENDA ITEMS:

A. Consider and Discuss Ordinance No. 0-2025-04

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CISCO, TEXAS PROVIDING THAT THE EAST/WEST ALLEY, BEING 12.5 FEET WIDE AND 177.44 FEET LONG, WITHIN BLOCK 118, IN S/D 3 OT, AS DEPICTED IN MCMORRIES & COMPANY PLAT MAPS OF THE CITY OF CISCO, EASTLAND COUNTY TEXAS, BE CLOSED, VACATED AND ABANDONED, EXCEPT FOR EXISTING UTILITY AND/OR DRAINAGE EASEMENTS; PROVIDING FOR REVERSION OF THE FEE IN SAID LAND; AND, PROVIDING THAT THIS ORDINANCE SHALL BECOME EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY UPON FINAL PASSAGE. *(First Reading)*

Mayor Forester explained that the proposed request was from Julie Bruner to abandon a small alley at the back of her property. He indicated that there were no other property owners affected by the proposed abandonment.

Motion was made by Councilmember Johnson to approve the ordinance as presented, second was made by Councilmember Anaya. Motion prevailed by the following vote:

Ayes:Councilmembers: Rogers-Bennett, Boles, Anaya, Johnson, Toof, ForesterNays:None/Motion CarriesVoted:6 to 0Absent:Abstain:Bruner

B. Consider and Discuss Ordinance No. 0-2025-05

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CISCO, TEXAS PROVIDING THAT THE CITY'S CODE OF ORDINANCES BE AMENDED BY REVISING CHAPTER 20 "UTILITIES", ARTICLE II "WATER AND SEWER SERVICE", SPECIFICALLY SECTION 20-22 "WATER RATES" AND SECTION 20-24 "SEWER RATES", INCREASING WATER AND SEWER RATES; AND ESTABLISHING AN EFFECTIVE DATE. (First Reading)

Ms. Adams presented the Council with the next several agenda items raising utility rates for water, wastewater, trash, and the convenience station, saying that the Utility Fund was operating in a deficit due to several different factors, including Capstone Metering going bankrupt and still owing the note on that loan, missed revenue from the bad meters, COVID-19, and supply chain interruptions. She added that the Finance Committee had recommended adding a surcharge to the utility bill now and a rate increase for the next budget year, but after discussion with the Mayor, it was proposed to just skip the surcharge and raise the rates so that citizens can begin preparing for that impact. She finished by stating that the city is well below utility costs compared to other nearby cities of similar size and the proposed rates would bring the city right in the middle of the highest and lowest rates in the area. Councilmember Johnson stated that he was reticent to raise rates, but acknowledged that the Utility Fund cannot continue to operate at a loss, and that the city's two wholesale customers should also reflect an increase in rates. The Council and City Manager continued discussion regarding the Convenience Station and the logistics of who can use the station and who is required to get a permit and pay per load.

Motion was made by Councilmember Bruner to approve the ordinance as presented, second was made by Councilmember Boles. Motion prevailed by the following vote:

Ayes:Councilmembers: Rogers-Bennett, Boles, Anaya, Bruner, Johnson, Toof, ForesterNays:None/Motion CarriesVoted:7 to 0Absent:

C. Consider and Discuss Ordinance No. 0-2025-06

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CISCO, TEXAS AMENDING CHAPTER 10 "GARBAGE AND TRASH", SPECIFICALLY SECTION 10-19 "RATES" OF THE CITY'S CODE OF ORDINANCES RAISING SANITATION RATES; AND ESTABLISHING AN EFFECTIVE DATE. (First Reading)

Motion was made by Councilmember Bruner to approve the ordinance as presented, second was made by Councilmember Toof. Motion prevailed by the following vote:

Ayes:Councilmembers: Rogers-Bennett, Boles, Anaya, Bruner, Johnson, Toof, ForesterNays:None/Motion CarriesVoted:7 to 0Absent:

D. Consider and Discuss Ordinance No. 0-2025-07

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF CISCO, TEXAS, PROVIDING THAT THE CITY'S CODE OF ORDINANCES BE AMENDED BY REVISING CHAPTER 10 "GARBAGE AND TRASH", SECTION 10-38 "RATES/REGULATIONS", TO INCLUDE A NEW RATE FOR THE CONVENIENCE STATION SURCHARGE ON RESIDENTIAL UTILITY BILLS; AND ESTABLISHING AN EFFECTIVE DATE. (*First Reading*)

Motion was made by Councilmember Johnson to approve the ordinance as presented, second was made by Councilmember Rogers-Bennett. Motion prevailed by the following vote:

Ayes:Councilmembers: Rogers-Bennett, Boles, Anaya, Bruner, Johnson, Toof, ForesterNays:None/Motion CarriesVoted:7 to 0Absent:

E. Consider and Discuss Adoption of Council Rules and Procedures.

Ms. Adams explained that the changes made since the last review by Council were the provisions for how to place an item on the agenda and the procedures for reconsideration of an item.

Motion was made by Councilmember Johnson to approve the adoption of the Council Rules and Procedures as presented, second was made by Councilmember Boles. Motion prevailed by the following vote:

Ayes:Councilmembers: Rogers-Bennett, Boles, Anaya, Bruner, Johnson, Toof, ForesterNays:None/Motion CarriesVoted:7 to 0Absent:

F. Consider and Discuss Approval of First Financial Bank Line of Credit.

Ms. Adams explained that the proposed line of credit would be held for the purchase of equipment for the Wildfire Mitigation Department. Councilmember Johnson expressed concerns about giving approval for the line of credit without specific language limiting its use and asked if Ms. Adams would notify Council if the line of credit was accessed. Ms. Adams assured the Council that the line of credit would only be used for those specific items and would hopefully not be needed at all, but would be held in reserve just in case and she would notify Council if the line of credit was accessed.

Motion was made by Councilmember Toof to approve the First Financial Bank Line of Credit as presented, second was made by Councilmember Anaya. Motion prevailed by the following vote:

Ayes:Councilmembers:Rogers-Bennett, Boles, Anaya, Bruner, Johnson, Toof, ForesterNays:None/Motion CarriesVoted:7 to 0Absent:

G. Reconsider and Discuss Approving a 5 Year Increase in Lake Lot Lease Payments.

Mayor Forester stated that the Council had considered the proposed item earlier, but he had requested a reconsideration with a full Council present. He further explained that the lake lot leases allow for up to a \$50.00 increase every five years.

Motion was made by Councilmember Bruner to approve the five year increase in lake lot lease payments, second was made by Councilmember Boles. Motion prevailed by the following vote:

Ayes:Councilmembers: Rogers-Bennett, Boles, Anaya, Bruner, Johnson, Toof, ForesterNays:None/Motion CarriesVoted:7 to 0Absent:

H. Consider and Discuss Calling a Special Election for the November Uniform Election Date to Propose to the Voters a Proposition to Terminate the Cisco Development Corporation and Potentially Designate the Reallocation of Those Sales Tax Funds.

Councilmember Toof opened discussion saying that he was in favor of dissolving the Cisco Development Corporation and reallocating a portion of the sales tax funds to infrastructure improvements. He thanked the CDC for the work they have undertaken up to this point, but said he felt that the city's needs had changed since the inception of the corporation, saying that the city needed infrastructure first, and then development would follow. Councilmember Bruner added that other cities are administrating economic development without the use of an economic development corporation. Councilmember Anaya had questions about what responsibilities the city would take over if the corporation was terminated and Mr. Jaworski indicated that he did not have that information available at the present time. Councilmember Johnson suggested tabling the item pending further information, clarifying that he would like concrete information, including numbers, before making a decision, but as of now, he is not in favor of terminating the Cisco Development Corporation.

Motion was made by Councilmember Johnson to bring the item back as a formal resolution for the Council to vote on once more information is available. Motion was withdrawn.

Motion was made by Councilmember Johnson to table the item pending further information, second was made by Councilmember Toof. Motion prevailed by the following vote:

Ayes:Councilmembers: Rogers-Bennett, Boles, Anaya, Johnson, Toof, ForesterNays:Bruner/Motion CarriesVoted:6 to 1Absent:

I. Items of Community Interest.

Councilmember Johnson thanked Cisco Strong for the new banners downtown.

Mr. Franks from the Cisco Development Corporation Board requested that the Council consider a joint meeting with the two CDC Boards.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made by Councilmember Toof to adjourn, second made by Councilmember Boles. Motion passed unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

ATTEST:

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Tammy Osborne, City Secretary

Stephen Jonth

Stephen Forester, Mayor

