

**THE CITY OF CISCO
CITY COUNCIL, SPECIAL CALLED MEETING
October 7, 2024**

**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	JASON WHETSTONE
COUNCILMEMBER PLACE II	ROBERT JOHNSTON
COUNCILMEMBER PLACE III	WILLARD JOHNSON
COUNCILMEMBER PLACE IV	NATHAN BRUNER
COUNCILMEMBER PLACE V	CHRIS JOHNSON
COUNCILMEMBER PLACE VI	TRAVIS TOOF

PERSONNEL PRESENT:

CITY MANAGER	VACANT
CITY SECRETARY	TAMMY OSBORNE

PERSONNEL ABSENT:

Guests: Kenneth Preston, Jane Nichols, Peggy Ledbetter, Walter Fairbanks, Philip Green, Paul Flores, Wes Light, Barbara Light, Lee Risdon, Anthony Koch, Justin Mena, Caleb Fairbanks

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:

Councilmember Whetstone gave the invocation.

IV. CITIZEN-VISITOR COMMENTS:

Mr. Ervin Light spoke to the Council regarding choosing an Interim City Manager.

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

A. Consider and Discuss Appointing an Interim City Manager.

Mayor Forester indicated that Finance Director, Peggy Ledbetter, has volunteered to act as Interim City Manager if that is the will of the Council.

Motion was made by Councilmember W. Johnson to appoint Peggy Ledbetter as Interim City Manager, second was made by Councilmember Bruner. Motion prevailed by the following vote:

Ayes: Councilmembers: Whetstone, Johnston, W. Johnson, Bruner, C. Johnson, Toof, Forester
Nays: None/Motion Carries
Voted: 7 to 0
Absent: None

B. Consider and Discuss Authorizing a Salary Range for the City Manager Position and Potentially Directing the City Secretary to Draft and Publish an Advertisement for Position.

The Council discussed the range of salary that would be acceptable to advertise for a new City Manager and settled on \$80,000.00-\$110,000.00.

Motion was made by Councilmember C. Johnson to publish the advertisement for the City Manager position with a salary range of \$80,000.00-\$110,000.00, second was made by Councilmember Whetstone. Motion prevailed by the following vote:

Ayes: Councilmembers: Whetstone, Johnston, W. Johnson, Bruner, C. Johnson, Toof, Forester
Nays: None/Motion Carries
Voted: 7 to 0
Absent: None

C. Consider and Discuss and Potentially Take Action on the City's Financial Status, Responsibilities, and Plans.

Mayor Forester presented the Council with an invoice for installation of water meters that is unpaid. He further stated that the City Attorney had suggested hiring a financial advisor to assist in recovering from the budget shortfall. Mr. Jaworski spoke, saying that he felt the city should prioritize public services and presented several ideas to ease cashflow needs on the city's finances. Councilmember C. Johnson stated that he wanted an investigation of the city's finances conducted. He also said the city should institute a hiring freeze effective immediately and review the current budget for potential cuts. Interim City Manager Ledbetter requested permission to utilize funds in a water/sewer emergency fund to pay toward past due invoices and then replace the funds in November from ad valorem tax monies.

Motion was made by Councilmember C. Johnson to utilize funds in water/sewer emergency funds to pay past due invoices, second was made by Councilmember W. Johnson. Motion prevailed by the following vote:

Ayes: Councilmembers: Whetstone, Johnston, W. Johnson, Bruner, C. Johnson, Toof, Forester
Nays: None/Motion Carries
Voted: 7 to 0
Absent: None

D. Consider and Discuss and Potentially Appoint Finance Committee.

Mayor Forester explained that the Council had discussed appointing a finance committee to investigate the budget shortfall and the city's overall finances.

Motion was made by Councilmember C. Johnson to form a Finance Committee, second was made by Councilmember Johnston. Motion prevailed by the following vote:

Ayes: Councilmembers: Whetstone, Johnston, W. Johnson, Bruner, C. Johnson, Toof, Forester
Nays: None/Motion Carries
Voted: 7 to 0
Absent: None

Motion was made by Councilmember C. Johnson to appoint Mayor Forester, Councilmember W. Johnson, Councilmember Whetstone, and Interim City Manager Ledbetter to the Finance Committee, second was made by Councilmember Toof. Motion prevailed by the following vote:

Ayes: Councilmembers: Whetstone, Johnston, W. Johnson, Bruner, C. Johnson, Toof, Forester
Nays: None/Motion Carries
Voted: 7 to 0
Absent: None

E. Announcements for City Council.

Mayor Forester reminded the Council that the next meeting would be on Tuesday, October 15, 2024 since that Monday was a city holiday.

Councilmember W. Johnson asked for clarification on the inquiry made to the Texas Rangers by Councilmember C. Johnson. Councilmember C. Johnson answered that he had presented the information about the budget shortage to the Texas Rangers through an inquiry portal.

The City Secretary asked for direction regarding discussing an investigation as an agenda item at a later meeting and Councilmember C. Johnson asked for it to be on the next meeting agenda.

The City Secretary asked for direction about when the Council would like to review financial reports and was directed to place the item on the first meeting of each month.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made by Councilmember Toof to adjourn, second made by Councilmember W. Johnson. Motion passed unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 6:57 p.m.

ATTEST:



Tammy Osborne, City Secretary



Stephen Forester, Mayor

