



CITY OF WHITEWRIGHT

City Council
Called Meeting

MINUTES

Whitewright Visitor Center
111 W. Grand
May 29, 2018
7:00 p.m.

The City of Whitewright met for a Called Meeting, Tuesday, May 29, 2018 at 7 p.m. in the Whitewright Visitors Center, in conjunction with Type A Whitewright Economic Development Board, Type B Whitewright Community Development Board, Planning and Zoning Commission and Board of Adjustment, the same being open to the public with the following members present:

Councilmember Sarah Beth Owen
Councilmember Rick Magers
Councilmember Randy Glover
Councilmember Bart Bodine

Councilmember George Fenner was absent.

Others present: Mayor Jamie Lawrence, City Secretary Tona Shippet, June Purdom, Drew Whittington, Sherry Kent, Diana Scott, Barbara Hughes,

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

Mayor Lawrence called the meeting to order at 7 p.m. and established a Quorum. Councilmembers Owen, Magers, Glover, and Bodine were present.

Board President Kelly Selman called the Type A board to order and established a quorum. Members Amy Shaw, Gwyn Jordan, Mark Kline were present. Justin Minzenmayer was absent.

Board President Bart Bodine called the Type B board to order and established a quorum. Members Rick Magers, Shirley Ballard, Ruby Howell and C.J. Hill were present. Board member Matt Cook was absent. One seat is vacant.

Planning and Zoning members John Simon and Rick Magers were present.

Board of Adjustment members Sherry Kent, Diana Scott and Barbara Hughes were present.

II. **Workshop** in conjunction with Type A Whitewright Economic Development Board, Type B Whitewright Community Development Board, Planning and Zoning Commission and Board of Adjustment.

Mayor Lawrence gave a presentation on planning, budgeting, financial accountability, and closing out the audits for 2015-16 and 2016-17.

Brandon Latimer spoke about issues for Public Works. Our water system is outdated and over the usage limit, so a new water well would be needed to increase water use. New water storage tanks and repairs to current storage tanks would also be needed. New water and sewer lines would also be required, preferably placing lines under the road, then repairing the roads as lines are complete. A grant/loan from GTUA is being developed for a total of \$6,278,000 to complete all items, with a 30% loan forgiveness.

Chief Rick Webber spoke regarding the Police Department. Of primary concern was the need for a permanent location for the department. New computers for patrol cars and offices, a system to store video evidence, additional Tasers, a firearms room, and an evidence room are also needed.

Chief Dwayne Henderson spoke regarding the need for integrating fire inspection into the building permit system. The volunteer fire department currently has sixteen (16) members, but there is a need for more, and retention is also an issue. An annual payment to volunteers based on attendance at training, number of calls responded, etc. is being considered. The current building needs repairs or replacement. A grant for a new building is in the works to be submitted to the Oliver Dewey Mayor Foundation for a new emergency services building and community room.

New equipment is also an issue, with much of the current equipment purchased used and now in need of maintenance. An interdepartmental server to share data to improve workflow is also needed. The radio system needs to be upgraded to allow better communications in the field.

The City's ISO Rating (Insurance Service Office) has been reduced, which means residents may have lower insurance premiums. Codes and Ordinances need to be updated and amended to reflect current and future City needs. Service boundaries may change in the future, as we are currently not able to serve Fannin County. City officials will have to meet with Fannin County officials to see what needs to be done to expand our service area.

Chris Douglas spoke regarding EMS needs, including facilities, a need for a new ambulance within the next year to stay on a 5-year replacement plan, upgraded radios. Chief Henderson and Chief Douglas are talking about merging the Fire Department and EMS into one department. Chief Douglas is also looking to expand into Fannin County, since our EMS can respond in 3 minutes to some locations, as well as taking back an in-county area near Van Alstyne which we previously served. The City of Bells has contacted us for a bid to supplement their EMS service. A cost analysis will be done as more information becomes available.

In long-term goals, a second ambulance and staffing may be necessary if expansion to Fannin County and in-county occurs, in order to provide enough coverage for the City and other areas.

Mayor Lawrence spoke regarding ways of getting "community buy in" regarding the purchase of new equipment, as well as seeking out grants to reduce costs to the City. The audits for FY15-16 and FY16-17 are in process and we are preparing for the FY17-18 audit process, which will allow us to get a true picture of financial status. Budget planning has begun, with department heads reviewing their past year's budget to begin working on FY18-19, which will be reviewed by the Council.

TXDOT will be improving pedestrian paths for FM 898 and 151, and include ADA accessibility for the 100 West Grand block. It will be at no cost for the City. There is also an 80/20 sidewalk grant that overlaps with this project, so a review will be made to remove duplication and reduce cost for the City.

Drew Whittington of Government Capital presented information about their services and answered questions from the council, committee members, and audience regarding financing for the Sidewalk project. How funding by the City, WCDC, and WEDC would work was discussed.

Councilmember Glover suggested closing the workshop and delaying action until the City Council could review the Sidewalk project, and moving Action Items 2 and 3 to a future meeting if WCDC and WEDC wished to participate. Kelly Selman stressed the importance of reviewing the project and the financial obligations before proceeding, and felt more detailed information needed to be presented to the WCDC and WEDC committees before they could commit to funding. Tona Shiplet asked if Selman could review the project due to his experience working with TXDOT.

Mayor Lawrence closed the workshop.

III. Action Items:

1. *Consider and act upon a resolution regarding a financing agreement for the purpose of procuring a "vehicle and related equipment".*

Councilmember Owen made the motion to act upon a resolution regarding a financing agreement for the purpose of procuring a "vehicle and related equipment", amended to be in accordance with Chief Webber's recommendation for a four-year term. Councilmember Glover seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

2. *Consider and act upon a resolution regarding a financing agreement for the purpose of Sidewalk project by the Whitewright Economic Development Corporation.*

Councilmember Owen made the motion to table the item according to WEDC's request. Councilmember Magers seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

3. *Consider and act upon a resolution regarding a financing agreement for the purpose of Sidewalk project by the Whitewright Community Development Corporation.*

Councilmember Owen made the motion to table the item according to WCDC's request. Councilmember Bodine seconded the motion. Councilmember Glover requested permission to discuss, recommending that a list of grants the City is considering applying for be reviewed to see what amount the City would need to add to future budgets, and recommended declining this grant since the funds were not in the current budget. Motion received a 2-2 vote, Mayor Lawrence cast his vote to table.


IV. Adjourn

Bart Bodine adjourned the WCDC meeting.

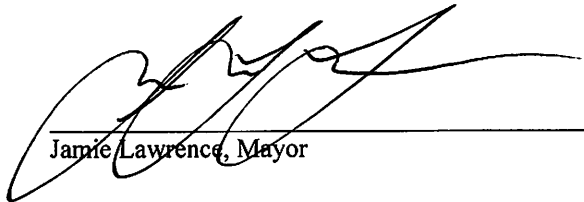
Kelly Selman adjourned the WEDC meeting.

Councilmember Glover made the motion to adjourn the Council meeting. Councilmember Owen seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0. Mayor Lawrence adjourned the meeting.

ATTEST BY:



Tona Shiptet, City Secretary



Jamie Lawrence, Mayor