



## CITY OF WHITEWRIGHT

City Council

Regular Meeting

Whitewright Visitor Center

111 W. Grand

September 5, 2017 at 6:30 p.m.

### MINUTES

The City Council of Whitewright met for a Regular Meeting Tuesday, September 5, 2017 at 6:30 P.M. 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	Gregory Owens

Others present and signing in were: Tona Shiplet, Gwyn Jordan, Mark Kline, Mike Martin, Vicki Herber, Randy Glover, Anita Richardson, Chana Gail Willis, James Sauls, Suzy Sauls, June Purdom, Jaimee Owens, Wende Andrew, Lance Freer, Laura Freer, Linda Malone, Roger Palmer, Linda Jester, Catherine Giles, David Monroe (TNT), Elizabeth Swoopes, Deanna Robinson, Debbie Pittman, Kari Gage, Reid Pittman, Chris Ely, Connie Magers, Rick Magers, Teresa Nelson, Teri Cook, Molly Moses, Rebekah Fenner, Leslie Blanton, Carlisle Mott, Ginger Miller, Amy Shaw, Dee Anna Alexander, Cynthia Glover, Brandon Latimer, Cheryl Flanery Dwayne Henderson, Kelly Selman, Lauri Summers, Jason Andrew.

1. Call meeting to Order and Establish a Quorum:

**Mayor Pro Tem Russell Ponder called the meeting to order at 6:32 P.M. and established a quorum. Mayor Jeremiah Looney was absent. Councilmembers Owen, Bodine, Ponder, Simon and Owens were present.**

2. Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance:

**Councilmember Bart Bodine led the Invocation and 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).*

**Mark Kline** spoke and requested 30 seconds extra time. He referenced his tenure on the Type A Board aka Whitewright Economic Development Corporation, his removal, the allegations of wrongdoing and stated that the flooring issue, discussion of potentially selling 111 W. Grand and Zeestratan loans were the key issues leading to his removal and that he was never asked to attend a city council meeting to answer any allegations. He added that the manner in which he was removed was no way to treat unpaid volunteers. He stated that the Type A Board was in good financial standing and adhering to the laws

**Mike Martin** spoke and agreed with Mr. Kline's statements. He congratulated the Mayor on not having an executive session designed to fire someone. He also inquired as to the status of the FY 2016 audit and stated that the audit is 5 months late.

**Vicky Herber** spoke and referenced her personal meeting with Mayor Looney and Councilwoman Sarah Beth Owen on July 26<sup>th</sup>. She stated that her primary question as to why Mr. Kline had been removed was not answered. She was told he was asked to resign as he was the President of the Type A board and would not listen. She added that Mayor Looney read a list of allegations. She asked specifically if Mr. Kline had done any of the allegations and was told no. She then listed the allegations; questionable accounting practices, failure to provide proper financial oversight, misuse of funds, changing budgets without approval, mismanagement of tax payer funds, misdirection of funds when volunteers were able to perform work, ignoring preexisting conditions for years, spending funds without approval, lack of proper project planning, disregard of procedure of public notice, paying family members. She stated that every member of the boards should receive a written apology.

**Randy Glover** spoke and referenced his previous inquiry as to who wrote and published the accusations on Facebook. Councilmember Bodine stated he did not. Councilmember Simon referenced the rules regarding the Council not addressing matters brought before the council during Citizens forum. He demanded to know who wrote the post. He demanded an apology and that the person responsible resign or separate from city employment.

**Anita Richardson** spoke regarding the Facebook post. She also referenced a public information request that she had submitted on 8/10/17 that had not yet been completed. She stated her displeasure at being told she either had to attend the city council meeting or request a copy of the recordings each month.

**Chana Gail Willis** spoke and stated that she came for this meeting due to the Type A and Type B board discord among the citizens and city council. There are 3 things that destroy a community; (1) lack of knowledge regarding laws, rules bylaws and regulations (2) proper money management and transparency (3) gossip, cold ruthless name calling.

She continued to state that Type A and Type B members serve at the pleasure of the City Council and listed some of the items that each board could do separately and together, and what they could not do.

**June Purdom** spoke of her love for our city, school and her displeasure at the discord. She stated that she had served on the Type A board and was guilty of some of the allegations. She referenced the board members and accomplishments achieved under their direction. She stated her hope that board members would be reinstated.

#### 4. Action Items:

4a. Consider and approve Minutes from the Regular Meeting dated August 1, 2017.

**Councilmember Bodine moved to approve the minutes. Councilmember Simon seconded the motion. Motion Carried 4-0.**

4b. Consider and approve current bills for payment.

**Councilmember Simon moved to approve the current bills for payment. Councilmember Bodine seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.**

4c. Consider and approve Monthly Departmental Reports.

(a) Play recording recognizing Whitewright EMS.

Fire Chief Henderson gave the Fire Department report. Library Director Chris Ely gave the Library report. Interim Police Chief Rick Webber gave the Police Department report. EMS Director Chris Douglas gave the EMS report. Public Works director Brandon Latimer gave the Public Works report. City Secretary Tona Shplet gave the court report.

**Councilmember Owen moved to accept the monthly departmental reports. Councilmember Owens seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.**

4d. Fire Chief Dwayne Henderson will have David Monroe with TNT Rescue Tools give a presentation regarding purchase of new rescue equipment/tools. Consider and act as necessary.

**Councilmember John Simon moved to approve the purchase of new rescue equipment. Councilman Greg Owens seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-1 (Councilman Bodine voted Nay and stated he wanted to see a demonstration).**

4e. Consider and act on Interlocal Agreement between the Texoma Council of Governments and City of Whitewright to provide GIS Services for Fiscal year 2017-2018 at a cost of \$7,000.00.

**Councilmember Sarah Beth Owen moved to approve the Agreement in the amount of \$4,800.00 as the City had not used all of the services listed for the amount of \$7,000.00 Councilmember Bart Bodine seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.**

4f. Amy Shaw has requested to be placed on the agenda (a) to speak in support of a city employee (b) to question the condition of the city's finances. Request signed by Councilmember Bart Bodine.

Consider and act as necessary.

Ms. Shaw passed out two handouts to the council and those in the audience. One was a compilation of letters commending City Employee Cathy Pierce. The second presentation was a Statement of Revenues and Expenses for FY 2017. Ms. Shaw had those present stand if they had personally interacted with Cathy Pierce and felt she was a positive influence in people relocating to Whitewright, opening a business in Whitewright or enrolling their children in Whitewright ISD. She then had a list of questions regarding the Statement of Revenues and Expenses and questions concerning the FY2017 budget.

Councilmember Simon attempted to speak and Ms. Shaw stated she had the floor. Councilmember Owen requested to speak and ask questions. Ms. Shaw stated she would listen but was not required to answer. Ms. Shaw addressed the council and City Secretary Tona Shplet answered a specific question regarding financial services. Ms. Shplet added that Cathy Pierce had been the Acting City Secretary when the FY2017 budget was prepared and responsible for data entry. She also stated that one of the letters of reference that Ms. Shaw handed out was from a former city employee tasked with accounting duties who was subsequently separated from employment. Ms. Pierce was her direct supervisor. **No action was taken by the council.**

4g. Consider and act upon Catherine Giles' presentation to City Council regarding offering AFLAC to City Employees as an employee paid payroll deduction.

**Councilmember Owen moved to offer AFLAC to city employees at their cost and as a payroll deduction.**

**Councilmember Bart Bodine seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.**

4h. Consider and act upon adding Food Trucks and Concession Trailers to fee schedule. Set fee for permit and permit length and any additional requirements.

**Councilmember Simon moved to table this agenda item. Councilmember Owen seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.**

4i. Consider and act on additional employee benefits to be paid by the city:

- (1) Short Term Disability paid by the City
- (2) Long Term Disability paid by the City
- (3) Employee Assistance Program (EAP) paid by the City

Councilmember Owen moved to table the above employee benefits and requested information on employee paid Short Term Disability and employee paid long term disability. Councilmember Bodine seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

4j. Consider and act upon additional employee benefits to be paid by the employee:

- (1) Family Life Insurance
- (2) Flex Health Spending Account

Councilmember Simon moved to approve employee paid Family Life Insurance and Flex Health Spending Account. Councilmember Owen seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

4k. Consider and act upon initiating a waiting period for ALL city and employee paid benefits: Benefits to start on the first of the month following a 60 day waiting period.

Councilmember Simon moved to initiate a waiting period for employee benefits, benefits would start on the first of the month following a 60 day waiting period. Councilmember Bodine seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

5. Action Items:

5a. Consider and accept Martha Mangrum's resignation from the Type B Board (Whitewright Community Development Corporation (WCDC)).

Councilmember Simon moved to accept Ms. Mangrum's resignation from the Type B Board. Councilmember Owen seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-1, Councilmember Bodine voted Nay.

5b. Consider and appoint a member to fill the vacancy from above resignation to the Type B Board (WCDC).

Councilmember Simon moved to appoint Rick Magers to the Type B Board. Councilman Owen seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

5c. Consider and approve the amended 2016-2017 Type A Board (Whitewright Economic Development Corporation (WEDC)) budget.

Councilmember Owen moved to approve the amended 2016-2017 Type A Board budget. Councilmember Owens seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

5d. Consider and approve 2017-2018 Type A Board (WEDC) budget.

Councilmember Owen moved to approve the 2017-2018 Type A budget. Councilmember Bodine seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

5e. Review current Type B Board (WCDC) mowing budget vs actual expenditures and act as necessary.

Councilmember Bodine moved to table the review of the Type B Board mowing budget vs actual expenditures. Councilmember Owen seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-1. Councilmember Simon voted Nay.

6. 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):

6a. Mayor's Report: Mayor Pro Tem Russell Ponder announced that City Council meetings for the months of October, November and December would be moved to the 1<sup>st</sup> Monday and the time would remain 6:30 P.M.

Update on Projects

New Projects

6b. Council Concerns: Councilmember Owen thanked those in attendance for their participation. She added that there was interest in a Frisbee golf course.

7. Adjourn:

Councilmember Owen moved to adjourn. Councilmember Owens seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

ATTEST BY:

  
Tona Shipler – City Secretary

  
Russell Ponder – Mayor Pro Tem