

MINUTES OF THE CROCKETT CITY COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON THE 21<sup>ST</sup> DAY OF JUNE 2022 IN THE CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS, LOCATED AT 200 NORTH FIFTH IN THE CITY OF CROCKETT, HOUSTON COUNTY TEXAS AT 6:00 P.M.

THE COUNCIL MET IN SPECIAL SESSION WITH THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS PRESENT: IANTHIA FISHER, GENE CALDWELL, ERNEST JACKSON, DARRELL JONES & MIKE MARSH. CITY OFFICIALS PRESENT: CITY SECRETARY MITZI STEFKA, POLICE CHIEF CLAYTON SMITH AND FIRE CHIEF JASON FRIZZELL. MARQUITA BEASLEY NOT PRESENT.

#### OPEN MEETING WITH INVOCATION AND PLEDGE

Mayor Fisher called the formal session open. Council member Jackson gave the invocation and all joined in the pledge.

#### RECOGNITION OF VISITORS

Mayor Fisher recognized all visitors present.

COMMENTS FROM AUDIENCE OR COUNCIL *(At this time, anyone will be allowed to speak on City related matters only; no personnel matters or matters under litigation will be allowed. The length of time may not exceed three minutes. NO Council discussion or action may take place on a matter until such matter has been placed on an agenda and posted in accordance with law.)*

- Natrenia Hicks – does not agree with forensic audit of CEIDC
- Anthony Shuttlesworth – violations of CEIDC bylaws
- James Henry – community needs to come together and grow
- Chari Shuttlesworth – questionable checks written by CEIDC
- Sherald Wood – problems with long term liabilities and debt with CEIDC
- Virginia Lewis – debt incurred by CEIDC
- Dianne Rhone – CEIDC annual plan and objectives not submitted
- Craig Hopkins – inspection of records of CEIDC
- Council member Caldwell – tough decision for everyone involved
- Council member Jones – majority of issues started with Tim Culp

#### 1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: REGULAR MEETING - JUNE 6, 2022

Council member Jackson made a motion to approve the minutes of the June 6, 2022 Regular Meeting. Council member Jones seconded the motion. Motion passes 4-0.

#### 2. POLICE DEPARTMENT MANPOWER & CRIMINAL INCIDENT REPORT FOR MAY 2022

Chief Smith reported for the month of May 2022; 13 total manpower, 2560 total manpower hours, 580 total calls and 10 total accidents. A breakdown of the criminal reports is included in the packets.

3. FIRE DEPARTMENT MONTHLY ACTIVITY & STATUS REPORT FOR MAY 2022

Fire Chief Frizzell reported for the month of May 2022 the following: 44 total calls. A breakdown is included in the packets.

4. CONSIDER AND APPROVE A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CROCKETT, TEXAS, DETERMINING THAT AN AREA OF THE CITY CONTAINS CONDITIONS WHICH ARE DETRIMENTAL TO THE PUBLIC HEALTH, SAFETY, AND WELFARE OF THE COMMUNITY AND CONSTITUTES A BLIGHTED AREA

Mayor Pro Tem Marsh made a motion to approve a Resolution of the City Council of the City of Crockett, Texas, determining that an area of the city contains conditions which are detrimental to the public health, safety, and welfare of the community and constitutes a blighted area; Boundaries: North: Milam Avenue, South: E. Goliad Avenue, East: N. 6<sup>th</sup> Street, West: N. 2<sup>nd</sup> Street. Council member Caldwell seconded the motion. Motion passes 4-0.

5. CONSIDER AND APPROVE A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CROCKETT, TEXAS, AUTHORIZING THE SUBMISSION OF A TEXAS COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM APPLICATION TO THE TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE FOR THE DOWNTOWN REVITALIZATION PROGRAM FUND; AND AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND CITY ADMINISTRATOR TO ACT AS THE CITY'S AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVES IN ALL MATTERS PERTAINING TO THE CITY'S PARTICIPATION IN THE TEXAS COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM

Council member Jones made a motion to approve a Resolution of the City Council of the City of Crockett, Texas, authorizing the submission of a Texas Community Development Block Grant Program application to the Texas Department of Agriculture for the Downtown Revitalization Program Fund; and authorizing the Mayor and City Administrator to act as the City's authorized representatives in all matters pertaining to the City's participation in the Texas Community Development Block Grant Program. Mayor Pro Tem Marsh seconded the motion. Motion passes 4-0.

6. DISCUSSION AND ACTION TO HAVE A THIRD-PARTY FORENSIC AUDIT OF CROCKETT ECONOMIC AND INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Mayor Fisher stated there are details that will need to be discussed at future meetings if a forensic audit is decided on. Council member Jones stated that the city attorney looks at all documents, there's not been one thing, other than the checks, that said anything was wrong with Economic Development. The audit came before council to be voted on, all voted in favor. Council member Caldwell stated there are professionals that look at the audits and council looks to them for insight; he stated that there are a lot of mistakes from years ago, but if they have been done, it needs to be corrected and get on the right track

so the public will be with us again and if it takes a forensic audit to do that, it's what needs to be done. Council member Jackson stated it was his belief the time had come to take a closer look at the CEIDC; the public trust has been violated. He stated that he wanted to see the city come together. Mr. Jackson continued that in the past history of the CEIDC, no forensic audit had ever been conducted and for him to be a part of approving a forensic audit, he would have to see the audit look not only at James Gentry but at Flint Brent, Thom Lambert and Tim Culp. Mayor Pro Tem Marsh stated he agreed with Mr. Jackson 100%. Council member Jones stated that there was nothing in the council packet pertaining to what was said nor have any documents been presented to council based on what has been said. He continued the audit should go back farther than Tim Culp, it should include Harold Dean, Hunter Hilburn and Eric Winter. All reports from Axley & Rode have been improved and approved by council. Mayor Fisher stated that when an audit is done, sections are pulled out and reviewed but a forensic audit is different. One of the considerations will be the cost, also, what type of audit, a procedural or financial, and for every year you go back, there is a price tag attached to it. Who will cover the cost of the audit? After further discussion, Council member Jones made a motion to not approve a forensic audit. No second. Motion fails. Council member Jackson stated that people who elected them have concerns and that is all the document he needs; he then made a motion to have a third-party forensic audit of Crockett Economic and Industrial Development Corporation to include current administration as well as the previous and administration before that. Mayor Pro Tem Marsh seconded the motion. Motion passes 3-1. Council member Jones voted against the motion.


Council member Jones told Mayor Fisher he wanted to look at employee's salary on next agenda.

#### ADJOURNMENT

Without objection, Mayor Fisher adjourned the meeting at 7:00 P.M.

ATTEST:

Mitzi Stefka  
Mitzi Stefka, City Secretary

for   
Dr. Ianthia Fisher, Mayor