

MINUTES OF THE CROCKETT CITY COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON THE 18<sup>th</sup> DAY OF JULY 2022 IN THE CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS, LOCATED AT 200 NORTH FIFTH IN THE CITY OF CROCKETT, HOUSTON COUNTY TEXAS AT 9:00 A.M.

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

#### OPEN MEETING WITH INVOCATION AND PLEDGE

Mayor Pro Tem Marsh called the formal session open. City Administrator Angerstein gave the invocation and all joined in the pledge.

#### RECOGNITION OF VISITORS

Mayor Pro Tem Marsh 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.)*

#### 1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: SPECIAL MEETING - JUNE 21, 2022

Council member Beasley made a motion to approve the minutes of the June 21, 2022 Special Meeting. Council member Caldwell seconded the motion. Motion passes 4-0.

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

Chief Smith reported for the month of June 2022; 13 total manpower, 2340 total manpower hours, 462 total calls and 8 total accidents. A breakdown of the criminal reports is included in the packets.

#### 3. FIRE DEPARTMENT MONTHLY ACTIVITY & STATUS REPORT FOR JUNE 2022

Fire Chief Frizzell reported for the month of June 2022 the following: 35 total calls. A breakdown is included in the packets.

Council member Jackson arrived at this time: 9:15 A.M.

#### 4. 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 FIRE, AMBULANCE, AND SERVICE TRUCK (FAST) GRANT PROGRAM; 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 Beasley 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 Fire, Ambulance, and Service Truck (FAST) Grant Program; 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 Caldwell seconded the motion.

Motion passes 5-0.

5. **CONSIDER AND APPROVE APPOINTMENT OF REPRESENTATIVE TO SERVE ON BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR DEEP EAST TEXAS COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS**

Council member Jones made a motion to approve appointment of Mayor Fisher as representative to serve on Board of Directors for Deep East Texas Council of Governments. Council member Jackson seconded the motion. Motion passes 5-0.

6. **CONSIDER AND APPROVE APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD**

Council member Beasley made a motion to approve the appointments of Paula Hackett and Jessica James as members to the Library Advisory Board. Council member Jackson seconded the motion. Motion passes 5-0.

7. **DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON INSTALLING PEDESTRIAN CROSSING SIGNS AND PAINTED CROSSWALK AT 1979 S. 5<sup>th</sup> STREET (MIMSY'S BARBECUE)**

Mr. Angerstein explained that Mr. Spellman has requested a painted crosswalk and Pedestrian Crossing signs directly across from Mimsy's. He has purchased 17 acres across the street for overflow parking as well as a picnic park for outdoor diners. Council member Jones ask who would pay for this. Mr. Angerstein stated that was up to council. Council member Jones made a motion to approve the city installing Pedestrian Crossing signs and painted crosswalk at 1979 S. 5<sup>th</sup> Street (Mimsy's Barbecue) if they pay for it. Council member Caldwell seconded the motion. Council member Jackson questioned why the City or Economic Development not bear the cost, if it is a matter of public safety. Mayor Pro Tem Marsh agreed and stated they were a big taxpayer. Motion passes 3-2. Council member Jackson and Mayor Pro Tem Marsh voted against the motion.

8. **FISCAL YEAR 2023 BUDGET WORKSHOP**

Mr. Angerstein went over key points with city council on the FY 2023 draft budget: Property tax revenue is projected at a \$49,000 increase. The overall property values are up by \$37 million and according to state guidelines the city can not bring in more than 3.5% in additional revenue; therefore, the property tax rate has to be decreased so as not to go over voter approval rate. Sales tax revenue has increased along with Hotel Motel taxes.

Expenses: health insurance for employees increased 7.8%, workers' comp increased by 20% in police and fire, fuel prices will be up by \$68,319 in this budget. Pineywoods Sanitation will have a 6% increase in garbage rates and a 2% increase in water rates from Houston County Water District, also a \$90,000 note due to the Texas Water Development Board.

Mike Wilson, Pineywoods Sanitation, presented council with a request, per the contract, to increase residential and commercial rates by 6% starting November 1, 2022. The increase would raise residential cart service from \$20.16 monthly to \$21.37 monthly. Mr. Wilson noted the increase will be along all lines of business. After council discussion, Council member Jackson made a motion to approve the 6% raise from Pineywoods Sanitation. Council member Caldwell seconded the motion. Motion passes 4-1. Council member Jones voted against the motion.

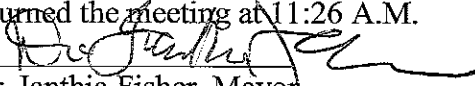
Mr. Angerstein discussed the water rate increase. There have been no adjustments in water rates since 2017. After council discussion on the matter, council would like the Water District Board to present to council justification for the increase.

Council discussed at length the capital requests and the funding of each. Salaries were discussed and the need to be more competitive. Police Chief Smith addressed council about pay increases for his department and explained one of the reasons his department was facing difficulty in recruiting and retaining officers was because of pay. A salary study was discussed to put together a competitive salary study that would address all city employees and departments. Mr. Angerstein explained it would most likely require the matter being put before the voters in order to provide the necessary funds.

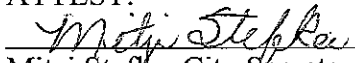
Council member Jones made a motion to go with Chief Smith's pay scale as presented. Mr. Angerstein explained that because of the increase needed just for the police department increases, they city will have to increase its tax rate. Council member Jones amended his motion to have an analysis done by an in-house committee, with a council member on the committee, and with help from a local CPA, to include all city employees. Council member Beasley seconded the motion. Motion passes 5-0.

#### ADJOURNMENT

Without objection, Mayor Pro Tem Marsh adjourned the meeting at 11:26 A.M.

  
Dr. Ianthia Fisher, Mayor

ATTEST:

  
Mitzi Steffa, City Secretary