



REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

A Regular Meeting of the Governing Body of the City of Ranger, Texas, was held on **Monday, March 11, 2024 at 5:30 p.m.** in City Hall, 400 West Main Street Ranger, Texas. The following subjects were discussed, to wit:

COUNCIL MEMBERS AND CITY STAFF PRESENT:

| | |
|-----------------------------------|---------|
| Honorable Terry Robinson | Mayor |
| Commissioner Joe Sigler | Place 1 |
| Commissioner Vacant | Place 2 |
| Commissioner Wendy Erwin | Place 3 |
| Commissioner Vacant | Place 4 |
| City Manager Savannah Fortenberry | |
| City Secretary Somer Lee | |

Agenda Item 01: Call to Order- Mayor Robinson
Roll Call/Quorum Check- City Secretary, Somer Lee
Invocation of Prayer- Mayor Robinson
Pledge of Allegiance to United States Flag- Mayor Robinson
Pledge of Allegiance to Texas Flag- Mayor Robinson

Agenda Item 02: Citizen's Presentation: **1.** Kevan Moize was signed up to speak, but chose to pass. **2.** Jared Calvert stated that Ranger is hanging on by a thread, the city's infrastructure is aging, the streets are full of potholes, and Ranger's reputation is the worst in the county. He says the thread is so thin that a local business had to cut off the credit line for the city due to the city not paying their bills, but yet the city continues to spend money on attorney fees. Mr. Calvert spoke towards Mayor Robinson stating he came to council over a year ago requesting to be put on the agenda before the lawsuit and was denied the request while she sat in silence as Commissioner Moize was directing the city manager to not put him on the agenda. He also spoke of the anonymous letters going around town, and stated that since Commissioner Moize is no longer on council, he can speak about the airfield lawsuit and challenges him to a debate at a public place and can be streamed online. **3.** Bryan Rogers stated that he would like an update on the dangerous buildings, a projected cost and where we are at on it.

Agenda Item 03: Announcements from City Council or Staff- **1.** City Manager, Savannah Fortenberry, announced that the city is still in stage 2 drought and all information can be found on the city's website and Facebook page. Ms. Fortenberry also informed city hall would be closed on March 29, 2024 in observance of Good Friday. **2.** Commissioner Sigler announced that the Fire Department is raising money and accepting donations for water and Gatorade, etc. Mr. Sigler also stated the Olden Fire Department is raising money for fire truck donations to go towards a grant they received over ten years ago in which the cost has since increased. Mr. Sigler also announced, Russ Davis, former owner of the Young School has formed a corporation known as Soldiers Cross, a non-profit will provide computers and 3-D printers in the homes of disabled veterans, teaching them how to operate them and providing print jobs.

Agenda Item 04: Discuss/Consider: approval of the city council meeting minutes for the regular meeting on February 26, 2024.

*Motion made by Commissioner Erwin to approve the minutes for the regular meeting on March 11, 2024, and 2nd by Commissioner Sigler. **All Ayes: Erwin, Sigler, Robinson; Motion Passed**

Agenda Item 05: Discuss/Consider: update from the Eastland County Water Supply District (Elected Ranger Directors).

***No Action Taken.**

*There were no representatives from the ECWSD present for an update.

*Kevan Moize stated; the reason the vendor update has become more salient, is due to the fact that since acquiring a new superintendent 2 years ago, the district has siphoned off an additional \$1.2 million from the two cities. Fortunately, we have 4 Ranger representatives to attend the meetings. In the last meeting the representatives, and others, provided an update. The first in a very long time. Although, it didn't provide much in the way of real information, it was something. Hopefully, this evening, they will provide more useful information. For example, what is the reserve number they are targeting? What is the total accumulated amount in that reserve? Where can we find it on the reports for future reference? When they reach that reserve, will they reduce the cost? I will forward many other questions to the council.

Agenda Item 06: Discuss/Consider: approving the West Central Texas Council of Governments Regional 9-1-1 Program GIS Services Agreement.

*Motion made by Commissioner Sigler to approve the West Central Texas Council of Governments Regional 9-1-1 Program GIS Services Agreement and 2nd by Commissioner Erwin. **All Ayes: Sigler, Erwin, Robinson; Motion Passed.**

Agenda Item 07: Discuss/Consider: approval for a free clean-up day located at the City's Collection Station for RESIDENTIAL customers with rules applying.

*Motion made by Commissioner Sigler to approve a free clean-up day on April 20, 2024 for RESIDENTIAL customers with rules applying and 2nd by Commissioner Erwin. **All Ayes: Sigler, Erwin, Robinson; Motion Passed**

Agenda Item 08: Discuss/Consider Convene into executive session pursuant to Section 551.071, Texas Government Code, and Section 1.05, Texas Professional Rules of Disciplinary Conduct to consult with legal counsel regarding:

1. Cause No. CV2246534, Ranger Airfield Maintenance Foundation vs. City of Ranger, in the 91st Judicial District Court, Eastland County, Texas and the Ranger Airfield Foundation Lease Agreement.
2. A petition to call an election to recall the Mayor.

*Jared Calvert spoke stating; this is no less than 15 or 16 times that this has gone into executive session and they have never been invited into the back and no one that sits on the council now was on the council when the contract was approved so how can any of them know what it was originally signed for or what was said. Mr. Calvert also stated, you don't know that in 2019, the mayor and city manager said, don't worry about the insurance and when I came with the prints of the building because it requires written approval and asked if they wanted to make copies, I was told to not worry about it. Commissioner Sigler called for a point of order due to Mr. Calvert speaking about a legal matter. Mr. Calvert shouted at Commissioner Sigler that Mr. Sigler does it all the time online and he would not be denied a voice. Mayor Robinson instructed Mr. Calvert to not speak on legal matters. Jared began to speak about the blanket of opportunities the airfield foundation has provided for the city. He says that if people cannot see why he is so passionate about the matter, then they will when all the lies that people are telling about him are exposed and he can't wait to see everyone in court.

*Mayor Robinson stated; I would like to read under the city secretary's name on the agenda. The City Council reserves the right to convene into Executive Session concerning any of the items listed on this agenda under the authority of the mayor, whenever it is considered necessary and legally justified under the Open Meetings Act. At this time, I need to make a motion that we take cause number one and number two off of executive session because the people need to know what is going on in open session. I am asking for a motion, in fact number two doesn't even have a cause number, there is no cause number for a meeting in executive session for a recall. I am making a motion; do I have a second? Commissioner Sigler asks; does that mean we are talking to the lawyers in open session? Mayor Robinson replied; if we have to. The citizens need to know what is going on. If we continue to do this behind closed doors, why do we have to have an executive session every time we turn around when the lawyer could be sending us information in an email. Why are we having to go back there and sit for an hour and the public are not aware of the actions that are being taken. I make the motion, as mayor, and that is my authority to do so, do I have a second? I will show my distain by not going into executive session. City Manager, Savannah Fortenberry, suggested to call the attorney because there would not be a quorum for executive session, Mayor Robinson agreed to take a short break for Ms. Fortenberry to make the phone call. City attorney requested to speak to the mayor.

***Recess at 5:56 p.m.**

***Recess ended at 6:04 p.m.**

*Mayor Robinson stated; Cause number one cannot be talked about in open session, it is mainly an update. As far as number two the attorney will speak with us in open session over the phone, if any of the commissioners have questions, it will have to go into executive session.

*City Attorney via phone stated; The city received last Monday a petition to call an election to recall the mayor position from the city commission. In section 24 of the city charter requires that there be a certain number of signatures on the petition to be compliant with the process, that number is 30% of qualified voters that voted in the last regular municipal election. The petition contained one signature so it does not comply with the charter, it is therefore my recommendation that the commission act on an ordinance rejecting the petition and the ordinance containing findings that the petition is not compliant. Commissioner Erwin asks; are we going to go the same round that we went last time when our city secretary gets sued and we get drug through court again over the petition? City attorney replied; I can't tell you what someone would do in reaction to that action by the commission. Commissioner Erwin asks; So that is a possibility? City attorney informs; if you would like to discuss legal action, I suggest we do that in executive session. I will say that the two court's ruling did not address the question of the required number of signatures, so the court's ruling is not binding on this issue.

Agenda Item 09: Discuss/Consider: Reconvene into open session to take action as determined appropriate in the City Council's discretion regarding:

1. Cause No. CV2246534, Ranger Airfield Maintenance Foundation vs. City of Ranger, in the 91st Judicial District Court, Eastland County, Texas and the Ranger Airfield Foundation Lease Agreement; and
2. A petition to call an election to recall the Mayor.

*Council did not convene into executive session regarding the matters above. Item number one was not deliberated by council during the meeting.

*Motion was made by Commissioner Erwin to reject the recall petition and Commissioner Sigler 2nd the motion. **All Ayes: Erwin, Sigler, Robinson; Motion Passed**

Agenda Item 10: Discuss/Consider: Consent Items; the Approval of Monthly Department Reports:

- **Finance Report-** Director Carol Stephens
- **Library Report-** Librarian Diana McCullough
- **REDC 4A Report-** President Marla Tovar
- **REDC 4B Report-** President Marla Tovar
- **Municipal Court Report-** Judge Tammy Archer
- **Fire/EMS Report-** Chief Darrel Fox
- **Police Department-** Chief Moran
- **Animal Control/Code Enforcement-** Trace Douglas
- **Public Works Report-** Steven Burch

*Kevan Moize stated, Regarding the vendor list included in the report, the ECWSD is a vendor. The water district cost alone is more than the remaining 59 vendors combined. I may be mistaken, but I don't think the city manager goes to all the other vendors to provide updates, quite simply because the city is the customer. It would also be shocking to see one of our vendors to run a story in the newspaper telling the city, the customer, to not question their actions. The total costs of the city for February were \$371k. Of that, the water district represents \$147k or 40%. It remains the city's single most expensive expenditure.

*Lannette Schlumbohm stated that she knew Darrell Fox was a licensed code enforcement officer, she asked if the city had another code enforcement officer. City Manager, Savannah Fortenberry, informed that any licensed peace officer can write on a city ordinance.

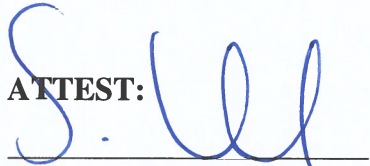
*Brian Rogers stated that he would like to know the water loss percentage for February, he explained that he had put in a public information request with the city secretary.

*Motion made by Commissioner Erwin to approve the monthly department reports and 2nd by Commissioner Sigler. **All Ayes: Erwin, Sigler, Robinson; Motion Passed.**

Agenda Item 11: Discuss/Consider: Adjournment- 6:33 p.m.


*Motion made by Commissioner Sigler to adjourn and Commissioner Erwin 2nd the motion. **All Ayes: Sigler, Erwin, Robinson; Motion Passed.**

These minutes were approved on the 25th day of March, 2024.

ATTEST: 

Somer Lee, City Secretary

CITY OF RANGER, TEXAS



Terry Robinson, Mayor



