



REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

A Regular Meeting of the Governing Body of the City of Ranger, Texas, was held on **Monday, January 22, 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 Kevan Moize	Place 2
Commissioner Wendy Erwin	Place 3
Commissioner Samantha McGinnis	Place 4
City Manager Savannah Fortenberry	
City Secretary Somer Lee	
Honorable Tammy S. Archer	

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.** Nelda Rodgers spoke on her encounter with several stray dogs in her neighborhood and commended Corporal Gibson/ACO for his helpful response regarding this matter. **2.** Jarod Calvert expressed his opinions of what he thinks Ranger could be if ran by different council members. He also stated that three people have gone on the record stating that Commissioner Sigler has accused him of transporting drugs and trafficking children.

***Commissioner Erwin arrived at 5:37p.m.**

Agenda Item 03: Announcements from City Council or Staff- **1.** City Manager, Savannah Fortenberry, stated that the city is still in stage 2 of the drought contingency plan so conserving as much water as possible is highly recommended by everyone. Ms. Fortenberry also stated that there have been multiple leaks throughout the city as well as Morton Valley.

Agenda Item 04: Discuss/Consider: approval of the city council meeting minutes for the regular meeting on January 8, 2024.

*Motion made by Commissioner Erwin to approve the minutes for the regular meeting on January 8, 2024, and the motion was 2nd by Commissioner Sigler. **All Ayes and Motion Passed.**

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

*There were no ECWSD representatives present for an update. Commissioner Moize stated the following: I asked for 50% cut in water rate in our July 24, 2023 council meeting based upon the district's financial statements.

In the October 10, 2023 meeting I provided a synopsis of the ECWSD August financials. In my projections for yearend, I estimated a net income of \$683,556. This Represented a 47% surplus or over budget.

Later in October, I attended the ECWSD monthly meeting to voice my opposition to the district's proposed budget. The proposed budget was not available until arriving at the meeting. It represented an increase, and it should be noted that the meeting included no review of past or projected financials. The budget was not addressed in relation to current or projected costs, but rather a comparison to the previous year's budget. With little discussion they passed the budget of \$1.904M as presented with an increase in budgeted expense of \$202k. This included \$255k of unapproved debt or additional reserves.

In November, the ECWSD amended their budget by \$55k for an additional unapproved debt. The total budget reaching \$1.959M. The meeting packet much like the October meeting did not include the monthly financial statements.

The November, December and January meeting packets were all absent of the monthly financial statements. Last week I requested and received the October, November, and December financial statements. I will share the last page of the report that shows the previous year comparison. Bear in mind that December is also the fiscal year end of the district. This year they reported \$644k net income or surplus. Last year the district reported a \$535k net income or surplus. Combined with the unrestricted assets accumulated to date of nearly \$2M (2022 audit) the district now has over \$2.5M in surplus.

The continued siphoning of the citizens money off of the city injures the city. The total unrestricted assets represent over \$1M to each of the cities of Ranger and Eastland. These funds could assist tremendously in infrastructure, roads and other necessities. These funds should be returned the Cities immediately. Why any representative will not address the public on this surplus is baffling. I implore the 8 board members to not vote blindly on issues they may not understand and to not "go along to get along". Dissenting votes are allowed in your meetings. They can still vindicate themselves by public explanation of the injurious actions and by their vote. They can still "right all of these wrongs".

If there is anyone who can help me understand why this \$2.6M of Surplus is justified and why we will be looking at another \$1/2 M this year, I would truly appreciate it.

Mr. Moize also provided two handouts regarding the ECWSD financial statements.

No Action Taken.

Agenda Item 06: Discuss/Consider: 2023 Ranger Police Department Racial Profiling Report.

***No Action Taken.**

Agenda Item 07: Discuss/Consider: Award the bid for the abatement of condemned property located at 314 West Main Street, Ranger, Texas 76470 and authorize the City Manager to sign the contract in the final form approved by the City Attorney.

*City Manager, Savannah Fortenberry, announced there had been three bids placed concerning the abatement of condemned property located at 314 West Main Street, Ranger, Texas 76470. She also explained that the project would be paid for out of the city's ARPA Funds account.

*Motion made by Commissioner Moize to table this item in order to have more time to review the bids and Commissioner Sigler 2nd the motion. **Ayes: Moize, Sigler, McGinnis; Nah: Robinson, Erwin; Motion Passed**

Agenda Item 08: Discuss: approval to apply to become a film friendly Texas Certified Community.

*Motion made by Commissioner Moize to approve to apply to become a film friendly Texas Certified Community and 2nd by Commissioner Erwin. **All Ayes and Motion Passed.**

Agenda Item 09: Discuss/Consider: Convene into executive session at **5:59p.m.** pursuant to Section 551.071, Texas Government Code, and Texas Professional Rules of Disciplinary Conduct to consult with legal counsel regarding:

- a. Cause No. CV2246534, Ranger Airfield Maintenance Foundation vs. City of Ranger, in the 91st Judicial District Court, Eastland County, Texas
- b. Appellate Case Number 11-23-00283-CV, In re Steve Gerdes, in the Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals

Agenda Item 10: Discuss/Consider: Reconvene into open session at **7:03p.m.** to take action as determined appropriate in the City Council's discretion regarding:

- a. Cause No. CV2246534, Ranger Airfield Maintenance Foundation vs. City of Ranger, in the 91st Judicial District Court, Eastland County, Texas.
- b. Appellate Case Number: 11-23-00283-CV, In re Steve Gerdes, in the Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals

*a. **No Action Taken.**

*b. Motion made by Commissioner Sigler to allow the city attorney to take legal action as directed in executive session and the motion was 2nd by Commissioner Erwin. **All Ayes and Motion Passed.**

Agenda Item 11: Discuss/Consider: Action to order a special election on the recall of Commissioner Moize and Commissioner McGinnis.


*Motion made by Commissioner Erwin to order a special election on the recall of Commissioner Moize and Commissioner McGinnis on February 3, 2024 and Commissioner Sigler 2nd the motion. **All Ayes and Motion Passed.**

Agenda Item 12: Discuss/Consider: Adjournment – 7:09pm

*Motion made by Commissioner Sigler to adjourn and Commissioner Moize 2nd the motion. **All Ayes and Motion Passed**

These minutes were approved on the 12th day of February, 2024

CITY OF RANGER, TEXAS



Terry Robinson, Mayor

ATTEST:



Somer Lee, City Secretary

