



REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

A Regular Meeting of the Governing Body of the City of Ranger, Texas, was held on **Monday, February 12, 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	Absent
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.** Jared Calvert stated he did not bring a prepared statement due to the fact of people complaining online that prepared statements were over the top. He explained that he had come to try to ask for some understanding and used the scenario of Commissioner Erwin and the Railroad Depot. Mr. Calvert began with, if Commissioner Erwin had run the depot for 28 years and raised over 1 million dollars in private funds then goes to Union Pacific asking to restore the depot, they tell her she will have to hand over ownership. After four board meetings they vote unanimously, you went to them and asked them, do you want me to do this, or do you want me to move to Cisco where my daughter lives? They opted they wanted you to restore the depot, but not only did they vote four times, they hire their own attorney to draft the contract. You sign that contract and break ground on the restoration of the depot and spend thousands of dollars, then one employee sends an email to other Union Pacific employees stating that the depot could have been sold for millions. Without a vote sends you an order to stop all restoration on the depot and orders an appraisal on the depot, which is said to be too low. Mr. Calvert begins to ask questions such as, what would you do? Would you just walk down the interstate shirt less? Do you just leave after the thousands of dollars spent? He then stated that he had been denied agenda request several times while only trying to get things resolved, but yet the council continues to make the wrong decisions over and over only hurting Ranger tax payers. Jared then made the assumption of Commissioner Sigler basing his knowledge off of an anonymous letter while going into executive session. **2.** Brian Rogers stated that he had in his possession a copy of the ECWSD bill for Ranger and Eastland that was obtained through a public information request. Mr. Rogers informed that Ranger did use 1 million more gallons of water than Eastland for the month of January.

Agenda Item 03: Announcements from City Council or Staff- 1. Mayor, Terry Robinson, announced the closing of city hall on February 19, 2024, in observance of President's Day.

Agenda Item 04: Discuss/Consider: approval of the city council meeting minutes for the regular meeting on January 22, 2024 and the called meeting minutes on January 26, 2024.

*Motion made by Commissioner Erwin to approve the minutes for the regular meeting on January 22, 2024, and the called meeting minutes on January 26, 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.

*Mayor Robinson gave an update of the following: The new water rate went into effect January 1, 2024. This increased to \$4.37/per thousand. With the new rate these surcharges are even higher because they are based on a percentage that ECWSD has set out in their new Drought Contingency Plan. Eastland County Water Supply District changed their Drought Contingency Plan in October of 2023 to 'allow more teeth' as stated by the District Superintendent. This change allowed surcharges to be charged in Stage 2 as the previous DCP did not allow surcharges to be billed until Stage 2 and 3 went into effect. The DCP did not have to be updated by TCEQ rules until May of 2024. Inside the council packet shows the rates charged to the City by ECWSD. These surcharges are not currently passed on to citizens or the wholesale customers as we are having to follow the process to amend our drought contingency plan per TCEQ.

*Commissioner Sigler stated that he was unaware the representatives of the ECWSD were elected in until recently and would like to see the names of all representatives posted for the public to know who is representing their city.

Agenda Item 06: Discuss/Consider: presentation and approval of the Annual Audit prepared by Caroline McLane, CPA for the fiscal year end of 2022.

*Motion made by Commissioner Erwin to table the presentation and approval of the Annual Audit prepared by Caroline McLane, CPA for the fiscal year end of 2022 until the next regular meeting and 2nd by Commissioner Sigler. **All Ayes: Erwin, Sigler, Robinson; Motion Passed.**

Agenda Item 07: Discuss/Consider: Convene into executive session at **5:53 p.m.** pursuant to Section 551.071, Texas Government Code, and Texas Professional Rules of Disciplinary Conduct to consult with legal counsel regarding: Cause No. CV2246534, Ranger Airfield Maintenance Foundation vs. City of Ranger, in the 91st Judicial District Court, Eastland County, Texas

*Jared Calvert stated that he could not speak on the issues of the case with it being under litigation, but he wanted to make the citizens of Ranger and the council aware that before this lawsuit was ever filed in January 2023, he repeatedly came to council with written agenda item requests to try and avoid this lawsuit. Mr. Calvert says they were declined to be put on the agenda, and he had emails from the city manager stating after a meeting with Commissioner Moize, they would not put them on the agenda. He stated that not once did the council invite the foundation back so they had to pull the trigger because they couldn't wait any longer. Mr. Calvert stated to the council that now was a chance for them to turn over a new leaf.

Agenda Item 08: Discuss/Consider: Reconvene into open session at **6:16 p.m.** to take action as determined appropriate in the City Council's discretion regarding: Cause No. CV2246534, Ranger Airfield Maintenance Foundation vs. City of Ranger, in the 91st Judicial District Court, Eastland County, Texas

***No Action Taken.**

Agenda Item 09: Discuss/Consider: nominating a qualified candidate for the vacancy on the Board of Trustees for TX Health Benefits Pool for Region 6

***No Action Taken.**

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

*Brian Rogers spoke of the city's high-water usage compared to the City of Eastland's for the month of January and was curious to know if there was a future plan for water loss.

*Commissioner Erwin asked for clarification on payment to Dr. Simpson.

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

Agenda Item 11: Discuss/Consider: Adjournment- 6:29 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 26th day of February, 2024.

ATTEST:


Somers Lee, City Secretary



CITY OF RANGER, TEXAS


Terry Robinson, Mayor

