

Minutes for the November 9, 2023, Regular meeting of the Buckholts City Council. In attendance were Mayor Terri Eaton, Council member Tony Villanueva, Accountant Kristi Stegall, Chief Shawn Newsom, Bill Lawson with LWWS and City Secretary Linda Hauk. Also, in attendance was Chris Marrs

- 1. CALL TO ORDER – 5:45p.m.**
- 2. INVOCATION – said by Bill Lawson**
- 3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE -said by all.**
- 4. CITIZEN COMMENTS- none**
- 5. ACTION ITEMS**
 - a. Discuss/Review/Approve Minutes from the October 12, 2023, Regular–** motion to approve was made by Mayor Terri Eaton and seconded by Tony Villanueva.
 - b. Discuss/Review/Approve October Financial statements and other expenditures-** Kristi said she would keep it short. Asked if anyone had any questions. Since no questions or concerns Mayor Eaton made a motion to approve the financials which was seconded by Council member Villanueva
 - c. Presentation of Audit of fiscal year ending 6-30-2023 by Donald L. Allman P. C. –** Donald presented the audit for the fiscal year. There were no questions or concerns
 - d. Discuss/Review/Approve increase in water/sewer rates –** Mayor Eaton said let's start with Chris first and hear what he has from CTWSC. Chris said that CTWSC would be increasing their rate .14 cents per 1000 gallons. How they put it, it won't cover everything but will be as close to having everything covered. So, to the question of are we going to have another capital assessment, he's thinking that in the next 6 to 8 months they more than likely will. The council moved on to discuss the need to raise the water/sewer rate due to increases from CTWSC and repairs that were unbudgeted. After some discussion was held the council decided that starting January 1, 2024, the current base rate for water would go from \$50.03 to \$65.03, which is a \$15 increase. The water rate per 1000 gallons would increase from \$6.01 to \$6.51 and the sewer rates would be increased from \$53.16 to \$63.16. These increases are due to unbudgeted line repairs the town has incurred and the fact that the company the town purchases their water from has increased its rate by 11%. Mayor Eaton made a motion to approve the increases which was seconded by Council member Villanueva.
 - e. Discuss/Review/Approve 2024 holiday schedule –** Mayor Eaton made a motion to approve the proposed dates which was seconded by Council member Villanueva

6. STAFF REPORTS

WATER/SEWER – Bill said he had sent two different documents with quotes for the permit renewal. One from Robin Butcko. Basically \$3,800 is her quote. He got another quote from KSA and they are more. He doesn't know if one is any better than the other. Because there's things that we're going to have to do whenever we renew it. Some lab work and that type of stuff. KSA is \$6,500 with an hourly and reimbursable fee of \$500 for the permit application. So double. No decision can be made because it's not on the agenda but running into a time crunch. Permit renewal has to be in 120 days prior to October of 2024, that's when the permit expires. 6 months prior to. Mayor Eaton asked how long it takes getting everything together for the permit. Both were different on that but basically, they are saying it could be around 6 months. Kristi asked if this is what MRB used to do for us. Bill said he did not contact them. Bill said, according to Dwaine when MRB did it we didn't have to do any lab work. So, not sure why we have to do it now. Mayor Eaton said, then we have 11 months. Bill said we need to do whatever we're going to do, quickly. Bill said he is leaning towards using Robin. He has worked with them before. This item will be put on the next agenda, and we need to award this permitting renewal to Robin with Permitting Services.

The other document, from KSA, is about the Lead/Copper line inventory, that EPA and TCEQ has put on us. That's supposed to be completed by October 16th of 2024. It should go pretty quickly. Mayor Eaton said, that's \$2,500 with an hourly reimbursement and it doesn't even say what the hourly reimbursement is. Bill said they could do it as part of their contract and it won't be that much. He'll need to hire someone to help him out. The \$2,500 is part of the admin process. Bill said the EPA just came up with this. There is no funding, so the city has to pay for it. Mayor asked what he was suggesting. Bill said at the next meeting we need to have something on the agenda for it and he'll have an answer for the questions the Mayor has. He said the last thing is they met with the KSA guys helping them find the manholes they couldn't find. Several manholes they couldn't get into. May have some issues when they try to get into those but those are covered under that grant. He said he thinks there are like 10 to 15 manholes that they couldn't find or get into. Mayor said that's why we are going after these grants. So, we don't have those issues.

ADMINISTRATION - Linda let everyone know the BVFD is going to have their Christmas parade on the 9th at 6p.m. No streets would need to be closed off. They are not allowed to cross the highway per Chief Newsom.

POLICE DEPARTMENT – Chief Newsom last month the PD had 241 citations, 31 warnings and they had 2 calls for service . Girls set a record in the court last month with \$60,000 in collections. That is the most in the 10 years he has been here. Andy is doing a good job. Chief Newsom also mentioned the need for drug testing kits. Mayor asked what it would cost for what he needed and how long they would last. Chief Newsom said less than \$200 and it would last at least a year, here. Chief Newsom said he would look into it.

COUNCIL – Council member Villanueva sked when the people who put the pond behind their home, over behind the community center, were going to put up a fence.

MAYOR - Mayor and Tony discussed a raise in pay for contract labor and Mayor wanted Linda to get with the owners of the property on Avenue D where the retention pond has been put in and check to see when they will be putting up a fence and to see if the water department guys had done an inspection and signed off on it being good.

7. **ADJOURN** – With nothing further the meeting was adjourned at 7:02 p.m.

Signed this _____ day of December 2023.

Terri Eaton, Mayor

Linda R. Hauk, City Secretary