

Minutes for December 14, 2023, Regular meeting of the Buckholts City Council. In attendance were Mayor Terri Eaton, Council member Tony Villanueva, Council member Keith Janicek, Accountant Kristi Stegall, Chief Shawn Newsom, and Bill Lawson with LWWS. Also, in attendance was John Pelath, Esther Rodriguez and Juan Castillo

1. **CALL TO ORDER – 5:45p.m.**
2. **INVOCATION – said by Bill Lawson**
3. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE -said by all.**
4. **CITIZEN COMMENTS-** *John Pelath wanted to share some planning going on in the County. April 8, 2024, there will be a full eclipse passing right through here, noonish to 1p.m. The number of people coming into this area to view it will impact the infrastructure. Hotels are already booking up in Milam County. There will be transportation issues. Just wanted to keep the Council informed. Esther Rodriguez came to see if the council would allow her to keep the horses and goats. She has them for her children. She did get rid of the pigs. She knows the neighbor complained and then bragged about it. Mayor told her we have to follow the ordinance. Mayor turned the floor over to Chief Newsom to explain. Chief Newsom said he was the one who gets the complaints. He said he got two separate complaints. The initial complaint was against the pigs, then it was the horse and then the goats. At that point he asked city hall to send a letter. Making sure you're aware of what the ordinance was. Giving you the opportunity to get in compliance. The only way to get around the ordinance is with a variance. What we do have to do is grandfather in anything that was going on prior to that ordinance being issued. The problem is you live within the city limits and because we had complaints, we had to address those complaints and respond to those complaints. She said so in other words I can't have my goats back. Chief Newsom told her unfortunately since she lives in town she cannot. We have to follow the ordinance. Esther said she knows who complained and the reason is that they want her land. Wanted to know how to make a complaint. Chief Newsom said all complaints need to be in writing and she should bring it to Linda at City Hall.*
5. **ACTION ITEMS –**
 - a. **Discuss/Review/Approve Minutes from the November 9, 2023, Regular–** *motion to approve was made by Council member Keith Janicek and seconded by Council member Tony Villanueva.*
 - b. **Discuss/Review/Approve November Financial statements and other expenditures-** *Kristi asked if there were any questions or comments. With none the Mayor asked for a motion to approve the financials. Council member Tony Villanueva made a motion which was seconded by Council member Keith Janicek*
 - c. **Discuss/Review/Approve Resolution authorizing signatories for GLO Resilient Communities Program grant CDBG-MIT 23-0160-013-E307 –** *Mayor asked for a motion to approve the resolution, which was made by Council member Janicek and seconded by Council member Villanueva*
 - d. **Discuss/Review/Approve Resolution adopting required CDBG Civil Rights Policies-** *Mayor asked for a motion to approve the resolution. Motion was made by Council member Janicek and seconded by Council member Villanueva*

- e. **Proclaim April Fair Housing Month-** *Mayor and both Council members agreed to proclaim April as fair housing month.*
- f. **Discuss and Review Lead & Copper Inventory** – *Bill said the EPA has come down with these guidelines. Every town has to do it, every meter, so they can determine what to do next in trying to fix the problems that are out there with service lines, main lines. Whether they're copper or lead. Whatever they are made of. Inventory has to be done by June 2024. It has changed it up several times. They originally said we would have to dig up the whole line, from the meter box to the house. Now they've come back, TCEQ, and said no, because on private property. What they are allowing us to do is open up the meter box and see what material is on the back side of the meter. That's what we're going to do. Will probably be five years, after the inventory, before the EPA makes a ruling on what you've got to do to try to correct it. Long, drawn out process. Originally, they didn't give us any way for any funding. Now I believe they are starting to break that out and allow some funding from somewhere. Not sure. Have to use TCEQ forms. They are getting those forms gathered up. Problem with our community, we get our water from CTWSC. We don't have any way to chlorinate. We don't have any way to boost pressure. What we get is what we get. If there's issues out there in the main or service lines of the houses, there's not a whole lot we can do about it. In the meantime, they will start doing the inventory so they can meet that June 2024 deadline. Not sure what the cost is going to be. He said a lot of places are charging a per meter cost, to the City. Accountant Kristi Stegall asked if we could get a kind of estimate or negotiate what your person is going to charge so we don't get a big surprise. He does have someone who is going to fill out those forms for us.*
- g. **Discuss/Review/Approve selecting company to renew wastewater permit** – *Bill said we had two quotes. The one lady's name is Robin and she's out of Houston and her quote as \$3,800 or something like that to do the permit renewal. There's some other stuff that goes along with that. Some lab work will need to be done. Didn't have to do lab work the last time we did this. The other person is Robbin, with KSA, she gave him a lady's name that works for them and hers is \$7,500. Bill recommended that they go with Robin Butcko out of Houston. There will probably be some documents that need to be signed. He just needs the council to give their approval to get this process started. The company name is Permitting Services LLC. Mayor proposed that the City use Permitting Services LLC to renew the permits. Council member Janicek and Villanueva both agreed to approve using Permitting Services LL. For the renewal of the wastewater permit*

6. STAFF REPORTS -

WATER/SEWER – *Bill said we've had some leaks. One of the leaks was in front of the standpipe. Got it fixed. Had another leak today today on it so he called Lee Kelly and told him he needed to come and adjust the pressure for us. About 60 PSI at the elevated storage. if they cut it back that will keep it from overflowing for us. Lee said he would get somebody out here.*

ADMINISTRATION- *nothing*

POLICE DEPARTMENT – *Chief Newsom said had a couple calls for service. Andy seems to have been having issues with his radio. Chief Newsom will check on it. Mayor Eaton asked the Chief about how many tickets a month was Officer Cross averaging. Chief Newsom said our budget was based on 130 a month. On a heavy month Carlos had 200. Officer Cross's first month was 300 and then it has dropped*

down some, but he thinks because the time a year and alternating hours worked. He averages about 12 or 13 a day. Chief Newsom said his rule, since he has been here, is you're not allowed to tell officers how many tickets to write. He is allowed to set productivity limits. He is doing a good job.

COUNCIL – *nothing to add*

MAYOR - *nothing to add*

7. ADJOURN – *With nothing further the meeting was adjourned at 6:23p.m.*

Signed this _____ day of January 2024.

Terri Eaton, Mayor

Linda R. Hauk, City Secretary