

**MINUTES OF THE
NEWARK CITY COUNCIL
JUNE 12, 2014**

I. Call to Order

Mayor Gary Van Wagner called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. in the Newark Community Center located at 209 Hudson Street, Newark, Texas. Those present were Mayor Gary Van Wagner, Mayor Pro Tem Linda Anderson, Councilmember Cary Mellema, Councilmember Mark Wondolowski, Councilmember Dan Anderson, Councilmember Doug Anderson, Sheriff David Walker, City of Chico Mayor J. D. Clark, Code Enforcement Officer Jimmy Duvall, and City Administrator Diane Rasor.

II. Citizens' Comments

Ms. Betty Youngblood requested the City Council allow her to make payments on her water bill since she had a leak, which caused a usage of over 11,000 gallons, and the charges are twice the normal bill. Mayor Van Wagner directed her to attend the June 19, 2017 meeting and the City Council would take action on her request.

Ms. Laura Pixler, Mr. Ken Hatmaker, and Mr. Tony Biggers spoke against requiring inspections for rental properties.

III. Invocation and Pledge Allegiance to the Flag – Councilmember Doug Anderson delivered the invocation and Mayor Van Wagner led the pledge to the flag.

IV. Presentation of Comprehensive Plan – Tabled.

V. Consent Agenda – A. Approval of the May 15, 2014 City Council Minutes, B. Approval of the Accounts Payables, C. Approval of Budget and Financials, D. Approval of Staff Reports.

Mayor Pro Tem Anderson moved to approve the consent agenda Items A-D; Councilmember Mellema seconded the motion. All approved. Motion passed.

VI. Regular Agenda Items

1. Consider and act on the resident's at 526 Oak Hills Drive to adjust his February and March 2014 water and sewer charges.

Mr. Mincey, 526 Post Oak Drive, protested his water and sewer bill for the months of February, March, and May stating the usages were way out of whack and the charges are too high. He is requesting the City Council adjust his bills to his average water usage and reduce the charges.

Mayor Van Wagner proposed to have the meter replaced with a new meter and have the old meter tested for accuracy. If the test shows the meter is reading correctly, then Mr. Mincey will be responsible for his water usage and charges; however if the meter is not reading correctly the City will adjust the bill.

2. Consider and act on Ordinance No. A-415 recommending fine amounts to the municipal court judge for 1st and 2nd time code violations if they are satisfied prior to a court date. This item is postponed until the July meeting.

3. Consider and act on Ordinance No. A-417 requiring fire safety inspections for rental properties in the City of Newark prior to occupancies by tenants.

Mr. Kenneth (Kenny) Wilson, the fire marshal for the City of Azle, spoke on the advantages of requiring fire safety inspections for rental properties in Newark. He basically checks for all life safety and fire safety hazards and presented a checklist he will use if the City Council decides to move forward with this project. Mr. Wilson's fee for each inspection is \$35.00. He has other fire safety certified inspectors under his supervision who will also be able to make inspections.

Councilmember Sessler was not in favor of adopting the ordinance until he has more time to study the ordinance; Councilmember Anderson does not know what the City is trying to accomplish with the ordinance; and Councilmember Wondolowski stated that he is against intrusive government, the process needs to be carefully thought through and the City Council needs to make sure they do not pass this ordinance because the other ordinances are not being enforced.

This item is tabled.

4. Consider and act on hiring Wise County Sheriff Deputies as contract labor per the Interlocal Agreement between Wise County and the City of Newark for additional law enforcement protection.

Wise County Sheriff David Walker and Mayor of Chico, Texas J.D. Clark spoke to the City Council about the positive effects of the Wise County Resident Deputy Program.

Sheriff Walker stated that one of the most important reasons to have a resident deputy is visibility. He did say that if the City needs help enforcing code violations they can do that; however the City needs to remember they are law enforcement officers. Mayor Clark explained how the City of Chico's program worked, stating they currently have four (4) deputies that work eight (8) hours each per week usually Monday through Thursday, they are paid \$18.50 per hour and are provided a car by the Sheriff's Department, and there is a "Senior" deputy who is the point person for the program and is paid \$1.00 more per hour for this service.

Mayor Pro Tem Anderson moved to accept the Interlocal Agreement between Wise County and the City of Newark for additional law enforcement protection; Councilmember Mellema seconded the motion. All approved. Motion passed.

5. Consider and act on amending the City of Newark 2013-2014 Budget to reallocate funds where needed and add revenues and expenditures to fund the Resident Deputy Program.

The City Council decided to postpone this item until the June 19, 2014 meeting so they can get more accurate estimates on the cost of the program.

6. Consider and act on setting tentative dates for the 2014-2015 Budget Workshops.

The budget workshop dates are for Thursday, July 10th, 2014 at 6:00 p.m. and July 24, 2014 at 6:00 p.m.

7. Discussion on amending the City's animal control ordinance to require owners of dogs considered a breed of dangerous dogs to have fences on their properties to contain the animals and other requirements as needed.

Mayor Pro Tem Anderson stated that her dog was once attacked and she was threatened by dogs that were considered dangerous breeds. Once again it was discussed that the City needs to enforce its current ordinances. Mayor Pro Tem Anderson has scheduled a meeting with Wise County Animal Control to see if the City may get them to patrol Newark some during the week.

8. Discussion on funding a part of "Phase II" of the City Hall/Community Center by remodeling the room between the Community Center and the restroom area to serve as a conference room.

The reason for this is so City Administrator Diane Rasor may have her own office for privacy during conferences and to also be able to focus more on projects. The City Council was decidedly in favor of this move requesting an estimate for work before approving the funds.

9. Adjourn – The meeting adjourned at 9:19 p.m.

APPROVED:

Gary Van Wagner, Mayor

Date

ATTEST:

Diane Rasor, City Administrator