

**City Council Minutes**  
**Budget Workshop and Special Called Meeting**  
**Wednesday, July 30 2014**

**I. Call to Order**

Mayor Gary Van Wagner called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday, July 30, 2014, at the Newark Municipal Building located at 209 Hudson Street, Newark, TX 76701. Those present were Mayor Gary Van Wagner, Mayor Pro Tem Linda Anderson, Councilmember Cary Mellema, Councilmember Mark Wondolowski, Councilmember Dan Sessler, Public Works Director William Allen and City Administrator Diane Rasor.

**II. Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag** - Mayor Van Wagner delivered the invocation and led the pledge to the flag.

**III. Action Items**

**1. Discussion and possible action on entering into a contract with the Newark Volunteer Fire Department and establishing an annual fee for services.**

Newark Fire Chief James gave a brief history of the City budgeting money for the volunteer fire department, beginning with originally nothing being budgeted, to the City paying the fire departments utilities, and eventually where we are today with the City budgeting an annual \$6,000 a year allowance. The volunteer fire department currently operates off a small amount of donations, assistance from Wise and Tarrant Counties, and grants. The Newark Volunteer Fire Department operates with an approximate \$100,000 dollar per year.

The Council requested action on this item be postponed until the August 21, 2014 meeting.

**2. Consider and act Ordinance No. A-419 re-establishing a police force in the City of Newark pursuant to Texas Local Government Code Section 341.001.**

Councilmember Mellema explained that reestablishing the police department is a step in the process of hiring a City Marshal to be able to enforce the City's codes. Councilmember Mellema moved to adopt the Ordinance reestablishing the police department; Councilmember Wondolowski seconded the motion. All approved. Motion passed.

**3. Consider and act on Ordinance No. A-420 authorizing a City Marshal per Texas Local Government Code Section 341.021.**

Mayor Pro Tem Anderson moved to adopt the Ordinance authorizing a City Marshal per Texas Local Government Code Section 341.021; Councilmember Mellema seconded the motion. All approved. Motion passed.

**4. Consider and act on Resolution 279 appointing Jimmy Duvall as City Marshal.**

This item will be postponed to a meeting after the completion of reestablishing the police department.

**5. Consider and act on the 2014 proposed property tax rate.**

Councilmember Sessler moved to maintain the current tax rate of .50 per \$100 valuation for the maintenance and operation tax rate and .0735 for the interest and sinking tax rate; Councilmember Mellema seconded the motion. Ayes: Mayor Pro Tem Linda Anderson, Councilmember Cary Mellema, Councilmember Mark Wondolowski, and Councilmember Dan Sessler. Nays: None. Abstentions: None. Motion passed.

**IV. Budget Workshop** – Discussion and possible action on proposed revenues, expenditures, capital improvement projects, and the tax rate for the 2014-2015 fiscal year.

Mr. Matt Newby proposed doing all the mowing, trimming, weed eating, and small maintenance on the parks for \$35,000 annually (\$2,916 per month).

The Council discussed spending the remaining of the 2013 Certificate of Obligations funds for the following Capital Improvement Projects: Shoring up the bank on Derrett Creek - \$30,000, repair of the bridge on Central Drive - \$8,000, repairing the drainage on Country Living Drive - \$30,000, the office in the maintenance building – \$15,000, and the conference room - \$4,000. It was recommended to wait on the repair to the bridge on Central Drive and the conference room, thus cutting the capital improvements budget to \$75,000.

The Council discussed changing the proposed budget on the following items:

Line Item - #217 – Office Supplies – decrease from \$2,500 to \$2,000.

Line Item - #251 - Electricity – we have a five year contract with Cirro Energy. The staff needs to check on the possibility of lowering the cost of the electricity in City Hall by either moving the thermostat, adding ducts or purchasing a second unit for the offices. Decrease from \$20,000 to \$19,500.

Line item - #952 - Phones for wells and lift stations – a meeting is scheduled with the City's Verizon representative to discuss a lower rate by going wireless.

Line Item #291 - Travel/Training for City Administrator – decrease from \$1,500 to make budget \$1000.

Line Item #292 - Security – Central Security is going to evaluate City Hall for a cost for security. There may be a chance of getting a discount since Central Security already supplies security for the City's library and maintenance building. Budget \$660.

Line Item #306 - Municipal Court Training – decrease from \$1000 to \$500.

Line Item #316 - Code Enforcement - decrease from \$15,000 to \$14,500.

Line Item #320 - Animal Control – we will not do the feral cat program this year so the animal control budget is decreased from \$4,500 to \$2,000.

Line #793 – Wages - We will need only one public works’ employee if we contract out the mowing and landscaping needs. Decrease from \$20,800 to \$10,400.

Line Item #794 – Public Works payroll taxes - \$800 for one employee.

Line Item #903 – Equipment purchases – normally budget \$5,000; however a new vehicle may need to be purchased, so the budget will be increased to \$15,000.

Line Item #747 – Street Repairs – Currently budgeted \$50,000 however the staff will check on applying for another grant from Wise County for road work on Berke and Pettit.

Mayor Van Wagner wants the cell phone cost reduced.

Line Item #585 – Library Events – decrease from \$1,000 to \$500.

Line Item #791 – Contract Mowing – remove all together - from \$2,000 to \$0.00. Need to discuss with the public works director.

Line Item #454 – Fire Stipend – increase from \$6,000 to \$7000.

Line Item #942 – Vehicles Maintenance – decrease from \$3,000 to \$2,500.

Line Item #943 – Equipment Maintenance – decrease from \$3,500 to \$3,000

Line Item #944 – Water System Improvements – the staff has not done an analysis to determine exactly when a meter will need to be changed out. A new meter cost approximately \$75.00. decrease from \$23,000 to \$20,000.

Councilmember Mellema requested an item be added to the August 21<sup>st</sup> agenda to discuss appointing someone to fill Place 2 on the City Council.

**6. Adjourn.**

The meeting adjourned at 9:53 p.m.

**APPROVED:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Gary Van Wagner, Mayor

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Date

**ATTEST:**

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Diane Rasor, City Administrator