

**City of Newark
City Council Minutes
September 17, 2015**

I. Call to Order and Announce a Quorum is Present

Mayor Van Wagner called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, September 17, 2015 in the Newark Municipal Building located at 209 Hudson Street, Newark, Texas. Those present were: Mayor Gary Van Wagner, Mayor Pro Tem Mark Wondolowski, Councilmember Manuel Duenas, Councilmember Chris Raines, City Administrator Diane Rasor, and Sergeant Anissa Satterfield.

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

III. Public Hearing - To hear input on the proposed revenues, expenditures, and capital improvement projects included in the 2015-2016 fiscal year budget.

Mayor Van Wagner opened the public hearing at 7:02 p.m. There were no proponents nor opponents. Mayor Van Wagner closed the public hearing at 7:03 p.m.

IV. Citizen Comments – None.

V. Consent Agenda – Consider and act on the following items: A. July 28th, August 20th and September 10th, 2015 City Council Minutes, B. Accounts Payables from August 24 through September 18, 2015, C. Budget vs. Actual and Financial Statements, D. Staff Reports – City Administrator, Municipal Court, Library

Councilmember Duenas requested the items on the consent agenda be addressed individually so that follow up on the status of the “Heavy Equipment Operator” from last month could be discussed.

Mayor Pro Tem Wondolowsky moved to approved the July 28, August 20, and September 10, 2015 City Council minutes; Councilmember Raines seconded the motion. All approved. Motion passed.

Mayor Pro Tem Wondolowsky moved to approve the accounts payables; Councilmember Duenas seconded the motion. All approved. Motion passed.

Item “C” referenced the Heavy Duty Operator listed in the Public Works Department as contract labor. Mayor Van Wagner, City Administrator Diane Rasor, and Public Works Director William Allen decided it would be prudent to hire the heavy equipment operator, Darrin Moore, as a part-time employee for the City of Newark. This will insure worker’s compensation

coverage and allow Mr. Moore to use the City of Newark's equipment. This change is reflected in the proposed 2015-2016 budget.

Mayor Pro Tem Wondolowski moved to approved the Budget vs. Actuals and the Financial Statements; Councilmember Raines seconded the motion. All approved. Motion passed.

Councilmember Duenas moved to approve the Staff reports; Councilmember Raines seconded the motion. All approved. Motion passed.

VI. Regular Meeting

1. Update from the property manager on the progress of repairing manufactured homes on Sandy Bass Lane.

Sandra Ray, the property manager, was not present, however it was noted that all eight (8) of the new manufactured homes sold in one (1) day.

2. Update and possible action on the property at 726 McCanne Street.

Greg Mitchell with Mitchell Planning inspected the home on Tuesday, September 15th and declared the foundation to be structurally sufficient to support the structure. He did advise of the roof, electrical, HVAC, and plumbing issues that needed to be addressed immediately. Ms. Rodriguez, the owner, was present and given a copy of the report from Mitchell Planning.

3. Consider and act on Resolution No. 293 repealing Resolution No. 292, which added a second regular City Council meeting each month.

Mayor Pro Tem Wondolowski moved to approve Resolution No. 293; Councilmember Raines seconded the motion. All approved. Motion passed.

4. Consider and act on Ordinance No. A-435 amending the fiscal year 2014-2015 budget.

William Spore, the City Auditor, explained that it is optional to amend the budget at the end of a fiscal year, however to amend the re-allocation of funds to more closely reflect actual expenditures was acceptable as long as the bottom figures remained the same.

Mayor Pro Tem Wondolowski moved to adopt Ordinance No. A-435; Councilmember Duenas seconded the motion. All approved. Motion passed.

5. Consider and act on Ordinance No. A-436 adopting the 2015-2016 fiscal year budget.

City Administrator Diane Rasor explained some changes on the employee health insurance, warrant fees, and the cost of chlorine on the proposed budget.

Mayor Pro Tem Wondolowski moved to adopt Ordinance No. A-436; Councilmember Raines seconded the motion. All approved. Motion passed.

6. Consider and act on Ordinance No. A-437 adopting the 2015-2016 tax rate.

Mayor Pro Tem Wondolowski and Councilmember Raines expressed concern over the 17% increase in the tax rate. The majority of the increase is to make payments on the 2013 Certificates of Obligation, which were used to improve the City's wastewater system and to repave five (5) City roads. The tax increase will raise approximately \$39,000 more in tax dollars than the current fiscal year. This equates to an additional \$65.80 increase for a \$100,000 house.

Mayor Pro Tem Wondolowski moved that the property tax rate be increased by the adoption of a tax rate of \$0.6381, which is effectively 17.6% increase in the tax rate; Councilmember Raines seconded the motion. All approved. Motion passed.

7. Consider and act on ratifying the property tax increase reflected in the budget.

Mayor Pro Tem Wondolowski moved to ratify the property tax increase reflected in the budget; Councilmember Duenas seconded the motion. All approved. Motion passed.

8. Discussion on the 2014 Audited Financial Statements, in particular page 33, and "Internal Control Over Financial Reporting".

Councilmember Duenas asked why the City placed the 2013 Certificates of Obligation out for private placement since according to Dunn's and Bradstreet we do not have a good payment history, why is the City is not rated, and why we are not using the modified approach in our audits.

City Auditor William Spore explained that if the City used the modified approach, where every asset the City has is revalued each year, that it would require more manpower and would not make a difference to our lenders because they loan the money based on tax dollars and not assets.

The City has never missed a loan payment, however, it is a practice of Dunn's and Bradstreet to request thousands of dollars in order to raise a business's ranking and it would cost the City to get a "rating" but would not help the City to get better interest rates.

9. Consider and act on the *Financial Advisory Agreement* between the City of Newark and Government Capital Securities.

This item is postponed until the October 15th Council meeting so the City's Financial Advisor, Ted Christensen, may be present.

10. Consider and act on contracting with Wise County for Animal Control Services or a private animal control contractor.

City Administrator Diane Rasor stated a private contractor had submitted a proposal for the City's animal control. Currently the City contracts with Wise County, however they have such limited personnel it causes long response times and sometimes cannot make the call. Mr. Hall comes highly recommended and will be available 24/7 for calls.

Mayor Pro Tem Wondolowski moved to approve Brian Hall, "Brian the Animal Guy" for the City's animal control; Councilmember Raines seconded the motion. All approved. Motion passed.

11. Adjourn – The meeting adjourned at 8:54 p.m.

APPROVED:

Gary Van Wagner, Mayor

Date

ATTEST:

Diane Rasor, City Administrator