

**City Council Meeting Minutes**  
**Thursday, November 21, 2013 – 7:00 P.M**

**I. Call to Order**

Mayor Gary Van Wagner called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, November 21, 2013 in the Newark Municipal Building located at 209 Hudson Street, Newark, Texas. Those present were Mayor Gary Van Wagner, Mayor Pro Tem Bob Wells, Councilmember Taylor Burton, Councilmember Dan Sessler, Councilmember Doug Anderson, and City Administrator Diane Rasor. Councilmember Linda Anderson was absent.

**II. Invocation** – Councilmember Doug Anderson delivered the invocation.

**III. Citizens Comments** - None

**IV. Consent Agenda** - A. Approval of Minutes, B. Approval of Accounts Payables, C. Approval of Budget and Financials, D. Approval of Staff Reports

Councilmember Doug Anderson moved to approve A,B,C, and D of the consent agenda; Mayor Pro Tem Wells seconded the motion. All approved. Motion passed.

**V. Regular Meeting**

**1. Consider and act on appointing Monique Murray to the Library Board.**

This item will be postponed until the next meeting to determine why we are adding a new board member.

**2. Consider and act on accepting the bid of \$2,500.00 for Lot I, Country Living Estates, Wise County, Texas (S0390-0008-00), sold at the Wise County Sheriff's tax sale due to delinquent taxes.**

Councilmember Wells moves to accept the bid of \$2,500; Councilmember Doug Anderson seconded the motion. All approved. Motion passed.

**3. Consider and act on discontinuing the sewer service charge at 602 Rogers Road.**

Robert Ferron requested that the \$25.00 monthly fees for sewer be discontinued and that he be reimbursed the \$25.00 for as long as he has lived at the residence since he is on a septic system. Technically he is required to be hooked into the City sewer since his residence is within 100 feet of the sewer system, however Mayor Van Wager would like to settle this issue and accept his offer.

Councilmember Doug Anderson moved to stop all billing for the sewer and refund Mr. Ferron one hundred dollars (\$100.00) for past sewer charges; Councilmember Burton seconded the motion.

Ayes: Councilmember Burton, Councilmember Sessler, Councilmember Doug Anderson. Nays: Mayor Pro Tem Wells. Abstentions: None. The motion passes with three (3) ayes, (2) nays, and zero (0) abstentions.

**4. Consider and act on the left over funds for the "Spirit of Christmas" project.**

Mayor Van Wagner stated that Seven Hills Elementary School has been very generous by helping with the City's "Spirit of Christmas Program" in the past. The money for the program has always been spent on the children in the Newark area and the Mayor is suggesting the money in the "Spirit of Christmas" account be given to the elementary school to help with their need this year.

Mayor Pro Tem Wells moved to donate the remaining funds of \$961 and change to Seven Hills for their program which benefits children in Newark; Councilmember Sessler seconded the motion. All approved. Motion passed.

**5. Consider and act on allocating funds to repave Deborah Drive and Country Living Drive.**

This item will be postponed until the next council meeting.

**6. Consider and act on replacing some of the City's trucks with more efficient vehicles.**

Currently the City owns two (2) trucks that are in poor condition and are not fuel efficient. Public Works' Director William Allen recommended selling the two trucks and possibly purchasing a gator or two (2) Ford Rangers. This item will be discussed at the next meeting.

**7. Discussion and possible action on street repairs including pot holes and grass growing in asphalt.**

Mayor Pro Tem Wells showed pictures of Park Street with grass growing up through the cracks. This road was repaved only a year ago and he is concerned that if there is not a regular maintenance program the roads will be ruined. He recommends (1) Having Public Works put grass killer on the grass and seal the cracks, and (2) Developing a maintenance schedule (at least once a quarter) to address the cracks and pot holes.

**8. Discussion and possible action on the City's annual allocations to the Newark Volunteer Fire Department.**

For uncertain reasons there has been animosity between the City and the Volunteer Fire Department. Mayor Van Wagner requested additional time to work with Fire Chief James Edgeman before the annual allocations are discussed. This item is tabled for a future meeting.

**9. Discussion and possible action on economic development strategies pertaining to commercial buildings on FM 718.**

Councilmember Sessler requested this item be placed on the agenda to make the council aware of the businesses on FM 718 being required to relocate by the landlords. Aaron Miller with Unlimited Tires and Charles Braun with On-Site Auto Repair stated they were going to need to relocate their businesses, possibly outside of Newark, without much notice and they are unaware of what the landlord plans on doing with the buildings. Councilmember Sessler suggests some research be done to determine the future plans for the buildings on FM 718.

**10. Executive Session – The City may enter into executive session during the meeting to seek legal advice from its attorney on any posted agenda item, or to discuss any item that is authorized by the Texas Open Meetings Act to be discussed in closed session, including: Section 551.074 Personnel Matters. (1) to deliberate the appointment, employment, evaluation, reassignment, duties, discipline, or dismissal of a public officer or employee: City Administrator’s Diane Rasor duties.**

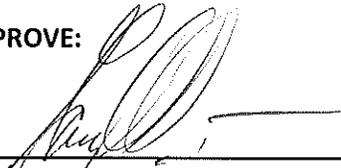
The Council entered into executive session at 8:29 p.m. and returned to open session at 9:18 p.m.

**11. Consider and act on executive session items.**

No action.

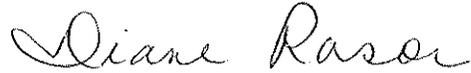
**12. Adjourn – The meeting adjourned at 9:19 p.m.**

APPROVE:

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

12.27.13  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

ATTEST:

  
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Diane Rasor, City Administrator