

Mayor Paul Gohman called the Regular City Council meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. July 18, 2024, and a quorum was established. In attendance were Mayor Paul Gohman, Clabe F. Webb, Mayor Pro-Tem Mike Bailey, RA Morris, David Scott, Zach Davidson, Ricky Royall, Teresa Ballard, and Tara Robinson.

Mayor Paul Gohman led with the pledge of allegiance and Mayor Pro-Tem Mike Bailey led the prayer.

Public comments:

Gerald Sandusky signed up for comments later.

June Monthly Reports

Fire Department Report

Oak Creek Lake had a Fun Run on June 22nd and raised \$1000.00 for the fire department. There were two meetings with twenty-one volunteers at the meetings. They assisted on 3 Wrecks, two traffic, assisted EMS, and stand by for grass fire.

Mayor Pro-Tem Mike Bailey reported the EMS had thirty-nine ambulance runs in June and 17 so far in July. Cynthia Turner is helping with West Coke County EMS.

Economic Development Report

B board approved a loan forgiveness grant to Shane Bearden for a Zeus scanner that will help work on older vehicles.

Depot Report

Mayor Gohman showed council members samples of roofing materials that have been approved by the historical committee. Replacing the roof will be on next month's agenda.

Animal Report

Trapper set nine cat traps with two cats released unharmed, seven cats released at the farm, two sick feral cats were euthanized. Disposed of four cats that were dead. Set two skunk traps but were empty, one possum, 1 Raccoon and 4 Cats were picked up that were dead. 2 Loose dogs contained at city kennel until owner could pick them up that afternoon.

Ordinance Report/Municipal Report

The Ordinance official contacted four residences to mow, and they have complied.

Attempted to contact two residences to mow.

Contacted about sign down, has been reported.

Contacted one residence about limbs hanging in the street.

Contacted one residence to board the windows, helped them get corrected.

Contacted one residence to move RV, has been moved.

Contacted one residence to register dogs, they did.

Attempted to contact a peddler, unable to locate.

Teresa Ballard reported no citations or warnings issued.

Permit Report

Ricky Royall reported there were no permits issued in the month of June.

there is a gap from about 1985 to 1999 where for some reason the data is not there, but if you look at the empirical data that we have before that time and after that time we average about every 11 to 12 years, that thing fills up and it spends about 11-12 years going down and fills up and that's pretty much the way it works in July. Historically, we get 1.54 inches of rain, and we are already an inch over that this month and the historical average. The average for August is 262.63 inches in September is 2.65 inches, it needs to rain on the watershed which is a small 244 square miles. There are three creeks that feed the lake, Oak Creek, North Oak Creek branch and Salt Creek. And those are the three creeks that tributaries that wind up in the lake. You know we are depending on the rainfall out there on that watershed. What people get stressed about is when they drive down that highway and they see all those flat planes and all that water is gone. But what they don't realize is that it was only 18 inches deep when it was up there by the highway, and so when that thing takes a four foot drop over a year's time, it recedes a lot far away from the road and it distresses but like I said, we're at 30.1%, and I think the next trigger is when it gets down to the 25% level.

Clabe F. Webb - Ricky, at what point would we have to cut off Robert Lee?

Ricky Royall – When we can no longer pull anything out of the lake.

Clabe F. Webb - Does that mean we would be on all wells?

Ricky Royall - Yes.

Clabe F. Webb - So we are using our wells a little bit right now just to keep them active?

Clabe F. Webb - How do we tell Robert Lee; we could not provide for them anymore.

Ricky Royall – When we cannot draw from Oak Creek.

Mayor Pro-Tem Mike Bailey - I will say what City of Bronte has a much more stringent drought restriction than the City of Sweetwater does. The City of Sweetwater uses 20-30 times more water than we do.

Zach Davidson - I cannot remember the exact times, but it is in the drought contingency plan that we scale them back.

4. Discuss – Picnic tables at the Depot.

Clabe F. Webb, I was tasked with checking with TMLIRP to see if we had picnic tables at the depot, if there would be any change in liability. One is because we do not have them scheduled for any kind of vandalism or destruction or anything like that. Since they are not declared currently, as equipment they are not covered. And so, since they are not covered, it is just a moot point. But even if we did have the picnic tables, they said it would not change anything. I did not mention the topic of anything else. I just said picnic tables. That is the only thing I am pursuing, and they said, well, if it is just picnic tables, there is no increase in fees, so from that point of view this sounds ok.

Mayor Gohman reported as far as a park, a city we can just declare it a park. It gets a little more complicated in that the EDC/Historical Society committee does not want to do anything right now until they get their total plan to renovate the Depot. They may want to incorporate the land around the Depot as one big project and so they have requested that we wait on the picnic tables for right now until they get the whole plan together.

Clabe F. Webb - Do they have a timetable?

Clabe F. Webb made the motion to approve demolition of both houses; David Scott seconded the motion. Vote: 5/0 motion carried.

11. Discuss/Act – Finance: Consider caliche over the sewer line at the Cemetery.

Ricky Royall reported we would need 12 – 13 loads of caliche over the sewer line and then tie the caliche back into two roads. This is a budgeted item out of the cemetery fund.

Mayor Pro-Tem Mike Bailey suggested burying additional warning tape.

David Scott made the motion to approve as presented; Clabe F. Webb, seconded the motion. Vote: 5/0 motion carried.

David Scott asked if you are going to use money out of the cemetery fund are you all planning on spraying that again? Pre emergence.

Ricky Royall answered yes, and he is supposed to be spraying and keeping it under control. He guarantees it for a year. Now next year we were hoping to start a little earlier.

David Scott - I talked to him, he said he could spray like in October, November with pre-emergent, and what had grown this winter that got so bad, we would not have that. Might be something you want to think about pre-emergent in the fall.

12. Discuss/Act – Finance: Consider terminating QuickBooks and returning to Asyst software for financial support and maintenance.

Everett Bedford - I want to apologize for ever suggesting we go to QuickBooks. QuickBooks is a better accounting system, but it is dropping part of the data, and we cannot trace it out. Overall, the bottom-line balances, but not when you look at the data in that certain fund. We have been working on this issue but recently we spent three hours on the phone with QuickBooks Tech support and he could not explain what was happening. The tech even created an invoice and tried to follow through and he could not explain what was happening and recommended talking to an QB accountant who would charge an additional fee. Our auditors demand that we have an accrual accounting, which means we book our expenses when they incur, not when we pay them and we booked our revenue when we earn it, not when we receive it.

Zach Davidson, is it just our account or is it just QuickBooks in general as is other people having this issue as well?

Everett Bedford - I have used QuickBooks sparingly; I use one that is written by CPAs for CPA's. But with that problem and you all are not having good financial reports. We had better switch back to Asyst software is my recommendation.

David Scott made the motion to cancel QuickBooks and return to Asyst, Clabe F. Webb motion carried. 5/0 motion carried.

Mayor, Cyndi Carlton, and Deborah Bailey will be attending the San Angelo Chamber of Commerce Summit on July 30th.

Blood drive going on August 2nd, in front of Bronte High School

We have started working on next year's budget and we have the dates for you.

With no further business, Mayor Gohman announced the meeting adjourned at 7:02 p.m.

Paul Gohman
Paul Gohman, Mayor

ATTEST: Teresa Ballard
Teresa Ballard, City Secretary

