

## **MINUTES OF WORKSHOP: AUGUST 3, 2021**

Mayor Muska called the workshop to order at 5:30 pm.

Present council members: Natalie Kelinske, David Pratka, Joe Pustejovsky, Jimmy Doherty, Steve Vanek, and Mayor Tommy Muska.

Mayor Muska stated that the 2021 – 2022 fiscal budget is looking good, we are just waiting on the property tax rate from the appraisal district. Many people protested their taxes this year so this has been delaying the rates. This number is important to the city because it determines the amount of property tax revenue that the city will receive. Mayor Muska said that it's looking like the revenue might fall short around \$300,000 which could influence our capital outlay expenditures such as the firetruck or the police department new construction. We do have the money in reserves (around \$990,000) that we could fall back on if needed. Joe Pustejovsky said in the past we have used reserve money so he would prefer to not use that money unless necessary. Also, Joe said that the last time he heard the Fire Department wasn't sure which truck that they wanted (a ladder trucker or just a pumper truck). Steve Vanek suggested putting half of the funds for the truck away now and then next year potentially buy a truck or save for two years for a ladder truck. Natalie Kelinske stated that we need to know the tax rate and what revenue will be and David Pratka agreed saying he would like to see a balanced budget. Mayor Muska did say that we might have underestimated our sales tax revenue for next year, he said this past month we were over \$14,000 last year's monthly figure. We have steadily seen an increase every month in our sales tax revenue which means many people are shopping local. Mayor stated that he will get with the Fire Department captains and see which truck they are wanting for their department.

Mayor Muska went over the revised budget figures and stated that the LAS project is almost complete, so he took the \$50,000 out of w/s capital outlay and put it in the Spruce and Reagan Street drainage project (making it a total of \$350,000). CJ Gillaspie said he spoke with Jacob Bell from Walker Partners, and he believes that the drainage project will cost around \$350,000 to \$400,000. The general fund expenditures included Darryl Barton's raise, police department full time staff, public works staff, and city hall employees.

Mayor Muska stated that we do have a budget workshop posted for this Thursday so if we receive the property tax rate figures by then, we will have the budget workshop. If we do not have the figures by Thursday, Shelly will post budget workshop meetings for the following Tuesday and Thursday.

Workshop adjourned at 5:52 pm.

## **MINUTES OF MEETING: AUGUST 3, 2021**

1. Call to order: Mayor Muska called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.
2. Mayor Muska recited the pledge and gave the invocation.
3. Roll Call: present council members – Natalie Kelinske, David Pratka, Jimmy Doherty, Steve Vanek, Joe Pustejovsky, and Mayor Tommy Muska were all present.
4. On a motion by Natalie Kelinske, seconded by Joe Pustejovsky; Approve minutes for July 6, July 13, July 15, July 20, and July 27, 2021. All in favor, motion carried.
5. On a motion by David Pratka, seconded by Jimmy Doherty; Approve all bills for July 2021. All in favor, motion carried.

6. On a motion by Jimmy Doherty, seconded by Natalie Kelinske; Approve monthly departmental reports. All in favor, motion carried.

7. There were no citizen comments.

8. John Kocian with the West Chamber said that they would like around \$5,500 - \$6,000 for the West magazine which will feature businesses and events in the area. He is working with Larry Knapek on the production of this yearly magazine and would like the city to consider giving hotel tax funds to the Chamber so that they can fund this project. He also introduced the new Miss West, Kylie Schroeder Howard. On a motion by Steve Vanek, seconded by Joe Pustejovsky; Approve up to \$6,000 out of hotel occupancy funds to help with the publishing of the yearly magazine for the West Chamber of Commerce. All in favor, motion carried.

9. Jenn Vybiral with the Front Street Women's group is requesting the closure of two blocks downtown for their Trunk or Treat event on October 30, 2021. The two blocks would be in front of Topsy Lion and in front of Two Amigos. She has already filled out a special event permit at City Hall. No action was taken on this item.

10. On a motion by Jimmy Doherty, seconded by Natalie Kelinske; Approve notice of joint general election for November 2, 2021. All in favor, motion carried.

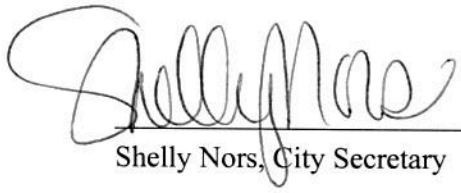
11. On a motion by Jimmy Doherty, seconded by Natalie Kelinske; Approve contract for election services between McLennan County Elections Administration Department and the City of West. All in favor, motion carried.

12. Jack Ferguson formally with Air Net LLC is with a new company called Am Connect. He met with former councilman Brian Muska about the possibility of bringing fiber broadband to West and Brian thought it might be beneficial to bring it up to the council. Jack's main goal is to bring fiber to every business and home with a West address. He would like West to be his first project with the fiber broadband. No price points have been set yet. He said that Owens Corning has developed a fiber called "flex net" and they would complete the construction from start to finish. They also backed by AT&T. No action was taken but we will be in touch.

13. Donna & Ellie who are volunteers with the cat program said they have successfully trapped their first cat today. They brought it up to the ABC clinic but there seems to be some confusion on the rabies shot not being included in the price and they were told they were to pay for it out of pocket. There were also some discrepancies in what was said at the first volunteer meeting and the second meeting. The city recently bought 4 traps which has brought the cat trapping funds down to \$700 for the rest of this fiscal year. Next year the city plans to have \$3,000 to spend towards this program. Shelly said there needs to be some written procedures and a policy in place before we proceed any further. Shelly will reach out to the ABC Clinic to determine what needs to be done. No action was taken.

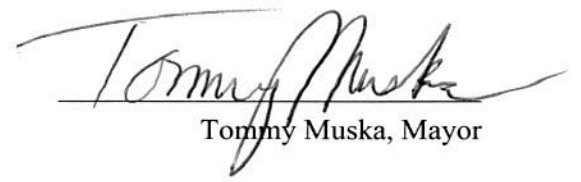
14. Council member comments and request for items to be placed on future agendas. Jimmy Doherty asked about the creek and the mowing of grass around the hotel, Montes, and 7-Eleven. Mayor Muska said that he needs to address this with Mr. Bolton, Montes, and the hotel on how they would like to help on this issue. He will keep the council updated as he learns more information.

15. Council adjourned at 6:55 pm.



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Shelly Nors, City Secretary



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Tommy Muska, Mayor