

**CITY OF TATUM
REGULAR SCHEDULED MEETING
April 12, 2021**

The City Council of the City of Tatum met in regular session on **April 12, 2021**, at **5:35 p.m.** in the City Hall Meeting Room with the following members present:

Mayor - Clay Lassen

City Secretary – Kay Dyer

City Alderman

Jeff Keller

Kim R. Smith

Tate R. Smith

Jack York

Dana Buddecke – Mayor Pro-Tem

CITIZEN’S COMMENTS:

Juan Ramon, Nicole Clark and Juan Ramon Jr. addressed the council in regards to drainage issue on his property. Mr. Ramon stated that as Tatum ISD continued to expand their facilities, the school’s water drainage has been diverted to his neighborhood. Also, when Rusk County Commissioner’s employees came to repair Jefferson Street the drainage had gotten worse. He said that when the road was repaired, the workers dug a trench which directs all the drainage to go on his property. He said that all the topsoil has washed away and you can only see clay. Mr. Ramon said his property is not the only property that is being damaged due to this issue. Nicole Clark said she spent over \$4300.00 having her home releveled. She said she has put cross ties and rocks out trying to help divert the drainage and nothing is working. She also stated that neighbors are burning their household trash in holes they have dug in their yards and trash has blown all over the neighborhood. She said it is nasty and embarrassing. They asked if council would help get these problems fixed.

Linda Haden and Zachary Haden discussed starting the Tatum Historical Foundation back up. Linda Haden has been named President. They are wanting to restore the Santa Fe train depot, so that people are able to visit and see the history of Tatum. A bank account has been set up for the foundation with money from a fundraiser that Zachary had. The depot is in need of electricity, water/sewer, stairway and ramp for entrance to the building. The foundation wants to paint and restore the building. The foundation is wanting the council to help with the restoration. This will be added to the May 10, 2021 agenda to be voted on.

REGULAR BUSINESS:

1. Mrs. Dana Buddecke advised city council that \$50,000 needed to be moved from WW Money Market account to WW checking account due to the number of water meters being replaced and the replacement of well pump. Council agreed with all in favor. Mr. Jeff Keller made a motion to approve the last month’s minutes and checks written. Mr. Kim Smith seconded the motion and the motion passed with none opposed.
2. Discussion on Ordinance 97-04, Chief April Rains said police department has been enforcing the ordinance. The PD are issuing warnings and citations to property owners that are not complying with the ordinance. Public Works supervisor, Michael Morton said that they will be cleaning up the city’s properties. Mr. Jeff Keller discussed possibly purchasing a mower for the city. The purchase of mower will be discussed at a later time. Mr. Jeff Keller made a motion to approve updating the fine amount on Ordinance 97-04. Mr. Jack York seconded the motion and the motion passed with none opposed.
3. Mr. Kim Smith made a motion to approve the new city policy on sexual or other illegal harassment and police department policies on sexual or other illegal harassment, grievance


procedure and internal investigation process. Mr. Tate Smith seconded the motion and the motion passed, all in favor.

4. City Secretary, Kay Dyer updated water rates in billing system to ensure everyone is at correct rate.
5. Telephone Specialist Inc. proposal was tabled until budget workshop.
6. Tatumtel.net email addresses were discussed. The city is unable to add more storage to the emails which is creating a problem. Chief Rains is unable to send and receive emails due to storage. Group M7 Design submitted a proposal on providing the city with .gov email accounts and a website that is ADA compliant as required by the federal government. This item was tabled until budget meeting.
7. Discussions on the 2014 Patrol Truck, Fairway Ford in Henderson said they would have to make repairs to truck in order to diagnose the major issue to it. The cost of the initial repairs would be approximately \$1200.00. The truck has over 160,000 miles on it. The council wants Chief Rains to find out how much the trade in value on truck would bring. Chief Rains will also get estimates on the 2019 patrol truck body damage repairs. The items were tabled until the May 10, 2021 council meeting.
8. No motion was made on the water casing repair at Tatum creek. Public works supervisor Michael Morton will get pricing on the supplies needed to fix the casing and present back to council.
9. Mr. Jeff Keller made a motion to allow variances requested by the citizens at the P&Z meeting in regards to the rezoning request at 1035 N. Hill. The variances requested will allow:
 1. 30' setback from the street to be 0', and will be replaced by the TXDOT requirement of 90' from the centerline of Highway 149 (ref. pg 11-7 Section 4, Ordinance 2013-04.)
 2. The maximum height of a man-made material used for screening (fence) will be altered from 8' to 10' (ref pg 11-30, Section 20, Ordinance 2013-04.)Mr. Kim Smith seconded the motion and the motion passed with none opposed.
10. Discussion on Resolution No. 2021-03 Tx Community Development Block Grant, the council made a change to the resolution on line item #3 to 3. That the application be for \$350,000.00 of grant funds to provide water and/or sewer system, street and/or drainage improvements. Also line item #6 was changed to 6. That it further be stated that the City of Tatum is committing \$17,500.00 from the General Fund as a cash contribution toward the construction activities of the water and/or sewer system, street and/or drainage improvements project. Mr. Jeff Keller made a motion to accept Resolution No. 2021-03 Tx Community Development Block Grant with these changes and Mrs. Dana Buddecke seconded the motion. The motion passed with none opposed.
11. Mr. Jeff Keller made a motion to approve KSA as the engineer for the TX Community Development Block Grant. Mr. Tate Smith seconded the motion and the motion passed with none opposed.
12. Mr. Jack York made a motion to accept Resolution 2021-02 Portable Radios for police department. Mr. Kim Smith seconded the motion and the motion passed with none opposed.
13. Chief April Rains had Craig Roquemore inspect the Hytera radios and is having Hytera check


the programming to find out what Brown did to them. Mr. Roquemore also inspected the batteries owned by Tatum police department and determined the batteries were in working order. Mr. Brown from Brown's Communication made the radios inoperable. Mr. Jeff Keller said to let city attorney, Joe Shumate handle the issue with Mr. Brown. Mr. Joe Shumate said we are not to pay the bill for Brown's Communication.

14. Mr. Kim Smith made a motion to Proclamation for motorcycle safety awareness for the month of May and Proclamation for Child Abuse Prevention for month of April. Mr. Jeff Keller seconded the motion and the motion passed with none opposed.
15. Discussion on P. Sweeney's request for vacation/sick time pay. Mr. Sweeney did not contact Sergeant Omar Zuniga nor Chief April Rains in regards to using vacation/sick pay for his time off on March 20 & March 21, 2021. City Secretary, Kay Dyer sent Mr. Sweeney a text message, March 22, 2021 at 9:22 a.m. asking if he would like to use his sick time, with no response back from Sweeney. Mrs. Dyer then sent another text stating it could not be added without his approval and since he did not respond it would not be added to his paycheck. March 24, 2021 Mr. Sweeney resigned from Tatum Police Department, after his resignation, Mr. Sweeney requested that he be paid for his vacation and sick time. Per city policy, an employee who leaves employment for any reason will not receive any balances left on vacation and/or sick time that has accrued for the time employed. Mr. Tate Smith said Mr. Sweeney needs to come to May 10, 2021 council meeting to discuss his pay. This item was tabled until May council meeting.
16. Council went into executive session with Chief April Rains and Sergeant Omar Zuniga to discuss police department employees at 7:11 p.m. and returned at 7:28 p.m. no action was taken by council.
17. Mrs. Dana Buddecke made a motion to adjourn @ 7:45 p.m. Mr. Jack York seconded the motion and the motion passed, all in favor.

ATTEST:


Kay Dyer, City Secretary

APPROVED:


Clay Lassen, Mayor

