

CITY OF TATUM  
REGULAR MEETING

Mayor - Michael Henry

October 14, 2024

5:30 PM  
MINUTES

**CITY COUNCIL**

Tate Smith Pro-Tem  
JR Smith  
Wendell Moore  
Robin Palmer - NP  
Greggory Cole

**City Secretary** - J. Muckleroy

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CALL TO ORDER: Meeting called to order at 5:30

Prayer: Prayer offered by Nakia Smith.

Pledge of Allegiance: Observed by all in attendance.

Citizen Comments: Mayor requested that comments be kept to 3 minutes.

Glenn with Action Auto stated that Mike Morton came to pick up an estimate on the repairs on the 2008 Chevrolet Truck for the Water department. He noted that he provided an estimate, not a bid or a quote. Glenn said that things go up and down in the automotive repair business. He stated that the forecast was based on a 35% markup on price according to industry labor guidelines. Glen noted that some council members want to repair the truck, and some want to get rid of it, but that is not his concern. He mentioned that he did not understand the large gap between his bid and the other bid submitted. Glen wanted the Council to know that his bid was to repair the truck without any extra fees. He informed the city that they could take it or leave it.

**Discussion and Motion:** Approve last month's minutes and checks written for the City of Tatum. Councilmen Wendell Moore made a motion to approve. Councilman JR Smith seconded the motion. All in favor

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** Adopt the new mission and vision statement—

Councilman JR Smith motioned to review and discuss adopting the new mission and Vision Statement. Councilmen Wendell Moore seconded the motion. Councilman Gregg Cole motioned to adopt the new Vision Statement and postponed the adoption of the Vision Statement until the next meeting. Councilmen Wendell Moore seconded the motion. All in favor

**Information Only:**

- Police Dept: Chief James Smith
- Public Works: Mr. Mike Morton

For September, Waterworks checked 396 meters out of the 562 meters for lead and copper. The plan is to continue the process and finish by the end of October.

Jet equipment is out of service due to a programming issue. It is currently in the shop for repairs. Councilman Gregory Cole asked what type of repairs are needed. Councilman Gregory Cole asked what repairs are required. Mr. Morton stated that it had computer problems again. Councilman Tate Smith wondered whether the jet was under warranty, and if not, he noted it should be. Councilmen Wendell Moore asked if we needed one in an emergency, would the dealership loan one out to us? Mike Morton said he was unsure, but they had not offered one. Council Gregory Cole said they should have a loaner. Councilman Wendell Moore said to call them tomorrow to check on the loaner. Councilmen Tate Smith asked Mike Morton to check with them the following day about them providing the city with a loaner.

- Volunteer Fire Dept: Chief Rayford Gibson

For the month of September, there were 27 EMS calls, 5 MV accidents, two weather-related calls, one welfare call, three grass fires, three house fires, and one vehicle fire; 1 missing person (2-year-old found) total calls: 46 calls turned in 127 calls for 3rd quarter. On course for the 4th quarter to respond to more than 365 calls this year.

- Economic Dev Corp: Mr. Nakia Smith –

Dec 14 is the date for Jingle Bop. TEDCO is looking for vendors and is working on donations for Blue Santa. The application deadline is 12/10, and toy pickup is 12/20 between 4-7:30 at Sherman R Smith Center. TEDCO up an additional donor today. Mr. Nakia Smith received a visit from JJ with Hilary, and he brought over a 600-page engineering plan today. The plans divided the city into five sections. The engineering company they are using is Monte R Lee and Company. This company is waiting on the performance bond, completion bond, and a bond price. The worst-case scenario is that **on Nov 20**, they plan to turn over dirt in Tatum. Contractors should be visible throughout the city next week. Zito is also in the area. It is suitable for our citizens because it gives them a choice of providers. He further noted that competition is good for growing cities. TEDCO received an RFI from the US government. A manufacturing company is looking to expand and is willing to spend \$650M on a project that could offer 600 jobs. There are no guarantees, but we will continue working with them to do business here.

- City Administration: City Secretary Jackie Muckleroy (Budget Review)

Ms. Muckleroy noted that the recent audit will require more detailed information on receipts. She stated that employees are not allowed to approve their own expenditures. All expenditures using city funds will require the employee to complete a debit authorization form with each receipt. Odometer readings are necessary for all WEX receipts. City Administration will provide entry codes for various entries to help track.

All employees will need to clock in and clock out - no exceptions.

Due to increased banking fees, we will not have same-day payroll. There is an additional charge per transaction, resulting in approximately **\$430 per month** for the city. The City Secretary will upload Payroll deposits on Mondays, but deposits will hit on Tuesdays.

Ms. Muckleroy asked if there were any questions for her, and no one responded.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

**Discussion and Motion:** Water Works Auto Repair – Repair vs. Replace, Estimate from Crow's Auto for \$2300

Councilman JR Smith motioned to discuss, and Councilman Wendell Moore seconded it. All in favor.

The mayor stated that we have two estimates and requested that the Council decide whether to scrap or repair the truck. He turned it over to the Council to discuss.

Councilman Moore said they spent over \$1800 on that vehicle last year.

Councilman JR Smith said they spent \$2500 to repair the heater and a/c. They had problems mainly because it was a proper repair facility. Mike Morton agreed it was because it wasn't done at a shop.

Councilman JR Smith noted that the problem with the truck now is that the engine mount fell and dropped on the rack and pinion steering, and GM does not service this line. Councilman JR Smith stated he could repair the line because the city couldn't use this truck for the repair cost. Councilman Moore said he wanted to stop sinking money into an old vehicle. Councilman Smith disagreed and noted that if it were repaired right the first time, there wouldn't be a need to replace it again. The truck has less than 118,166 miles. Councilman Moore said we are not looking at buying a new truck. Councilman JR Smith motioned to repair the truck and continued to use it. Councilman Moore noted a big difference of \$600 in labor.

Councilman JR Smith stated that when a product is deemed unserviceable by the manufacturer, you have to figure out how to fix it.

Per Councilman Tate Smith, the Council has two choices: repair the truck or buy a new one. He suggested we review the estimates and decide. He noted that it can't be sold until it is repaired. Tate motioned to go with Action Auto to repair it, and afterward, we will consider how to proceed. JR seconded the motion. All in favor, the motion passed.

**Discussion and Motion:** Revision of Employee Policy – Councilman Moore motioned to discuss, and Councilman Cole seconded the motion. All in favor

- Define immediate family – leave as defined by Texas Comptrollers guidelines. Councilman Wendell Moore motioned to use TX Comptrollers guidelines for the city. Councilman JR Smith seconded it. All in favor
- TikTok Policy – Nov 2024 Dept of Info Resources/Safety. By November 2024, all

cities must adopt a policy banning TikTok. City-owned devices cannot have TikTok. Councilman JR Smith motioned to accept the TikTok Policy. Councilman Moore seconded it. All in favor

- Selling PTO in addition to use or loss – Councilman Moore motioned to discuss, and Councilman Cole seconded the motion. All in favor.

Councilman JR Smith suggested that we allow vacation to roll over for 60 days. Councilman Cole said a cap should be placed when it is allowed to roll over.

After a lengthy discussion, Councilman Tate Smith motioned to postpone it until the November meeting so the City Secretary could check with other cities. Councilman Cole seconded it. All in favor

**Discussion and Motion:** Pass a resolution to approve a variance for the proposed new business venture by the city ordinance, not to enforce the distance limitation in this instance.

**Discuss, consider, and adopt a resolution** authorizing submitting a Texas Community Development Block Grant program application to the Texas Department of Agriculture for the 2025-2026 Community Development Fund.

Greg Cole motioned to discuss, which was seconded. Shawna McElfish here. Resolution is a requirement to submit. Match proportion 1st priority for COG. Cole motioned to adopt. Councilman Wendell Moore seconded all in favor.

**Discussion, Review, and Motion:** Ordinance for trucks transiting on city streets. Councilman Tate Smith motioned to discuss revising the ordinance. JR. Cole seconded. All in favor.

Councilman Smith stated there is a need to revise the ordinance from "No Thru Trucks/No Semi Trucks" on two streets. Beauregard & Stonewall. Councilman JR Smith stated that the store owner is not stepping up to repair the road. Councilman JR Smith expressed concern about potholes and trucks being a nuisance to neighbors. Councilman Cole stated that enforcing this ordinance could create a hazard for drivers when trucks park up and down the road. Councilmen Moore says he hates to stop drivers from doing business in the city. The mayor asked what is the solution. Councilman JR Smith said this has been ongoing since Sept 2022. Councilman JR Smith says that the ordinance needed to be revised. Cole's primary concern is the safety issue from Stonewall to Hwy 43. Tate Smith says changing the ordinance will not prevent them from parking. Citizens own the trucks and are paying for the streets. Councilman JR Smith suggested postponing for a month and coming back with solutions. Mayor Henry suggested we contact the city attorney to determine the best approach with the store owner. Councilman Wendell Moore motioned to postpone, and Councilman JR Smith seconded it. All in favor.

**Discussion and Motion:** Alternate access for attic location (behind Yesenia's desk)

Councilman Cole motioned to discuss, and Councilman JR Smith seconded it. All in favor.

Councilman Tate Smith motioned to get bids, and Councilman JR Smith seconded them. All in favor.

**Discussion and Motion:** Water Tap equipment to replace old 1-inch tap equipment to two inches. Currently, the city contacts this work out to a vendor. The cost would be approx. \$600 per tap.

Councilman JR Smith motioned to discuss and Councilman Moore seconded it. Michael Moore has a machine to do the water tap. The cutting machine is not working and needs to be upgraded. Anything over a 1-inch tap, we have to get someone to do it for us. We have one invoice for \$3100. Councilman Tate Smith motioned to find one more bid and approve the lowest bid for the machine for the water dept.

Wendell Moore seconded all in favor

**Discussion and Motion:** To adopt a new city logo  
Councilman Cole motioned to adopt new logo, and Councilman Tate Smith seconded it. All in Favor.

Councilman Smith motioned to adjourn, and Councilman Moore seconded the motion. All in favor.

The meeting adjourned at 7:03 am.

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**Mayor Michael Henry's**

**Date**