

Minutes of the Regular
Scheduled Meeting
Troup City Council
January 28, 2014

A Re-Scheduled Meeting of the Troup City Council was held Tuesday January 28, 2014 at 6:30 p.m. in the T.I.S.D. Administration Building located at 201 N. Carolina, Troup, Texas. Councilpersons present were: Mayor John Whitsell, Jeff Hale, Joe Carlyle, Gary Salyer, Chip Richardson and Mayor Pro Tem Carole Wilson. Also present were City Administrator Gene Cottle and City Secretary Buffie Deason.

Guest present were Kathy Garrett, Brittany Taylor, Kim Carter, Suzanne Loudamy and other not signed in.

Mayor John Whitsell called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. noting all Council Persons were present.

Mayor Whitsell – Led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Whitsell – Item 3 Discuss and consider approving the minutes of the December 17, 2013 Troup City Council Meeting. Council person Carole Wilson made the motion to approve the minutes. Councilperson Joe Carlyle seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Whitsell – Item 4 Brief comments concerning non-agenda items. No comments noted.

Mayor Whitsell – Item 5 Discuss and consider approving the December Financial Report. City Manager told Council that our financial accounts were is considerably up compared to the previous years. Councilperson Joe Carlyle made the motion to approve the December 2013 Financial Report. Councilperson Gary Salyer seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Whitsell - Item 6 Discuss the City Manager's report. City manager Gene Cottle said we are 25% of the budget. He advised the audit is still in progress. He said that the City is having to keep close watch on bank accounts to make sure that our funds are backed by the bank since they are over \$250000.00, he said that Austin Bank closely monitors daily to make sure our accounts are covered. He advised that John Phillips is still working on the water discoloration problem. He also advised that the City soon seek bids through our engineering firm for the oxidation ditch. He also advised that a variable speed motor had been added to aerator at the wastewater treatment plant to help with the solids problem. He advised that he and City secretary had attended the Public funds information class. Mr. Cottle also told Council that Police Chief Pat Hendrix was inquiring about the traffic accidents on 110 S, and he seeking a reduction in speed in that area.

Mayor Whitsell- Item 7 Presentation by Kathy Garrett with the Troup PTO regarding the use of Troup's Patriot Park for an Easter Extravaganza. Ms. Garrett gave a presentation asking the Councils permission to use the park on April 12, 2014 to host a public event that would include an Easter Bunny, games, concession stands, and other various events. She requested that a portion of E. Calvert Street to be blocked during 8 am – 2 pm to allow for citizens protection during the event. She advised that the Troup Municipal Library had offered use of their Community Room as well. Mayor Whitsell ask Ms. Garrett ask which portion of Calvert they would need, Ms. Garrett replied that only portion of the street they would need right across from the park. The Mayor then ask if the PTO carried liability insurance to protect the City from any liabilities. Ms. Garrett said that would look into getting a temporary insurance police and price of it. The Mayor ask Ms. Garrett to please check into a policy and a waiver form and that we would address this item at the next meeting. City Manager advised Ms. Garrett that City had taken measures with the City Attorney and TML and he felt these measures would both protect the City and Troup PTO.

Mayor Whitsell – Item 8 Item tabled until February 11, 2014.

Mayor Whitsell – Item 9 Discuss and consider approving the preliminary re-plat of Lot 1 and 2 of the Eason Gee survey A-10. Council person Joe Carlyle made the motion to approve the preliminary re-plat of Lot 1 and 2 of the Eason Gee Survey a-10. Councilperson Chip Richardson seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously with Councilperson Jeff Hale abstaining.

Mayor Whitsell – Item 10 Consider calling a Municipal Election to be held on the uniform Election Day, Saturday May 10, 2014. Election to be held for: Mayor, Council Position II and Council Position V. Councilperson Joe Carlyle made to motion to call the Municipal Election on Saturday May 10, 2014. Councilperson Jeff Hale seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Whitsell – Item 11 Consider authorizing the Mayor to execute an inter-local agreement for a joint Municipal and TISD Board election and for this joint election to be administered by the Smith County Elections Administrator. Councilperson Joe Carlyle made the motion to allow the Mayor to execute an inter-local agreement for a joint election to be administered by Smith County. Councilperson Chip Richardson seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Whitsell – Item 12 Financial Transparency and Open Government Information Presentation and Discussion. City Manager Gene Cottle advised Council that The Texas State Comptroller started the Leadership Circle Awards for financial transparency, at this time this is not required, but according to Financial training that it could start to be required. He advised that many cities in our area are already a part of this program. He told Council the criteria for receiving the level of awards which would include Public display of approved budgets, financial reports (audits), check registers, Council members contact information, current tax rates, and raw format budget. Councilperson Gary Salyer ask if the City of Arp had started and Mr. Cottle advised him that they had not. Councilperson Jeff Hale if this would cost the City any money, Mr. Cottle told him that it would not. City Manager told council that he would only do this if Council approved and advised they could view the standards on the State Comptrollers website. Councilperson Joe Caryle made the motion to authorize the City Manager to proceed to build a Financial Transparency website according to rules of the State Comptroller's Office. Councilperson Carole Wilson seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Whitsell – Item 13 Discuss and consider the appointment of Robbie Switzer to Troup Community Development Cooperation to serve on the Board of Directors with a two year term expiring 2016. Councilperson Joe Carlyle made to motion to appoint Robbie Switzer to serve on Board of Directors of TCDC with term expiring 2016. Councilperson Carole Wilson seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Whitsell – Comments and input from Council, Mayor, Or City Manager concerning items of interest or items for a future agenda. Mayor Whitsell advised that The Downtown Steering Committee would need two members of Council to join this committee. Councilperson Gary Salyer said that this project has neared the point that a committee is needing to be formed. Councilperson Joe Carlyle commented that downtown business owners should be contacted to. Mayor Whitsell also ask about the shoes being hung on power lines. City Manager said that the city does not own the power lines, but the way to enforce any type of fines would be to see who had done it. Councilperson Gary Salyer also ask about the work by Centerpoint and if they will be fixing the roadways, City Manager Gene Cottle told him that they will as soon as weather conditions permit.

Mayor Whitsell – Item 15 Adjourn at 7:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Buffie Deason/City Secretary