

## AUGUST 12, 2024

The Newcastle City Council met in regular session at the Newcastle City Hall, 608 Broadway Ave, Newcastle, Texas at 6:00 pm on Monday August 12th, 2024, with the following members present:

### MEMBERS:

New Mayor:	Josh Bennett
Council Member:	Sarah Riley
	Dickey Baynes
	Jeff Altebaumer
	Chad Owen
	Dustin Hobbs
City Secretary:	Alice Winder
Public Works Director:	A.B. Cheatham

**OPENING PRAYER:** Josh Bennett called on Chad Owen to open the meeting with prayer at 6:08pm.

**VISITOR:** Deborah Milbern was here to present the Texas Community Development Grant for 2025-2026. And to explain to our new council members more about it.

**PUBLIC FORUM:** Sandra Kee- expressing concerns about a manhole that is in the ditch in front of her rent house (406 Washington), and it will eventually cause drainage problem. The school contractors installed the manhole there. The city council said they would talk to the contractors about it.

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FOR JULY 2024-** All city council approved of minutes. Dickie Baynes made a motion and Chad Owen second it. **Approved 5-0**

**APPROVAL OF THE JUNE 2024 FINANCIALS -** Financials were approved. Motion was made by Dickie Baynes and Jeff Altebaumer second it. **Approved 5-0**

**DISCUSSION ON SURVEY MAP OF THE LAKE-** All city council members reviewed the copy that has been presented and are satisfied with it. The city is going to get some new signage made soon. Jeff Altebaumer made the motion and Dusty Hobbs seconded it. **Approved 5-0**

**DISCUSSION WITH PARK COMMITTEE-** Josh Duffield was present for the Park Committee. Josh asked what had been done with the doors that were on the restrooms. We told him that Brent took them off the hinges. Right now, the doors are not being locked so the public can use them. Some things that were brought up needed better lighting, we were not aware of the water being shut off, so it was mentioned that AB would see what the problem was and get it fixed and there seems to be some repairs need in one of the restrooms underneath the sink. And the city is going to look into putting a camera up in case we have some vandalism in the restrooms. This will not be in the restrooms but outside of the restrooms. Dusty Hobbs made the motion and Jeff Altebaumer second it. **Approved 5-0**

**DISCUSSION ON A CALL ABOUT THE DOLLAR STORE:** Josh Bennett spoke with the Dollar Store representative, and they will continue communicating to see what they can come up with. Still working on it.

**DISCUSSION ON TERMINATION OF CONTRACT FOR PINNACLE LEASE-** Pinnacle has sent their letter to end the contract for their lease on the standpipe. The contract will end at the end of April 2025.

**DISCUSSION ON THE RON PERRIN STANDPIPE INSPECTION-** The city council members looked at the look of the inspection that Ron Perrin provided. Talked about getting started on looking for a grant that could help us with the renovation that the standpipe will be needing in the future. Dickie Baynes made a motion and Dusty Hobbs second it. **Approved 5-0**

**DISCUSSION ON PURCHASING A CHLORINATOR FOR WATER SUPPLY-** The city is waiting on the engineers to get us a quote, once we get the quote then we can see what our options are to move forward.

**DISCUSSION ON TCEQ VIOLATION LETTER-** The city council were presented the letter of violation. It was for tracking backflow devices. The city council members have decided to send a letter to all institutions that have or may have backflow devices present and get them compliant with the city according. Dickie Baynes made the motion and Dusty Hobbs second it. **Approved 5-0**

**DISCUSSION ON TML- CYBER FORM PRICE-** Alice spoke with Jason Grubbs who does the regular maintenance on the computer system. His suggestion was to go ahead with paying for the additional increase for the sake of the city. In the long run if we were ever cyberattacked the increase of

insurance would pay for itself. The decision was made to pay the increased rate. Jeff Altebaumer made the motion and Dickie Baynes second it. **Approved 5-0**

**DISCUSSION ON CODE ENFORCER-**The city council agreed to pay for Matt Girdley's renewal for his Code Enforcement license. But also, are looking at all options to see what's going to be better for the city. **Tabled**

**DISCUSSION ON HONORING NATIONAL TEACHER'S DAY OCTOBER 7<sup>TH</sup>-** Alice will check with the school to make sure this is something they are still interested in doing. City council members approved going ahead and going through with this, as long as the school is okay with it. **Approved 5-0**

**DISCUSSION ON WASTE CONNECTION'S SLUDGE TRANSPORTING COST-** TCEQ requires the city to get their sludge tested before transporting (new procedure). When testing the sludge there was a number that was very high, not allowing Waste Connections to dispose of the sludge at Buffalo Bluff Creek but having to take it to another location further away to a facility Costing the city a lot more. Jeff Altebaumer made the motion and Dusty Hobbs second it. **Approved 5-0**

**DISCUSSION ON INSURANCE ADJUSTER FOR OFFICE & BUILDING-** The TML insurance adjuster sent a letter to the city stating that the claim for the roof & the side wall of the shop had been denied. Chad Owen made the motion and Jeff Altebaumer second it. **Approved 5-0**

**DISCUSSION ON APPROVING THE NEW TAX RATE FOR THE CITY-** The city council members decided to go with the .362874 tax rate which is a lower tax rate than last year. Sarah Riley made a motion and Dickie Baynes second it. **Approved 5-0**

**DISCUSSION ON APPROVING THE NEW ELECTRICITY CONTRACT RENEWAL FOR THE OFFICE & SHOP BUILDING-** The city council agreed to approve of the contract renewal with the new electricity rate for the office & the shop building. Jeff Altebaumer made the motion and Dusty Hobbs second it. **Approved 5-0**

**AUTHORIZATION:**

**CONSIDER AND APPROVE AUTHORIZATION TO ISSUE REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL FOR ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES (RFP) AND REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATION FOR ENGINEERING SERVICES (RFQ) FOR GRANT PRE-APPLICATION (PHASE I), APPLICATION (PHASE II), AND IMPLEMENTATION SERVICES FOR TEXAS COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT GRANT PROGRAM FOR 2025/2026 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT FUND (AND ALL ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES PER THE APPLICATION GUIDANCE) AS ADMINSTRATED BY THE TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE.**

**Approved 5-0**

**EXECUTIVE SESSION: Executive Session as Authorized by Texas Governmental Code Section 551.074**

Decision was to increase Julia Keith's pay to \$15.00 an hour and when she gets certified her pay will increase again.

**MAYOR'S UPDATE-** Posting the opening position for the water & sewer dept. in the newspaper and website.

**ADJORNMENT:** 9:00pm. Motion was made by Jeff Altebaumer and seconded by Chad Owen.

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Josh Bennet- Mayor

ATTEST:

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Alice Winder, City Secretary