

OCTOBER 14, 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 October 14th, 2024, with the following members present:

MEMBERS:

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| Mayor ProTem: | Dickey Baynes |
| Council Member: | Sarah Riley |
| | Jeff Altebaumer |
| | Chad Owen |
| | Dustin Hobbs |
| City Secretary: | Alice Winder |
| Public Works: | Brent Casteel |
| | A.B. Cheatham- absent |

OPENING PRAYER: Dickey Baynes called on Chad Owen to open the meeting with prayer at 6:00pm.

VISITOR: Deborah Milbern, Bobby Riley, Derrick Owen, Hollie Hawkins, Mykal Ramirez, Clint Hopping. Lisa Kimberling, Debby Reynolds, Julia Keith, Carson Sanders. Cole Leidy, Kari Blair, Logan Blair, Tony Hemby, Chevy Hunphrey, Josh Bennett, Joshua Duffield, Tate Hopping,

PUBLIC FORUM: Clint Hopping had a concern about the location of the Dollar Store projected to be built on the corner of Austin and 380 Hwy. Several others expressed their concerns as well, Debbie Reynolds, Tony Hemby, Chevy Humphrey, Kari Blair, Tate Hopping & Josh Bennett. They are not against the Dollar Store coming to Newcastle, they are just not happy with the location. That location is residential, and they are concerned about the traffic, their kids playing in the area, trash, late lighting into their houses, and their taxes. Other topics that were brought up were, Joshua Duffield not happy about the 81:7 Ordinance had been changed and the city will now allow Duck Hunting permits for the lakes, he commented he didn't like the price you had to pay if your name is drawn. Also, Derrick Owen brought up concerns about a lot of street lighting being out. He went around town and made a list of all the street lighting and will turn that into the city hall in the morning so they can take the list and contact Fort Belknap so the lights can get fixed. Especially with all the break-ins and thefts that have been going on lately. Try to prevent it if possible.

DAVE & VALENCIA LUND- They're concern was that they were not aware of the 81:7 Ordinance changing for the Duck Hunting. They commented about when the duck hunters and fisherman come out the that they leave behind their trash. Mr. Lund asked if the code enforcer was going to enforce the ones that are supposed to be duck hunting at the lake, Dusty Hobbs answered yes with the help of the me warden. And Dusty Hobbs also made the comment that that's one of the many reasons for allowing duck hunting at the lake by permit only because then you would know the only ones that are supposed to be on the lake hunting, and you could hold them accountable. The Lunds were going to be given names of those that have permission to be hunting at the lake and the number to the game warden.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FOR SEPTEMBER 2024- All city council approved of minutes. Sarah Riley made a motion and Chad Owen second it. **Approved 4-0**

APPROVAL OF THE FINANCIALS FOR SEPTEMBER 2024 – Financials were approved. Motion was made by Dusty Hobbs and Chad Owen second it. **Approved 4-0**

DISCUSSION and approve award to selected grant management firm for grant pre-application, application, and implementation services for the City of Newcastle's 2025-2026 Texas Community Development Grant Fund Program as administered by the Texas Department of Agriculture. Motion was made by Dusty Hobbs and second by Jeff Altebaumer. **Approved 4-0**

DISCUSSION WITH J.D. BRUTON-ANTENNA- J.D. came to represent Young County Sherriff Dept. and Newcastle Fire Dept. and all other emergency systems. He explained the interest they have in installing the antenna on the standpipe would be because the emergency personnel don't have much of a signal in Newcastle and the concern of something big happening and not being able to reach emergency personnel. So, J.D. was going to talk to those with the funds and see if they would be willing to pay \$1,000.00 per year to rent a spot on the standpipe and see if they would be willing to pay that. This would help Newcastle and the emergency services. **TABLED**

DISCUSSION ON INSURING THE EMERGENCY SIREN: It will cost the city \$75.00 per year to ensure it.

DISCUSSION ON CODE ENFORCER-The city is going to hire Hollie Hawkins as the code enforcer to the city. Hollie has agreed to a part-time position and to continue her pay as \$21.00 per hour and continue to get paid mileage at .67 per mile. She will also continue to do her animal control for the city part-time. Motion was made by Jeff Altebaumer and second by Dusty Hobbs. **Approved 4-0**

DISCUSSION ON ROLL-OFFS-Jeff called someone and left a message but they haven't returned his call. Dickie Baynes and Dusty Hobbs both said they were going to make some calls to get some bids. **TABLED**

DISCUSSION ON STEVE SOSINSKI VOLUNTEERING TO REPLACING THE FLOOD LIGHT AT THE STANDPIPE- City council agreed that it would be better for the guys to replace the lighting for liability purposes. Motion was made by Dusty Hobbs and seconded by Chad Owen. **Approved 4-0**

DISCUSSION ON ERIC ARRELL INCREASING HIS RATES TO \$100.00 PER MONTH OR \$1,000.00 PER YEAR- City council decided on paying the \$1,000.00 for the year. Motion was made by Sarah Riley and seconded by Dusty Hobbs. **Approved 4-0**

DISCUSSION ON THE QUANAH BRIDGE PROJECT- Sarah Riley said nothing had been done. If she gets an update, she will let us know.

DISCUSSION ON UPDATES ON THE TCEQ VIOLATIONS- The TCEQ violations were discussed, and Brent gave an update on what had been done on the violations. As of today, we are current on everything.

DISCUSSION ON EPP- The EPP needs to be updated.

DISCUSSION ON WIDENING THE ENTRANCEN & ADJUST THE FENCE LINE AT THE NEWCASTLE LAKE ENTRANCE- Ronnie Hardin is willing to replace the fence, he just needs the guys to go mark the water line that runs through there. Brent will be contacting Ronnie Hardin.

DISCUSSION ON BUYING CITY EASEMENT- Dusty Hobbs had been asked if someone could buy an easement from the city but in that area there's utilities. So, it's NO on that.

DISCUSSION ON DOLLAR STORE UPDATE- Concerns were heard and we learned more about the Dollar Store and received more information from the attendees during the public forum.

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

Discussion on offering Mykal Ramirez and starting him at \$18.50 at part-time for now. And later when we get busier, we will consider full time. The council wants all city employees to start clocking in regularly now. Discussed selling the white Ford but decided to go ahead and keep it for now.

7:45pm- 8:30pm

MAYOR'S UPDATE- We will continue to work on this Dollar Store situation. We will continue to update all residents on what's going on. In the future maybe trading in the red tractor to something that will do more than just cut grass or maybe getting some attachments for it.

ADJORNMENT: 8:45pm. Motion was made by Jeff Altebaumer and seconded by Sarah Riley.

Dickey Baynes- Mayor ProTem

ATTEST:

Alice Winder, City Secretary