

**CITY OF CHINA GROVE
REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES**

**DATE: June 6th, 2024
TIME: 7:00 P.M.
PLACE: 2412 FM 1516 S**

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Mayor, Mary Ann Hajek. Members Present at the meeting were Mayor Pro-Tem, Larry Keller, Fred Bean, David Johnson, Mark Dubai, and Eddy Perez.

Minutes:

Consider and act on approval of the minutes of the City Council meeting held: **May 2, 2024**. David Johnson made a motion to approve the minutes. Mark Dubai seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

STAFF REPORTS

Consider and possible action on:

- **Financial Report & Municipal Court:** Melinda Saucedo
 - Melinda Saucedo provided a brief description of the current budget to include revenue and expenses.
- **Police Department:** Chief Ralph Sramek
 - Chief Ralph Sramek stated China Grove PD had a busy month.
 - Sgt. Vickers provided a slide show of activity for the month. Sgt. Vickers gave an example of their drone usage in a recent fire on Hwy 87. Sgt Vickers provided activity for the month to include gunfire on Beck road, stolen vehicle located and homeless activity in the area.
- **China Grove Fire & Rescue:** Fire Chief Winfield
 - reported a total of 35 calls for the month. 13 for the city, 17 for the county and 5 mutual aids. The total number of EMS calls was 22, Acadian transported 9 from the city and 7 from county area and there were 2 motor vehicle accidents. Chief Winfield provided a safety message to take caution when driving due to recent head on collisions.
- **Animal Control/Code Compliance:** Justin Torres
 - Code compliance is being monitored. Justin Torres cautioned to watch for snakes and honey bees in the area.

CITIZENS TO BE HEARD

This time is provided for citizens to address the City Council on any issues and concerns. No City Council discussion or action can be taken if the item is not on the agenda. **Please limit your remarks to three (3) minutes and state your name and address for the record.**

- Kathy Johnson stated part of Oma Road Street and grass has been unmaintained. Johnson described the property history and stated the area is part of the city's responsibility.

- Richard Cardenas wants to see the city protected and objected that the Mayor's "get out the vote" letter in the May 4th election was sent but excluded specific neighborhoods.

DISCUSSION/ACTION

A. Discuss and Possible Action: The mayor's update on the Affairs of the City of China Grove and areas that will need attention in the future. (City planning)

Mayor Mary Ann Hajek provided a statement of the state of the city of China Grove. The statement included future discussion on budget and finances, Ordinances and Zoning, personnel matters and emergency management planning

B. Discussion: Homestead exemption, over 65 exemption and disability exemption. (Goal is to start planning for future budget meetings)

David Johnson gave a description of possible homestead exemptions. Further discussion to consider advalorem income and stability of being able to keep elected exemptions consistent.

***** (Larry Keller made a motion to table agenda items C-G for further discussion and budget research. Mark Dubay Seconded the motions. All voted in favor.) *****

C. Discuss and Possible Action: now or in the future Amending the budget (allow for 24-hour police coverage, increase in officer pay, add medical benefits and adding 5 more additional officers)

D. Discuss and Possible action: now or in the future to provide all police officers with an allowance of \$600.00 per month (for medical/ life insurance and maintaining uniform/equipment requirements).

E. Discuss and Possible action: now or in the future to provide hourly police officers with the choice of 20-hour overtime per month or 20 hours of comp time per month at a rate of 1 ½ times per hour. (Will require captain level approval and comp time will carry over at a limit of 240 hours per year.

F. Discuss and Possible action: now or in the future to provide tuition funds for specific police applicants to attend a local police training academy with a contracted three-year work contract. (Tuition cost range in the amount of \$3,800.00)

G. Discuss and possible action: now or in the future to enter into a contract with the Wilson County sheriff's Department to provide jail services to the China Grove Police Department. (In order to house prisoners with class c warrants).

ANNOUNCEMENTS MAYOR/COUNCIL/STAFF-COMMENTS OR STATEMENTS

A. Mayor/Council-

B. Chief of Police-

C. Fire Chief-

D. City Secretary/Administrator- June 11th workshop & July meeting changed to July 11th due to 4th of July holiday.

ADJOURN

Mayor Pro-Tem Larry Keller made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Gale Beaver seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

Mary Ann Hajek

Mayor