

**CITY OF CHINA GROVE
REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES**

**DATE: March 7, 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, David Windhorst, David Johnson, and Mark Dubay. Gail Beaver was absent.

Minutes:

Consider and act on approval of the minutes of the City Council meeting held: **February 1, 2024**

Mark Dubay made a motion to approve the minutes. David Windhorst seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

STAFF REPORTS

Consider and possible action on:

- **Financial Report & Municipal Court:**
 - Financial Report and Municipal Court report were read by Melinda Saucedo
- **Police Department:** Chief Ralph Sramek
 - Chief Ralph Sramek announced the China Grove was awarded a 2012 GMC pickup by the district attorney from a recent seizure. He announced another China Grove officer resigned and discussed the lack of coverage due to short staff.
 - Sgt. Vickers provided a slideshow presentation of recent activity in the China Grove area which included locating a missing person and illegal gambling.
- **China Grove Fire & Rescue:** Fire Chief Winfield
 - reported a total of 18 calls for the month. 12 for the city, 5 for the county and 1 mutual aid. The total number of EMS calls was 10, Acadian transported 3 from the city and 2 from county area and there were 2 motor vehicle accidents.
- **Animal Control/Code Compliance:** Justin Torres
 - Code compliance is being monitored.

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.**

- Bean stated there are other ways to get revenue instead of allowing warehouses.
- Mrs. Bean felt the warehouses were noisy.
- Lopez questioned how the council could make their decision on adding warehouses without the community knowing.

MAYOR PRO-TEM LARRY KELLER TOOK OVER THE MEETING AT 7:50 BECAUSE THE PUBLIC MOTIONED MAYOR MARY ANN Hajek COULD NOT PARTICIPATE IN ACTION (A) BECAUSE THEY FELT THERE WAS A CONFLICT.

DISCUSSION/ACTION

- A. Discuss and Possible Action on New Warehouse at 2042 S. Foster. The developer proposing is Senior Director Jeffory L. Stringer with Quannah Partners.**

The council heard Jeffory L. Stringers pitch on adding a warehouse, at this time no action was taking. Jeffory was advised on the process of filing a rezoning application and notices would need to be sent to residents. Jeffory was advised to take the necessary steps with china groves permit officer to proceed with filing an application before any decisions will be made.

David Johnson tabled the discussion for another meeting to provide Jeffory time to take the proper steps, David Windhorst seconded the table. All voted in favor.

Mayor Pro-Tem Larry Keller passed the council meeting back to Mayor Mary Ann Hajek at 8:30pm

- B. Discuss the budget amendment for TMRS benefits. (There is no need for an amendment since this year we did not hire a city administrator).**

The council discussed the TMRS benefits and the existing budget.

- C. Action items on a 6.5% hourly increase will start April 1st, 2024. TMRS benefits for employees of city of china grove will be deducted effective April 1st, 2024. (The increase will offset the deduction and resulting taxes through the 9/30/2024 budget, Council will readjust salary adjustments during new proposed budget year).**

David Windhorst made a motion to accept the 6.5% hourly increase which will start April 1st, 2024. TMRS benefits for employees of city of china grove will be deducted effective April 1st, 2024. Mayor Pro-Tem Larry Keller seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

- D. Action Item on starting the Bid Process. (Recommendation from engineer is a bid package of \$750,000 for a two-year period to allow work completion this fiscal year and some next fiscal year to eliminate a need for a second bid package)**

Mayor Pro-Tem Larry Keller motioned the bid process to begin. Mark Dubay seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

- E. Action Item on Direct deposit for the city of china Grove using business payroll services through American Bank. Direct deposit will begin on March 30th, 2024, payroll date. (\$60.00 a month, with quarterly reports completed, Direct deposit will be mandatory for all paid city of China Grove employees unless proven that a financial institution is unable to provide the employee a service account).**

David Johnson motioned to accept Direct Deposit for the City of China Grove. David Windhorst seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

- F. Action Item allowing Computer Network Professionals to facilitate the implementation of a new dell workstations, firewall, wireless access points and software to the city of china grove. (Currently there are several Wi-Fi communication drops, especially during busy court days).**

Mayor Pro-Tem Larry Keller motioned to accept the computer network Professionals to facilitate the implementation of a new dell workstations, firewall, wireless access points and software to the city of china grove. Mark Dubay seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

G. Discuss comparison of City of China Grove to St Hedwig regarding budgets in income and police expenses.

Mayor Mary Ann Hajek gave a brief discussion on why St. Hedwig can pay officers more.

ANNOUNCEMENTS MAYOR/COUNCIL/STAFF-COMMENTS OR STATEMENTS

- A.** Mayor/Council-David Windhorst stated the council should be respected.
- B.** Chief of Police-
- C.** Fire Chief-
- D.** City Secretary/Administrator- Melinda Saucedo advised that minutes provided on the website are not mandatory.

ADJOURN

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

Mary Ann Hajek
