



WATONGA CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES FOR APRIL 19, 2022

In accordance with the Oklahoma Open Meeting Law, this Agenda was posted April 14, 2022 Prior to 5:00 PM at the Main Street Entrance of Watonga City Hall, located at 410 West Main Street, Watonga, Oklahoma.

The City Council of the City of Watonga did meet at 6:00 PM on Tuesday, April 19, 2022 in the Conference Room of Watonga City Hall, located at 410 W. Main Street, Watonga, Oklahoma for a scheduled meeting.

Invocation & Pledge of Allegiance:

Council Present: Mayor Bill Seitter, Travis Bradt, Allen Cowan and Ladina Willis. Also present, City Manager Karrie Beth Little, City Attorney Jared Harrison and City Clerk Verlen Bills. Adam Tock absent.

Declaration of a Quorum: at 6:03 PM.

AGENDA

1. **Approve the Minutes** of the previous Council Meeting held March 15, 2022.

Motion to approve the Minutes of the previous Council Meeting held March 15, 2022 was made by Travis Bradt and seconded by Ladina Willis.

Mayor Seitter, hearing no further comment, called for a vote;

T. Bradt aye A. Cowan aye L. Willis aye B. Seitter aye

Motion carried.

2. **Approve the Minutes** of the Special Council Meeting held March 29, 2022.

Motion to approve the Minutes of the Special Council Meeting held March 29, 2022 was made by Ladina Willis and seconded by Travis Bradt.

Mayor Seitter hearing no further comment, called for a vote;

T. Bradt aye A. Cowan aye L. Willis aye B. Seitter aye

Motion carried.

Adam Tock present at 6:07 PM.

3. **Approve the Monthly Reports** from EMS, Fire Department, City Treasurer, Library, Police Department, Municipal Court, Community Development, Park's Department, Light & Water Department, Street & Alley Department, and the Airport.

Mr. Cowan asked about the Treasurer's Report showing a larger deposit than previous months into the General Fund.

City Treasurer Rodney Jacks replied, there was \$125,000 transfer, sales tax and other taxes were up this month. There were two EMS Payrolls transferred into the General Fund. There was just a lot of smaller deposits that added up.

Mr. Cowan: Our contribution for the Sales Tax reimbursement has gone up from \$10,000 to \$14,000. Why is this?

Mr. Jacks, We are stepping up this tax payback to clear this before the start of the fiscal year. Two more months and we will be able to start the new fiscal year clear of this complication. Our July tax payment will show the additional \$10,000.

Ms. Little: We did check with the State and they allowed this. It will be good to get this behind us.

Several appreciated the EMS Report explaining that “Vents” and “Respirators” were actually the same thing.

Mayor Seitter: In the Light and Water, the 15th is the last day to pay a utility bill?

Ms. Little replied yes, without having to pay any penalties.

Ms. Little went on to explain the policy for late utility payments and disconnects. She also pointed to the report and noted that the number of disconnects has gone down.

There was discussion back and forth about customer policy in the Light and Water Office.

Ms. Little: This is not a perfect science, but we do try to work with people.

Mayor Seitter: I've been at this long enough to realize people may not always be factual with some issues.

Discussion went to how timing works out between the 15th of the month, weekends, mail time and other concerns.

Ms. Willis: We have rules and regulation we need to follow, but we are also here for the Community. It is not that issues were brought to us, but it is how we address these issues.

Mayor Seitter added and sometimes there are people that are just having a bad day. In the future I will be able to explain this better.

Ms. Willis asked about numbers in the Light and Water Report.

Ms. Little: There were 55 accounts that had payment arrangements, of those, 3 were shut off because they failed the arrangements.

Mayor Seitter: How many Police Officers do have now and did any Officer quit because of the change in Vehicle Policy?

Ms. Little: We have 8 Officers including the Chief. One Officer resigned because he could make more money out of state and another resigned because he decided being a Police Officer was not what he wanted to be.

Several commented that this was not unheard of.

Ms. Little: We have five full time Officers, Animal Control Officer, Assistant Chief and Chief. We also have five Reserve Officers. Of the eight, we have two vacancies, but as soon as one of the Reserve Officers finishes CLEET he want to go full time so we will have only one vacancy.

Mayor Seitter: Has our Police Chief moved to Watonga yet?

Ms. Little: He does stay in Watonga. I am not sure of his official residency at this point.

Mayor Seitter: I think that was one of the stipulations we requested.

Allen Cowan made the motion to approve the Monthly Reports from EMS, Fire Department, City Treasurer, Library, Police Department, Municipal Court, Community Development, Park's Department, Light & Water Department, Street & Alley Department, and the Airport. Motion was seconded by Ladina Willis

Mayor Seitter hearing no further comment, called for a vote;

T. Bradt aye A. Cowan aye A. Tock aye L. Willis aye B. Seitter aye

Motion carried.

4. **Review and accept the list of Claims** against the City of Watonga for the month of March 2022.

Travis Bradt: There seem to be more open Purchase Orders recently and I realize that timing does not always match up with when the reports are printed.

Ms. Little agreed, some of this is timing and some of this is the lead time between ordering goods and products and actually receiving the products.

Ms. Little gave a brief description of what we are doing with the Purchase Order process and the two week schedule we are using. It does not always match with the reports prepared for Council.

There was more discussion of issues with product shortages and delays.

Ms. Little: On many items, we can no longer use the preferred vendor, but the vendor that can supply what we need.

Motion to accept the list of Claims against the City of Watonga for the month of March 2022 was made by Allen Cowan and seconded by Travis Bradt.

Mayor Seitter hearing no further comment, called for a vote;

T. Bradt aye A. Cowan aye A. Tock aye L. Willis aye B. Seitter aye

Motion carried.

5. **Approve the Monthly Financial Report** for March 2022 from RS Meacham.

Ms. Dacia Phillips with RS Meacham: This report is for the first nine months of the year through March 31. The General Fund is the first page. The month total is the first column. The year to date is the second column. Year-to-date previous year is the third column. The fifth column is the Annual Budget and in the last column is the percent of the budget.

Things to note, this month year-to-date verses year-to-date this time last year, our total income is up \$193,261. Much of this is from Sales Tax and Use Tax which is up approximately \$93,000 and Oil and Gas income is up approximately \$99,000. Indications are that Sales Tax and Oil and Gas Income will continue to stay up in this area.

In the Non-operating income and transfers we have added some detail to the report to show what the transfers are for. We did do a Grant Fund transfer of \$218,985 in March.

In Expenditures, our income is up, but we are actually down in expenditures, \$2,592,718 versus \$2,603,218. Our total income is \$3,093,059 and our total expenditures are \$2,603,218 so we have "Net Income" of \$470,068 versus a loss last year of \$177,628. The term "Net Income" is not a proper GAAP term but I use it to explain in lay terms that we brought in more money than we expended.

Ms. Phillips continues: We should look at this for budget compliance. To compare against the annual budget, we would like Revenue to be at 75 percent or higher and expenditures to be at 75 percent or lower. Note the far right column and the total income, we are at 86 percent of projection. Remember that we do budget conservatively at 90 percent of recurring revenues, 86 percent is good. And you can see, most of our significant sources of revenue are at or exceed budget. The only ones that are under budget or under projection are Police Revenues, and Licenses and Permits and you can see that Licenses and Permits are not a significant source of revenue.

We are on target for Non-operating Income or Transfers and Interest at 75.34 percent. And then, for other Expenditures, we are at 68 percent of budget. This is holding steady. So our total annual budget, year-to-date, we projected a profit of \$45,269 and we are at \$470,068.

Items to note in the General Fund, approximately \$4500 was for insurance premiums for the airport. \$11,032 to Chief Fire and Safety for fire hoses. In the Street and Alley Department approximately \$2000 was for signs, about \$2,500 for tires for the loader, and then to OCI about \$1,600 also for signs and \$1,225 for the scale service. And the Library had a ProQuest subscription for \$1,359.

In Light and Water we have a year-to-date Net Income of \$840,141 comparing to a loss last year at this time of \$255,982, but this included \$457,831 in Capital Items last year, and we have to show it this way. Electric Operating Income is \$1,393,731. Water Operating Income is \$251,037. Sewer Operating Income is \$58,144 and Garbage Operating Income \$96,623 versus \$3,915 last year, and "Disposal" might be a better name for this item. After Administration Revenues and Expenditures and Transfers, we have a Net Income of \$840,141. Net Income excluding Capital Items is \$938,734.

We exclude those fees that are reserved for something else, so our total operating income is almost 1.8 million. As a percentage, our Operating Income exceeded the Budget for the year. After Administrative and other Income and Expenses we are at 69 percent of projection.

Ms. Little: Overall, we are making more and spending less.

Mayor Seitter asked, is there a total amount for the Capital Improvement Funds for Electric, Water and Sewer? Is this available on the Treasurer's Report? How much, in restricted funds do we have for specific projects?

Mr. Jacks: This is in the Light and Water Saving Account. The Electric Capital Improvements Fund is \$253,576.46. The Water Capital Improvement Fund is \$275,353.78 and the Sewer Capital Improvement Fund is \$143,072.74. There is also \$91,837.22 in unrestricted funds from other sources for a total in the Light and Water Saving of 763,840.20.

Ms. Phillips and Mr. Jacks discussed the idea of adding these numbers to the report.

Ms. Phillips: In the Grant Fund there was little activity except for the transfer of the \$218,985 which we discussed earlier.

In the PWA, also not much activity for March, there was a net loss of \$1,307 for the month. This Fund is not where we thought it would be at this time, but the timing for a specific project is not what we expected.

In the Sales Tax Fund, March collections of the half cent was \$22,495. After Transfers the balance is \$17,297.

The Street and Alley Fund had income of \$2,462 and interest of \$4.00 so a net income of \$2,466 year-to-date. For the year this fund has a loss of \$140,277 because we spent \$167,268 as Restricted Funds for the approved Workman and A St. project.

The Sales Tax Bar Graph is showing the three cents that the City retains. March was a good month, we collected \$134,973 which is up almost \$30,000. April was not quite as good with \$112,094 but still better than April of 2021 where collected only \$88,898. In Use Tax we collected \$15,221.

Mayor Seitter commented as did others, that he appreciated the break down of the Sales Tax Graph showing just the City's portion of collections.

Mayor Seitter asked, could we add to the Sales Tax Graph, a separate bar in the graph for the Sales Tax collected for the Hospital and a separate bar for the City's portion and then also a total? This would be three bars per month. Although, we may not be able to show as much previous history this way.

After brief discussion of the details: Ms. Phillips agreed, this could be done, we may need to flip this page to landscape printing, but I can do what we need to do to make the numbers more meaningful to you.

Motion to approve the Monthly Financial Report from RS Meacham presented by Dacia Phillips was made by Allen Cowan and seconded by Travis Bradt.

Mayor Seitter hearing no further comment, called for a vote;

T. Bradt aye A. Cowan aye A. Tock aye L. Willis aye B. Seitter aye

Motion carried.

6. **Consideration, Discussion and Action:** To approve a quote from Aquatic Warriors LLC in the amount of \$15,749.95 to resurface the Splashpad at Huff Lorang Park to be paid from General Fund Saving Huff-Lorang Oil & Gas Fund.

Mayor Seitter noted that this is restricted funds.

Ms. Little: This was approved by Council last year, budgeted as a Capital Improvement project for \$15,000. The quote came in at \$15,749.95 or \$749.95 over budget.

If Council approves this, then it can be done before the Splashpad opens Memorial Day weekend.

Mayor Seitter: We are really just approving the additional \$750.00.

Travis Bradt made the motion to approve the quote from Aquatic Warriors LLC in the amount of \$15,749.95 to resurface the Splashpad at Huff Lorang Park to be paid from General Fund Saving Huff-Lorang Oil & Gas Fund. Motion was seconded by Ladina Willis.

Mayor Seitter hearing no further comment, called for a vote;

T. Bradt aye A. Cowan aye A. Tock aye L. Willis aye B. Seitter aye

Motion carried.

7. **Consideration, Discussion and Action:** To approve an Agreement with the Oklahoma Department of Transportation (ODOT) to be reimbursed \$15,000 for the Traffic Light repairs at US-270/281 and SH-3/8.

Ms. Little reported, this is required by ODOT before they can pay us for their part of the traffic signal repairs.

Motion was made by Allen Cowan and seconded by Ladina Willis to approve an Agreement with the Oklahoma Department of Transportation to be reimbursed \$15,000 for the Traffic Light repairs at US-270/281 and SH-3/8.

Mayor Seitter hearing no further comment, called for a vote;

T. Bradt aye A. Cowan aye A. Tock aye L. Willis aye B. Seitter aye

Motion carried.

8. **Consideration, Discussion and Action:** To approve Resolution No. 2022-5 of the City of Watonga, Oklahoma, a municipal corporation, electing the standard allowance available under the revenue loss provision of the Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Fund established under the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) in the full amount of the ARPA grant (\$496,195.76) to be used for the general provision of government services.

Mayor Seitter: I do not think we want to turn down \$500,000. If I understand correctly, this will allow us to appropriate this money as we need.

Ms. Phillips: It also simplifies the reporting and gives us much more flexibility in the ways we can use this money.

Ms. Little: Larger communities that received more than two million dollars in ARPA funds do not get to do this but they have tried to simplify the reporting requirements for smaller cities.

Ms. Phillips: The calculations and the required information for reporting would have been much more involved.

Others noted that, sometimes it better to be smaller.

Ladina Willis made the motion to approve Resolution No. 2022-5 of the City of Watonga, Oklahoma, a municipal corporation, electing the standard allowance available under the revenue loss provision of the Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Fund established under the American Rescue Plan Act in the full amount of the ARPA grant (\$496,195.76) to be used for the general provision of government services. Motion was seconded by Travis Bradt.

Mayor Seitter hearing no further comment, called for a vote;

T. Bradt aye A. Cowan aye A. Tock aye L. Willis aye B. Seitter aye
Motion carried.

9. **Consideration, Discussion and Action:** To approve the recommendation from Joshua Risley with Parkhill Engineering for the bid from Inman Excavating in the amount of \$322,507.94 for the Sewer Line project No. 9409.20 located at US-270/281 and SH-3/8 over and above the bid from Young Contracting LLC for \$410,142.00.

Ms. Little: This is a Community Development Block Grant Project and this project is funded for \$319,000. One of the bids came in at \$322,507.94 and the other from Young Contracting is \$410,142.00. Mr. Risley is recommending we approve the bid for \$322,507.94 from Inman Excavating. This will be approximately \$3,000 over the estimated cost of the project, but this can be paid from the Light & Water Capital Improvement Fund. There were 11 Contractors that showed up to the pre-bid meeting but only these 2 submitted bids.

Mayor Seitter: If we approve the bid from Inman Excavating the City will be responsible for the \$3,000 difference?

Ms. Little: Yes, and we do have funds available to cover this.

There was debate about the wording of the agenda item, it was not clearly understood. City Clerk Mr. Bills admitted that he might have worded that differently.

For clarity Ms. Little reiterated, we are asking Council to approve the bid from Inman Excavation in the amount of \$322,507.94 with the City to pay the difference of approximately \$3,000.00 from the Light & Water Capital Improvement Saving.

Ms. Willis made the motion to approve the recommendation from Joshua Risley with Parkhill Engineering for the bid from Inman Excavating in the amount of \$322,507.94 for the Sewer Line project No. 9409.20 located at US-270/281 and SH-3/8. Motion was seconded Travis Bradt.

Mayor Seitter hearing no further comment, called for a vote;

T. Bradt aye A. Cowan aye A. Tock aye L. Willis aye B. Seitter aye
Motion carried.

10. **Consideration, Discussion and Action:** To approve an agreement with Garver Engineering Work Order No. 20W0261 for a Rural Economic Action Plan (REAP) Grant BL22-4 for the Watonga Wastewater Treatment Plant.

Ms. Little: About this time last year this engineering expense was before the City Council in the amount of approximately \$128,000. We then applied for and qualified for a REAP Grant.

We went back to discuss what we could do differently on this project with Garver Engineering. We determined that with the City doing some of this work in-house we are able to save about \$30,000 of the original estimate of \$520,000 for the full project.

This is back to Council because it is now a REAP Grant Project. The City's part of the project funds have already been appropriated as a Capital Improvement Project.

Mr. Bradt asked, on page 5, section 1.11 it lists Extra Work, not included under this agreement. If this extra work is required then the City will be responsible for the extra fees?

City Attorney Jared Harrison replied yes.

Mr. Bradt: On the top of page 6 of the contract with Garver, it talks of assistance from other State sources. Will we need this other assistance?

Ms. Little: We should not need this assistance as we have already allocated City funds and the REAP Grant. We may need that assistance for another project later.

Mayor Seitter: Under Owner's Responsibilities on page six, do you feel like we have sufficiently covered all of our responsibilities without future costs such as the geotechnical report?

Ms. Little: Absolutely. We already have most of that. It was done previously when this project was first initiated about a year ago.

There was some discussion about the how and why this had been previously done.

Ms. Little: We are still going to do some of the dirt work in-house to help offset the cost.

Mr. Tock asked, are our personnel and equipment capable of doing this work?

Ms. Little replied yes.

Travis Bradt made the motion to approve an agreement with Garver Engineering Work Order No. 20W0261 for a Rural Economic Action Plan (REAP) Grant BL22-4 for the Watonga Wastewater Treatment Plant. Motion was seconded by Allen Cowan.

Mayor Seitter hearing no further comment, called for a vote;

T. Bradt aye A. Cowan aye A. Tock aye L. Willis aye B. Seitter aye

Motion carried.

11. **Consideration, Discussion and Action:** To approve a interlocal agreement with the Blaine County Commissions as presented by City Attorney Jared Harrison.

Mr. Harrison: This concerns the new jail property across the street from the current jail, where the Cheese Plant used to be. There has been some question about the property as to exactly who owns what in the north half of that block. So, instead of trying to figure that out on very short notice, we all decided to agree that we are going to get the property defined with a proper legal description but in the interim, allow the County to continue work on the new jail. While we are at it, we also threw in some items to protect the City. Notably, to make sure they understand to stay clear of the substation. This way they can continue to work while the details of the legal description get worked out.

Mayor Seitter: We are not asking for any compensation for this property and putting the jail at the location is a positive thing for the City and the County does not need to purchase property elsewhere.

Several comments agreed.

Motion was made by Ladina Willis to approve a interlocal agreement with the Blaine County Commissions concerning the new County Jail property. Motion was seconded by Allen Cowan. Mayor Seitter hearing no further comment, called for a vote;
T. Bradt aye A. Cowan aye A. Tock aye L. Willis aye B. Seitter aye
Motion carried.

12. **Consideration, Discussion and Action:** To approve the recommendation of City Manager Karrie Beth Little to appoint Patt Curtin to the Watonga Library Board for a term of three years.

Ms. Little: Ms. Patt Curtin is currently on the Library Board and wants to continue to serve.

Mayor Seitter asked, Library Administrator Mrs. Crawford is in agreement?

Ms. Little confirmed yes.

Ms. Willis made the motion to appoint Patt Curtin to the Watonga Library Board for a term of three years. Allen Cowan seconded the motion.
Mayor Seitter hearing no further comment, called for a vote;
T. Bradt aye A. Cowan aye A. Tock aye L. Willis aye B. Seitter aye
Motion carried.

13. **Consideration, Discussion and Action:** To approve the recommendation of City Manager Karrie Beth Little to appoint Lisa Seitter to the Watonga Library Board for a term of three years.

Motion was made by Travis Bradt and seconded by Ladina Willis to appoint Lisa Seitter to the Watonga Library Board for a term of three years.
Mayor Seitter hearing no further comment, called for a vote;
T. Bradt aye A. Cowan aye A. Tock aye L. Willis aye B. Seitter aye
Motion carried.

14. **Consideration, Discussion and Action:** To advertise for bids for overlay of the following three sections of streets:
Moreland from 1st Street to 2nd Street
1st Street from Laing to Moreland
1st Street from Wikoff to Harmon
Bids to be submitted by 12 PM on June 15, 2022, and a recommendation for the lowest and best bid brought to City Council at the regular scheduled meeting on June 21, 2022.

Mayor Seitter: I prefer doing the bid opening outside of the Council Meeting and then bringing the recommendation to the Council. We are bidding on only three blocks?

Ms. Little: Yes, because we only have approximately \$111,000 in the Street and Alley Fund and we are estimating the overlay will cost about \$50,000 per block. We may need an additional \$30,000 or so just for the three blocks but I think we can locate that amount. But we need to see what the bids will come in at before we can move forward.

Mayor Seitter: Would it be prudent to put some kind of wording in the bid specifications (specs), should the bids be real reasonable, we could go ahead add some additional blocks to the job. I realize this could put the contractor in a awkward position.

Mr. Harrison: This will get very difficult to set up in the bid specs.

Mr. Harrison went on to explain the possible complications in trying to add bid options such as this, nor would it be fair to the contractor.

So that we can accomplish something, I think we would be better off if we limit the bid specs to these three blocks. Then we will have a firm idea of the cost. And of course if the bid is \$250,000 nobody wins, but we can repackage the deal and try again.

Ms. Phillips: None of this will actually happen until the next fiscal year?

Ms. Little: Yes.

Mr. Tock ask: Are the utility lines under the streets in good condition?

Ms. Little: In this area everything looks good. The street we are asking to overlay are the highest priority. Some do not even have asphalt, it is just dirt.

Motion was made by Ladina Willis and seconded by Allen Cowan to advertise for bids for overlay of the following three sections of streets:

Moreland from 1st Street to 2nd Street

1st Street from Laing to Moreland

1st Street from Wikoff to Harmon

Bids to be submitted by 12 PM on June 15, 2022, and a recommendation for the lowest and best bid brought to City Council at the regular scheduled meeting on June 21, 2022.

Mayor Seitter hearing no further comment, called for a vote;

T. Bradt aye A. Cowan aye A. Tock aye L. Willis aye B. Seitter aye

Motion carried.

15. **Consideration, Discussion and Action:** To approve an agreement with SADA Systems, Inc. a major Google Partner, for cloud based email services to secure and unify all the City employees' email accounts under the name "watongaok.gov" for a annual agreement amount of \$7,140.00.

Mayor Seitter asked, is this a one time contract, it will not come back to Council?

Mr. Harrison allowed that this will need to be renewed every year.

Mayor Seitter: This is just for email accounts?

Ms. Little: Right now, we are not in compliance with our email. We need to be in compliance with our email. This has been brought up many times. Mr. Harrison can give you the legal take on this. We researched and went through this. We need this in order to continue with any of our Library accounts, they are ending in August and we will not have any access to that. So, this is not an if we can, we need to move forward with this. It will actually give Council Members access as well as Department Heads. But we need to move forward with this.

Mr. Harrison: From the compliance side of this, should we get an open records request, we will not have the uncomfortable conversation of “Mr. Mayor, we need to sit down and go through all your email so we can pull out what is important”. With everything going through City Email Accounts, we then know where we can look for items. We know it is all in one place. This is very good protection for everybody. All City Business happens through this channel.

City Clerk Bills noted that this system is also more secure.

Mayor Seitter: Cyber crime is becoming more of a concern, especially with the war in Ukraine.

Mr. Cowan: this means we will not get anymore junk-mail?

Mr. Harrison: No Comment.

No direct answer was given, only a few chuckles.

Mr. Graham Dudley with the Watonga Republican asked, When the City moved to the new web site, why did you change the domain name?

Ms. Little: We had already secured our new domain name. We had just not moved forward with it until the new web site came online. It is more for government use. That is why it is not a .org any longer.

Mr. Bills: It is now a government domain name, lending a little more security.

Motion was made by Ladina Willis and seconded by Allen Cowan to approve an agreement with SADA Systems, Inc. for cloud based email services to secure and unify all the City employees' email accounts under the name “watongaok.gov” for an annual agreement amount of \$7,140.00.

Mayor Seitter hearing no further comment, called for a vote;

T. Bradt aye A. Cowan aye A. Tock aye L. Willis aye B. Seitter aye

Motion carried.

16. Council Comments:

Mr. Cowan: I would like to pass along to all the Department Heads, thank you for the job that you are doing, taking care of our budgets and saving money where you can. It is noticed and recognize by Council, myself included. We do appreciate that.

Ms. Willis: I missed the Special Council Meeting, what happened at that meeting?

Mayor Seitter: The Special Council Meeting was to approve Adam Tock as a Council Member. After that was a Workshop Meeting where we went through and looked at our budget.

We looked at an overview of each department and went through there needs. The task was to see where we needed to be in five years and where did we need to grow?

What came out of this is that we need to improve our infrastructure. With water, sewer and electric about 1000 more population is about all our infrastructure would manage.

This is not a firm number but about \$21 million is what we need. We discussed how to go about this, borrow the money or hire a grant writer was talked about. It was a good discussion, I think we left Ms. Little with some tasks to do. Another idea was to hire a financial planner to help us see how we could approach these needs and where are we going to stand in the future.

Mr. Dudley asked, how much growth would the \$21 million accommodate?

Ms. Little: We could not answer that at this time. That money would be for individual projects, such as the water treatment and the digester at the wastewater treatment plant. The question is, if we were to bring back the prison today, which was about 2000 in population, our infrastructure could not handle that load right now. Keep in mind, we could handle half of that but not all of it. Those projects would be part of the \$21 million.

Mr. Tock: At the wastewater treatment plant, we have the space, depending on technology, for another 6000 in population.

Mayor Seitter: With the idea of a loan and doing this all at one time, my comment is that we would not need a grant writer. My thoughts about this later after the meeting, things are just going to cost more in the future, it might be cheaper, 10 years from now, or could be a wash to go ahead and do it right now, what is it going to cost if we spread this out over 10 years? Who knows how this will play out.

I think at a time when our inflation rate is high, it may not be the a good time to go the loan route. We might want to wait until the inflation rate is lower, Economics people would know better about this.

Ms. Little: At the same time, you can anticipate some, we're doing a budget right now and we're basing it on a 30 percent cost increase for fuel and parts. So a project today cost \$20 million, add 30 percent to that and then keep moving. Every year we do not always know, but we have to build it in.

Mayor Seitter: We can't afford it now, we can't afford it in the future. So, what do you do?

Ms. Little: The \$21 million is what it would cost straight out of our pocket with no funding or grants. Realistically it's probably not going to be \$21 million out of our pocket. There are items that are already funded that I am working on now and I will keep working for other sources of funding. This is just really the raw data, just a picture of the dollar amount. I do not foresee all of that out of our pocket. But remember, for every grant dollar we get, we are able to stretch it more to the next project.

Mr. Tock mentioned that he may have a contact for Ms. Little for a grant writer.

17. Mayor Comments:

Mayor Seitter: I want to make Ms. Little aware that I was approached by the School Ag Program about the property north of the Airport, they used to rent that property from the City to bail and then sell the hay. I wanted you to have a heads-up so you know what is going on when they come to you.

We did training with Oklahoma Municipal Assurance Group (OMAG), where are we with the policy we need to pass to get our payment for this?

Ms. Little: I have gotten three Council manuals (as examples) and I'm working to put these together. I hope to have that ready to review shortly and approve it with the new budget.

There was some debate about the timing of this, is it a one time situation or annually and which 12 months of the year is it based on?

Mayor Seitter: Some time ago we had been talking with Mercy Hospital about plans for a Computed Tomography (CT) Scanner. Have we heard any more about this?

Mr. Harrison: This has just stopped, and they have gotten quiet about this.

Mayor Seitter: Should we contact Mercy and look at this again, to see where we are with the contract?

Ms. Willis: Did we not get a letter from them?

(Summary of multiple conversations)

It was discussed that we had tabled this because they were not able to provide proper documentation for the CT Project and Mercy has not followed through with parts of the Contract.

18. City Manager Comments:

Ms. Little: I want to remind all that we have a Planning and Zoning Public Hearing on Monday, the 25th.

We have been working on the budget. It is my understanding that we typically do a Budget Workshop before the budget actually goes to Council for approval. Is that correct?

Ms. Phillips: We do have some numbers together because we have not done a budget like this in the past.

Ms. Little: With that, and the Resolution we passed at the last Council meeting we need Council to pass the Budget at the next Council Meeting. So, when does Council want to have the Workshop?

Ms. Phillips: We will have some preliminary numbers as we have had in the past, and we will look at capital project options.

Mayor Seitter: We need to set a date for a Budget Workshop before the next Council Meeting on May 17 allowing for some time between the Workshop and Council Meeting for Ms. Little and Ms. Phillips to put the budget into a proper format.

After discussion, a Budget Workshop was set for Thursday May 5, 2022 at 1:00 PM.

Mr. Tock: Does the City have a fleet maintenance program?

Ms. Little: We are talking about that, we are working on a lot of budget revamping, but right now we do not have the financing to go there yet.

Mr. Tock: Fleet maintenance will save the City a lot of money, as much as the cost of a vehicle per year.

Ms. Little: It is something we need to look at but we have a lot of vehicles with special requirements. She talked of the ambulances, fire engines, police units, Light and Water aerial equipment and Street and Alley equipment.

We will look at a maintenance program for the general use vehicles, but we have to be cautious with some to keep the vehicles certified for their intended use.

Mr. Tock: There are incentives or grants for Go Green vehicles.

Ms. Little: Our electric provider OMPA has had some discussion on this.

Mayor Seitter: Any other City Manger comments?

Ms. Little: Remember the Public Hearing on Monday, the Budget Workshop coming up and thanks to all for attending the City's 130 Birthday Party. On another positive note, the City of Watonga will be the theme for the Cheese Festival this year. The Cheese Festival is 30 years strong and they will be incorporating our City flag and our 130th Birthday.

19. **Adjourn:**

Motion to adjourn was made by Travis Bradt and seconded by Allen Cowan.

Mayor Seitter hearing no further comment, called for a vote;

T. Bradt aye A. Cowan aye A. Tock aye L. Willis aye B. Seitter aye

Motion carried at 7:27 PM.

Mayor Bill Seitter

City Clerk, Verlen Bills