

The Dallas City Council held its regular meeting on December 11, 2014, at 6 p.m. Mayor Higgins called the meeting to order with the following commissioners present: Esther Newberry, Harold Northup, and Bob Weese. Tom Schaefer was absent.

Others attending the meeting were Doug Erickson, Scott Bentzinger, Eric Icenogle, Chris Classen, and Dennis Hilliard.

A motion was made by Weese, and 2nd by Newberry to accept the minutes of the November 26, 2014, meeting. Newberry, Northup, and Weese AYE. Schaefer ABSENT.

A motion was made by Newberry, and 2nd by Weese to pay bills. Newberry, Northup, and Weese AYE. Schaefer ABSENT.

Discussed the city's 2014-15 fiscal year budget and the actual expenses that have been incurred through October 2014.

Discussed the city's water and sewer rates. The last rate increase was in June 2008, and the council feels that a rate increase is necessary to offset the water department's increased expenses. It was decided to raise the minimum water bill, for the first 1,000 gallons used, from \$9.50 to \$10.00. The rate for usage in excess of 1,000 gallons will be raised from \$3.20 per 1,000 gallons to \$3.60 per 1,000 gallons. The sewer rate will remain 50% of the water rate plus a \$9.00 debt service charge. These new rates will go into effect with the January 2015 water bills. The city attorney will draw up the new ordinance so that it can be passed at the next city council meeting.

Doug Erickson discussed the water plant demolition and water salesman building construction project. There are still a few items that have not been completed by the contractor. Since the project completion date has passed and the project is still not completed, liquidated damages are being applied. Doug will contact the contractor about getting this contract completed.

Discussed the sewer line repair/replacement project. It was recommended by Mr. Erickson that he, Chris Classen, and Mayor Higgins meet with someone from WIRC to discuss possible grants.

Eric Icenogle reported that he is having a complaint served on the property owner of the old high school.

Mayor Higgins and the council expressed their concern with Hancock County Sheriff Scott Bentzinger about the old high school building. The council feels that with all of the broken windows and other accessibility there is a very high risk of illegal activities taking place inside this vacated building. Sheriff Bentzinger agreed that there is a legal responsibility to make sure illegal activities are not taking place inside the building and that his department would try to help the city police department with this.

Dennis Hilliard discussed some nuisance ordinance violations that he is in the process of addressing.

Discussed Christmas bonuses for the city's employees. A motion was made by Northup, and 2nd by Weese to give the city's full-time employees a \$75 Christmas bonus, part-time employees a \$35 Christmas bonus, and to pay the employees share of IMRF, social security, and medicare withholding. Newberry, Northup, and Weese AYE. Schaefer ABSENT

Discussed the city's financial account balances. It appears it may be necessary to cash in a certificate of deposit in the near future.

A motion was made by Northup, and 2nd by Weese to adjourn the meeting. Newberry, Northup, and Weese AYE. Schaefer ABSENT.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Steven K Vorhies, City Clerk