

**DALHART CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2023**

The Dalhart City Council met in regular session in Council Chambers on Wednesday, September 13, 2023, at 6:00 p.m. Justin Moore Mayor, called the meeting to order. A quorum was present. Justin Moore led the prayer, and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited to the United States and Texas Flags. Members present were:

Justin Moore, Mayor

Michele Griffin	Dwayne Smith	Absent:
Brian DeMots	Parker Noel	Franky Scott
Ginger Cleavinger	Ty Hancock	
Gary Schniederjan		

Stacey Norris, City Manager
Wendy Kleynhans, City Secretary
Alan Bojorquez, Interim City Attorney – Via Zoom

Ty Hancock made a motion to approve the consent agenda consisting of minutes of the previous Regular Meeting on August 28, 2023. The motion also included the approval of the August Financial Report, August Tax Report, and August bills in the amount of \$1,279,618.53. Those bills over \$3,000.00 were: Texas Municipal League \$47,723.36; Xcel Energy \$10,030.75; Chase Bank – Purchasing Card \$4,036.63; Chase Bank - Jones \$4,108.88; Chase Bank - Kleynhans \$4,364.82; Chase Bank – Lehman \$3,960.98; Xcel Energy \$51,496.41; Toot N Totum \$16,640.47; Mayfield Paper Company \$3,462.72; AEG Petroleum LLC \$14,807.36; Hi-Line Tool Company \$3,189.05; Parkhill Smith & Cooper \$122,459.47; Mayberry Texas Real Estate \$3,952.89; Jose’s Landscaping \$9,000.00; City of Dalhart 2020 July Transfer \$6,562.00; City of Dalhart 2021 July Transfer \$10,588.00; Bartlett Lumber \$4,304.54; Lang Electric \$4,910.02; City of Dalhart \$4,364.43; Paradigm Technologies \$6,224.50; Axon Enterprise, Inc. \$22,488.00; Ricoh USA, Inc. \$6,744.58; Texas First Group LLC \$3,111.00; Hard Head Veterans \$3,135.00; Dalhart EDC July 2023 Sales Tax \$78,056.85; Dalhart EDC August 2023 Sales Tax \$76,839.11; Dallam County Appraisal District \$10,174.12; Law Offices of Greg Oelke \$8,240.00; Casco Industries, Inc. \$37,622.00; Amarillo Utility Contractors \$73,387.50; Amarillo Utility Contractors \$138,738.00; Mid-American Research Chemical \$3,506.54; Micah Meurer Payroll \$4,353.15; Dallam County July 2023 \$19,671.12; On Site Decals, LLC \$12,675.00; La Rita Performing Arts \$4,151.46; Hydro Resources \$8,957.01; Roll-Offs of America \$24,940.00; Amarillo Fencing and Stain \$5,000.00; Texas Municipal Retirement \$11,080.68; and Texas Municipal Retirement \$11,037.43. Gary Schniederjan seconded the motion and the same carried unanimously.

Kerri Ann was present for a public comment regarding the cost of her water bill. She stated that she had an issue previously and once it was checked in person, it was found that the meter was faulty and was refunded. She is concerned about high water bills that members of the community received recently and the solution that the City has come up

with. She also informed Council of a friend that had a meter read but with pictures of the condition it was not possible to read it and stated that she would send the pictures to the city email if they wanted to review them. Ashley Watson was next for public comment regarding the Demolition Derby that was scheduled for the end of September. She informed Council that some community members have removed their equine animals due to the fear of the safety of their animals. She also expressed her concern about the damage that could be done to the arena and injuries to people on the property. She requested that the event be moved to protect the arena and animals housed in the stalls.

Fire Chief Mario Garcia was present and gave a presentation on the paid Fire Chief/Fire Marshal position. After his presentation, Shiloh Watts, President of the Dalhart Fire Department, First Assistant Fire Chief, Robert Gordon, Second Assistant Fire Chief Tommy Chisum, and Hartley Fire Chief Scott White were present to address Council about the benefits of having a full time Fire Chief. They expressed their views with Council on the importance of the growth of this department, the daily duties of the Fire Chief including fire reports, writing grants, holding trainings for the department, the benefit of having someone at the Fire Department, and the ability to hold regular Fire Extinguisher classes. Councilman, Ty Hancock, expressed the concern of having one position to do both the Fire Chief and Fire Marshal position. Councilman, Parker Noel, asked how much time it would take for the Fire Marshal duties. Chief Garcia stated having one person do both duties was doable. After discussion, Michele Griffin made a motion to approve creating the paid Fire Chief/Fire Marshal position. Ty Hancock seconded the motion and the same carried unanimously.

Adolfo Garcia from Hi-Plains Engineering on the progress of the Hwy 54 Utility Relocation Project. He informed Council that the brick work has been completed and the contractors are now working on the preparation of paving repairs. They are now waiting on G and G Operators to come out to do this repair and that was expected to be started by September 27, 2023.

Ginger Cleavinger made a motion to approve the recommendation from the Hotel Occupancy Tax Committee to provide funding in the amount of \$5,400 to Strike Out Cancer Softball Tournament. Gary Schniederjan seconded the motion and the same carried unanimously.

The next item was to consider rescheduling the regular City Council meeting set for October 9, 2023, due to the Columbus Day Holiday. After discussion, Ty Hancock made a motion to reschedule the October 9, 2023, regular City Council Meeting to October 11, 2023. Gary Schniederjan seconded the motion and the same carried unanimously.

Discussion was held regarding the request to hold a Demolition Derby at the XIT Rangers Club Arena. Sam Garrett, host of the Demolition Derby, was present and stated that they have insurance and will be required to have a 3 ft berm and will have the fire department present during the event. He also stated that for the preparation of the arena, they will use the dirt to build the berm and all cars will not have any glass. They have also hired a contractor to run a heavy magnet after the event to catch any metal that will fall off the derby cars. Shannon Torres was present and stated that she has begged for this event to be denied due to the size of the arena and the distance of the stalls from the arena. She expressed the concern of the oil and transmission fluid that would be spilled

into the dirt and the risk posed for the children and the animals. She also expressed the concern of children sneaking off to crawl into a stall with a horse and an accident occurring. Councilman Dwayne Smith stated his concern for the public and environmental safety. Councilwoman Ginger Cleavinger asked about preparation to protect the animals and what the remedy was. He stated that there would be trailers and vehicles parked between the animals and the arena to muffle the sound. Councilman Dwayne Smith also expressed the concern of the hazmat risk from the antifreeze from the vehicles. After discussion, Dwayne Smith made a motion to deny the request to host a Demolition Derby in the arena at the XIT Rangers Club Arena. Ginger Cleavinger seconded the motion and the same carried unanimously.

For the discussion for future agenda items, City Manager Stacey Norris reminded council that the financial report and audit will appear on the next meeting agenda.

Water/Wastewater Superintendent, Mike Olvera, was present to inform council that there was an assessment on the water bill issues and found that there were less than ten (10) customers affected by this issue and he contacted each customer to discuss the payment solution. His staff is looking into the issue and beginning to repair these meters.

There being no further business, Michele Griffin made a motion to adjourn. Parker Noel seconded the motion and the same carried unanimously.

APPROVED:

ATTEST:

Justin Moore, Mayor

Wendy Kleynhans, City Secretary