

CITY OF HAMILTON
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MAYOR JULIE BROWN

Minutes from Council Meeting March 14, 2022

Open meeting by Mayor Julie Brown
Invocation by Councilor Howard
Pledge of Allegiance led by Mayor Julie Brown

Mayor and Council members were all present (Councilor Allen on Skype)

A motion to accept the minutes from February 12, 2022, without reading aloud was made by Councilor Whearley. Second by Councilor Farley. Motioned approved unanimously.

Fire Chief Report: Assistant Chief Sisk gave the report. There are now 19 members on the Department roster. Fire calls/assistant calls have been down. Fire hydrant on square works but needs replacing. Since this hydrant serves most of the downtown Commercial Area, Councilor Farley said it needed to be replaced. Assistant Chief Sisk will start the process of getting it replaced. It was stressed that any of the fire fighting system that needs repairs, should be repaired. Update of Chief Ben Hood: he is progressing, and everyone wished him well.

Police Report: 90 calls since last meeting. 68 traffic stops. As everyone knows by now, road construction of Highway 116 is ongoing. Still looking for place to put new Post Office. Chief Weiss asked for a stipend of \$50.00 for the two officers that do not drive a vehicle home and back to work. After it was brought up that the other employees had the same problem as the officers, the Mayor and Council agreed to the \$50.00 stipend for the two Police Officers and three other City Personnel. Motion was made to approve the \$50.00 stipend to the 5 employees. Second by Councilor Whearley. Unanimous approval. It will be re-visited each month.

Maintenance Report: Ashley Spells presented the Maintenance report. The High School lift station pump should be re-installed this week. The new Lift Station that is being paid for by the Harris County School System should be installed soon. There is no definite date currently. Short of employees. After discussion of positions open at the current time (Street Supervisor and Grounds Maintenance), Mayor and Council agreed to pursue the hiring of part-timers. At the time of the meeting, applications were accepted and approved for one person to work in water/sewer and the other on grounds maintenance. They will begin this week. Ads have been put in the paper for the two open positions. It was suggested by citizen we also post the openings on GLGA.org.

The Water Budget was approved as provided. The Sewer Budget was also approved. Councilor Whearley made the motion to approve, second by Councilor Howard and approved unanimously. The General Budget was tabled.

US Tank, Inc., Contract: This is a contract with US Tank for the upkeep and maintenance on the 4 water tanks in the Hamilton Water System. Mayor and Council had previously discussed this matter. Money is

in the Water Budget for this item. Councilor Whearley made the motion to accept the contract. Second by Councilor Allen. Vote was unanimous to accept.

Discussion of Part-time help. It was observed we have at present, two high school students who are working part-time for the city. Following the rules of employment of younger than adults, the City will hire one additional High School student for work mostly in the summer. (For others, see Maintenance Report).

Local Option Sales Tax Update: This is the Sales Tax distributed among the County and the Municipalities. The County must send their proposal out to the Municipalities by July 31, 2022. At that time, the Municipalities and the County will negotiate as to what is a fair distribution. Information is being gathered for this negotiation. Next meeting is scheduled for March 23, 2022, in Pine Mountain.

Citizens comments: Citizen requested we try to solve the problem with sidewalk on Barnes Mill Road being so close to the road. The city will try to come up with a safe and satisfactory solution since it is not the first time the situation has arisen. The city would like to solve the problem once and for all. Citizen complimented the Police Department on a job well done. Citizen spoke on the things the city was doing incorrectly. Some of the information was not correct. The mayor thanked the citizens for their interest in the city.

A discussion was had concerning lights crossing Highway 116 in the vicinity of the Post Office. The Rails to Trails on the old Railroad bed is scheduled to be completed through Hamilton within the next 6 months. Plans are to install a flashing light there under this grant.

Executive session was called to discuss personnel with a motion by Councilor Whearley. Second by Councilor Allen. Vote unanimous to go into Executive Session.

After returning from the Executive meeting and resuming, Mayor Brown stated no vote needed to be taken on discussion in the Executive meeting.

Motion then was made by Councilor Howard to adjourn the meeting. Second by Councilor Whearley. Vote was unanimous and meeting was adjourned.

Mayor Julie Brown

Mayor Pro-Tem Ransom Farley

Councilor Patrick Whearley

Councilor Alvin Howard

Councilor Greg Allen

City Clerk Tonia Crittenden

