

BE IT REMEMBERED that on Tuesday, **MAY 14, 2024**, the Riesel City Council met in a REGULAR called meeting, at 6:30 p.m. in the Riesel City Hall Meeting Room, at 104 Hwy. 6 North in Riesel, Texas, with notice of said meeting having been posted at least 72 hours in advance in accordance with Section 551, Texas Government Code.

Call to Order: Mayor Jennifer Hogg called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM

Council Members Present: Ralph May, Bobby Dieterich, Bill Barker & Paul Winkler **Absent:** Debbie Kilgore

Employees Present: Alisha Flanary, Patrick Bellringer & Ryan Dieterich

Visitors Present: Alicia Bellringer, Linda Hogg, Tom Flanary Jr., Dori Dieterich & Phyllis Koester

Mayor Hogg led the Pledge of Allegiance and Councilman Bill Barker, gave the invocation.

Consent Items: Bill Barker made a motion to approve all consent items: minutes from the 4/9/2024 council meeting, payment of bills and payroll and acceptance of monthly financial reports. Bobby Dieterich seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Visitor's Comments: none

Audit: Cindi Daniels from Paul Christensen & Associates presented the completed financial audit of the 2023 General, Water & Sewer Funds of the City. There were significant changes in the city's net position. She noted that citation revenue was down \$204,226 in 2023. Then she explained that law enforcement expenses were up from \$247,063 in 2022 to \$347,952 in 2023, a difference of \$100,889. With this significant increase in police expenses and with the large drop in revenue, the city's increase in net position was over \$300,000 LESS in 2023 than it was in 2022. Property tax revenues increased by approximately \$26,000 as a result of an increase in appraised property values. Sales tax revenues increased by approximately \$48,000 as well. The water and sewer fund net position increased significantly in 2023, from \$27,120 in 2022 to \$343,718 in 2023.

Paul Winkler made the motion to accept the 2023 financial audit as presented by Cindie Daniels from Paul Christensen & Associates. With a second by Bill Barker, the motion passed unanimously.

Line Item Transfer: Bobby Dieterich made a motion to approve a line item transfer in accordance with Local Government Code 252.022, transferring funds from the 2023-2024 General Operating Budget Emergency Contingency Fund Line Item 190 to the Street Budget "Culvert & Drainage" Line Item 188 in the amount necessary to complete unforeseen emergency repairs needed for road and culvert damage on Rattlesnake Road, which was caused by recent flash flooding. Paul Winkler gave a second and the motion passed unanimously.

Drainage Rehab: Discussion was held pertaining to authorizing city engineers to draft a proposal for a drainage rehab project

Ditch Ordinance: discussion was held regarding an ordinance regulating ditch maintenance and culverts. Bill Barker moved to table discussion until a work session next month. Ralph May seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Fireworks: Discussion was held regarding prohibiting the use, sale or possession of fireworks in the city limits. Paul Winkler made a motion to table discussion until the next work session. Bill Barker seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Take-home Vehicles: Discussion was held regarding the implementation of a policy for city-owned vehicles. After receiving a response from the city attorney, confirming that they could draft the policy however they felt best served the city, the consensus between council members was to limit take-home vehicles to those issued vehicles that live within a 15 minute response time; and that 15 minute time span would be under normal, typical driving conditions and while following all posted speed limits and

obeying all traffic laws, lights, stop signs, etc. Ralph May made a motion to table this until the next meeting to allow time for a written policy to be drafted and reviewed by the city attorney. Bill Barker seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Parade: Bobby Dieterich moved to authorize the Riesel High Class of 2024 to hold a senior parade on Sunday, May 19, 2024 at 5:00 PM. Paul Winkler seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Riesel Bridge over the Brazos: Bill Barker gave a summary of his recent MPO meetings. He stated that he and Ralph May, along with Jennifer Boen of STV Engineers attended MPO planning meetings and requested that a bridge be built over the Brazos River, linking Riesel with Robinson. The reason for this request is to improve emergency response time. There are a lack of bridges over the Brazos and getting an ambulance out to Riesel and back to a Waco hospital cannot be done inside the “golden hour” which is crucial for survival of many life threatening medical events. Bill met with TxDot Planning Director, Victor Goebel and the MPO board and they are interested in fast-tracking the project. The project needs two cities to sponsor it. An environmental study and feasibility study must be conducted. Paul Winkler and Ralph May will continue to represent the city at MPO meetings to ensure that this project gets prioritized and completed to help vulnerable citizens of Riesel in medical emergencies.

Overpass: Bill Barker spoke about long-term future TxDOT plans for Riesel, which includes widening Hwy 6 through town, relocating the NB lanes to the other side (adjacent to the SB lanes) and building an overpass over the current intersections. He brought the construction plans he was given by TxDot for Council to view. Mr. Barker stated that his project is part of the Hurricane Evacuation Route plan and the goal is to provide a route with no stop lights from the Houston area all the way to Meridian.

Executive Session: at 8:20 PM city council members convened into a closed executive session, pursuant to Section 551.074 of the Government Code (V.C.T.A.) to deliberate the duties, evaluation, employment, and/or appointment of a public officer or employee: **Police Officer, Darryl Welch**

Reconvene: At 8:58 PM Council reconvened the open session, stating that no action was taken during the closed meeting;

Resignation: Bill Barker moved to accept Daryl Welch’s resignation, effective 4:05 PM , May 14, 2024. With a seconded by Ralph May, the motion carried unanimously.

Monthly Reports were submitted by the Utility Department, Police Department and the Office of City Secretary.

Councilman Resignation: Bobby Dieterich made a motion to accept the resignation of Council Member, Bill Barker as he moves out of state after accepting a position in another state. Paul Winkler seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

Adjournment: With no further business, Mayor Hogg adjourned the meeting at 9:06 PM

Mayor, Jennifer Hogg

Attest: Alisha Flanary, City Secretary