

Council
03/29/2023
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Austwell City Council Meeting for February 21st 2023 Regular Meeting / Public Hearing

The Austwell City Council met for regular meeting and Public Hearing on February 21st 2023 at the Community Center @ 311 Bay Street. Mayor Biery called meeting to order @ 6:00 PM and led the pledge of allegiance to the flag. Mayor Biery welcomed the citizens in attendance. Mayor Biery also announced due to an illness Commissioner Torres's was not able to attend meeting.

Commissioner Ancira stated that she attended a meeting and was nominated to the board of directors of Refugio County Community Development foundation which is a nonprofit organization. This gives Austwell a voice at the table for any monies that are potentially allocated to us. Work day for March 18th 2023. Mayor Biery said Ismael Martinez will be putting a dumpster in town for the Citizens to use. Public Announcement from Vickie Whitaker announcing that audit is done and is pleased it was finished.

Item 5: Staff Reports:

City Secretary Jodi Lerma presented reports regarding bank accounts balances and provided printed reports for attendees. Regarding the Wells Fargo account to close or leave open for further investigation. V. Whitaker suggested to leave the accounts open for a while yet.

Rene of Rene Water Operations report amounts of water used and waste water samples.

Item 6: Minutes

Copies of the minutes for the January 10th 2023 regular meeting were provided for each council member. Council member Ancira made a motion to accept the minutes as written Mayor Biery seconded all ayes motion passes unanimously.

Item 7: FY 2022 Audit

Noel Snedeker gave his presentation on the FY 2022 audit. Council member Ancira made a motion to accept the FY 2022 audit Mayor Biery seconded. All ayes motion passes unanimously.

Item 8: Presentation of CDBG MIT /MOD Grant

Mr. Deleon from Aurdurra Engineering explained this company was selected by Refugio County.

Refugio County is receiving a total allocation of \$11,622,800, And has elected to disburse the funds between all entities/communities within the county. The Town of Austwell opted to select city-wide drainage. no local funds will be used for this project, estimated funding of \$1,050,000.00

Item 9: Presentation of Subgrant

Austwell/Hynes Bay fishing pier Mr. Deleon explained that the Pier will be made stronger and better for the environment. Mr. Deleon talks about the timeline with the environmentalists 6 to 8 months without any issues.

Item 10: Presentation of Austwell City Park Project

\$20,000. to restore electrical system, playground and pavilion roof. Mr. Deleon said this is a 4yr. old estimate, and really off on the numbers, 6 to 8 months out on this project also if we continue to move forward, these finds may be moved to the pier project.

Item 11: Basketball Goal

There was request to install basketball goals at the park pavilion. Park Account expense \$1,000.00. Council member Ancira made a motion Mayor Biery seconded all ayes motion passes unanimously.

Item 12: CBBEP Reimbursement Contract \$28,000.00

This monies were originally for fish cleaning tables but all recipients declined was offered to Austwell Bayfront for covered picnic tables on the bayfront. Council member Ancira made motion to accept the CBBEP reimbursement grant. Mayor Biery seconded all ayes motion carries.

Mayor Biery moved ahead to Item 15.

Item 15: Friends of Austwell for Discussion Only:

Mayor Biery introduces Friends of Austwell explains all that use to go on in Austwell when he was younger, but the city cannot participate in charity. Mayor Biery explains that the City has been enforcing ordinances to clean up building and in many of those cases; asking people to clean things up and it's not necessarily due to unwillingness to do but for many people it's an inability. First and foremost the idea for this new organization is for it to operate parallel to the city and help meet some the city's needs that the city cannot do on its own. We have a unique opportunity the money that came from the corona virus relief came with hardly any strings attached. Ace Burt spoke how nonprofit organizations work.

Mayor Biery suggested a break and return to Item 13 the time 7:42pm

Mayor Biery calls meeting back in session the time 7:47pm

Item 13: Appointment of Municipal Court Clerk

Mayor Biery explains that last July we selected Dwight Mutschler to be our Municipal Judge, sent for training in Austin. Primary task is finding a court clerk.

Retiring to executive session time 7:49

Returning from executive session 7:54

Regular meeting back in order to appoint Jane Barber Municipal Court Clerk Council member Ancira made the motion Mayor Biery seconded all ayes motion passes unanimously. Mayor Biery welcomes Jane Barber.

Item 14: Mowing bids for City parcels.

Mayor Biery explains that the mowing bids are for mowing city property and mowing citizens property that are habitually unmown. Mayor Biery stated that the packets are available at City Hall. Bids need to be returned by April 5th 2023 and all the individual parcels will be awarded at the regular meeting in April. Council member Ancira made a motion to approve the Solicitation Packets for Mowing Bids. Mayor Biery seconded all ayes motion passed unanimously.

Item 16: Public Hearing 610 Bay St.

Mayor Biery stated that Item 16 will be tabled. Council member Ancira made a motion to table 610 Bay St. Mayor Biery seconded all ayes motion passes.

Item 17: Public Hearing 309 Vandenberg St. Owner not present

Mayor Biery explains that owner was notified and the facility was inspected and the results are as follows structural members supporting the building have decayed, the front overhang covering is falling, broken windows, wooden material is not painted leaving to the elements, the home is sinking in rear of the home, siding is detached exposing to the elements. Mayor Biery said he spoke with the owner and he intends to repair, and is currently getting bids to raise and level the house and repair the foundation and re-side it. It does have a new metal roof.

Mayor read the order, authorizing 60 Days to submit plans & request a permit

Council member Ancira made a motion to send the order for 309 Vandenberg Mayor Biery seconded all ayes motion passes unanimously.

Item 18: Public Hearing 705 Vandenberg St. Owner not present


Mayor Biery spoke with the owner of the property has indicated an intention to repair the building. Inspection report as follows glass missing at the front windows, Siding water damage throughout the exterior of the home, fascia boards are unpainted, roof damage to front corner, wall on the left side of home is missing siding exposing structural members, PVC plumbing pipe are not properly vented, wood rotted under windows. The interior was not inspected.

Mayor read the order. Authorizing 60 Days to submit plans & request a permit

Council member Ancira made a motion to send the order 705 Vandenberg St. Mayor Biery seconded all ayes motion passes unanimously.

Item 19: Adjourned

8:09 PM



Mayor Biery



Commissioner Ancira



Commissioner Torres