

REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COMMISSION
Monday, February 12, 2024 @ 5:30 PM
CITY COMMISSION CHAMBERS, 214 S. LOVE STREET

Call To Order

Mayor Roberts called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm.

Roll Call

Present & Answering Roll Call: Mayor Roberts, Commissioner Trujillo, Commissioner Gandy, and Commissioner Boldt and Commissioner White.

Also Present: Police Chief Joe Clark, Fire Chief Skip Moorehead, City Manager David Miranda, City Clerk Shannon Lester, Finance Director Annette Cooper, Accounting Specialist Christy Gasman, Asset Management and Water Billing Analyst Kevin Mijares, Planning and Zoning Director Crystal Ball, and City Attorney Patrick McMahon

Invocation- David Trujillo

Pledge of Allegiance and Zia- David Trujillo

Approval of Agenda- Commissioner Gandy made a motion to approve the Agenda Commissioner Boldt seconded. A Roll Call Vote was taken. Commissioner Trujillo, yes; Commissioner Gandy yes; Mayor Roberts, yes; Commissioner White, yes; Commissioner Boldt, yes. Motion carried.

Consideration of Minutes- January 22, 2024- Commissioner Gandy motioned to approve the minutes and Commissioner Boldt seconded the motion. Mayor Roberts requested a roll call vote. Commissioner Gandy, yes; Commissioner Boldt, yes; Mayor Roberts, yes; Commissioner Whit, yes; Commissioner Trujillo, yes. Motion carried.

COMMISSIONERS & STAFF REPORT:

- City Clerk Shannon Lester had nothing to report.
- Accounting Specialist Christy Gasman had nothing to report.
- Police Chief Joe Clark stated they were able to give the Police staff a \$3 an hour raise with the LERR grant. They are going to continue to work with that fund so they can look in surrounding communities for more officers and be able to offer more so they will apply. They are trying to attract quality candidates.
- This week the numbers are:

Calls for Service – 292

Crashes – 10

Traffic Stops- 49

Arrests – 7

- Fire Chief Skip Moorehead stated Change Health Care will no longer be doing their billing for them because they were bought out by Optum and Optum is getting rid of their smaller companies. We have sent out an RFP to find someone new to do the billing. We hope to find someone soon as we ran this in the newspaper in February twice. We received the second installment for the state fire grant for this year in the amount of \$168,930.00. This information has been sent to the Finance Department. The fire academy has started today. They have 8 employees attending so far; everything is going good for the first day. They have 2 employees who are starting the EMT intermediate class. They're not in the academy so we are not trying to overload people. They are already fire certified. The hot water heater has gone out in the fire/police department. We've gotten quotes and right now our best quote is \$13,428. This is for a new 100-gallon hot water heater with a 3-year warranty, new circulation pump and the labor cost. So, our other quote was over \$17,000. We are getting quotes for water softener in order to extend the life of the appliances. The fire department has black mold in the dorm and the locker rooms so until this can be taken care of all of the personnel have moved to the second station. They have companies coming to evaluate the situation.

Numbers for January:

Total EMS – 240

Interfacility Transfers – 47

Airport Transfers – 15

Refusal/ Cancel/ DOA – 80

Tatum – 16

Fire –29

- Commissioner Boldt said thank you for coming to the meeting and not to forget to eat local shop local and buy local.
- Commissioner Trujillo thanked everyone for being there. Asked Crystal if they could do away with the turning lane on Love and D and make that one lane.
- Commissioner White thanked everyone for being there.
- Commissioner Gandy thanked everyone for being there.
- Finance Director, Annette Cooper stated the Finance Department submitted the 2nd quarter DFA report on time and now they will be getting with the departments to redo the budget reports.

- **City Manager David Miranda listed out his items in order. 1) The large hole in the stucco wall of the town hall on the alley side which was exposing the interior wall to the elements has been repaired. 2) The latest report on the airport hangar owned by the city that we are trying to get rid of is that the bidder has lowered his bid to \$5,020 from a previous bid of \$8,000 because of recent additional wind damage to the doors and roof. You may remember the revised appraisal came in at \$10,000, down from an original appraisal of over \$20,000. The issue is that the high winds continue to damage the hangar, further driving down any value it may have. It needs many repairs. I have checked with our auditor and the COG. If we wish to sell it, we will have to: advertise the sale of the hangar to the highest bidder; notify the state auditor and receive approval; have the commission approve the sale; get the sale finalized by the DFA and COG. 3) Two weeks ago, we had HVAC, plumbing, insulation, i.t. and electrical contractors evaluate the youth center. My goal is to have it open in some form by June 1st. Although the original plan of the Maddox foundation acquiring it and having the Boys and Girls club of Hobbs run it is now off the table, I am still seeking assistance from the Maddox foundation for necessary repairs. We have a meeting with Paula Methola, the current director of the Hobbs Boys and Girls club and Mr. David Reed of the Maddox foundation this Thursday so that we may discuss how to move forward with staffing and certification issues. When I get bids from all the contractors, I intend to present that to the Maddox foundation. 4) As everyone knows, United/Albertson's announced their plans of building their next supermarket in Lovington, on North Main Street. Although the press release stated it would happen in 2025, we are meeting with Albertson's management, site engineer and architect on February 22nd to review construction plans and begin exploring obtaining the necessary permits to begin construction. 5) We had another meeting with the architect to review the schematic drawings for the Veteran's Memorial. We are moving ahead with phase 1 of the plan, which is almost completely funded by capital outlay. We will be purchasing the pavilions for the site this month and construction drawings will be done by June, for a projected July groundbreaking date. Bear in mind this project has been stalled for 8 years and the time for our grants is running out. I would be happy to send site plans to any commissioners that were not in the meeting, and I have kept Mike Gallagher and the county up to date on our progress. 6) The vet has vacated our animal shelter, so currently we are without veterinary services, although the spay and neuter program is not impacted. Laura Brock has reached out to Double J to see if they can spare one of their vets one day a month to serve our citizens. The RFP we put out for a new vet six months ago resulted in no applications, and the head-hunting service that Laura engaged to find a new vet did not yield any results either. 7) Our new grant writer has been on board for a little over a month. She has submitted three grants thus far: \$92k for a backup generator for the pumps that supply our entire city's water supply at the well fields; an \$82k grant for restoration improvements at the museum; and a \$3k grant for a summer reading program at the library. She has met with every department head, and I feel she has established a good idea of what our necessities are as a city and**

is going after grants for those many projects. 8) I would like Kevin to show you briefly just another feature from our asset management program. I-work recently finished a complete road assessment of our city streets, rating their condition and criticality for repair. The program can also assess the cost of repairs depending on the type of repair requested. (demo)

- Planning & Zoning Director Crystal Ball stated Main Street is moving on schedule. They did have to shut down south bound side a little early because they didn't have enough room to get the west side or the east side storm draining with those actuators in there. They are getting close to having Ave. D cleared up, but the lights will still take a little bit longer to get up.
- Mayor Roberts stated he appreciated everyone being there.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- Isabela Saenz, director of Chamber of Commerce, DeeAnn, Treasurer of the Chamber of Commerce and Tim Boydstun, Treasurer of the Ambassadors of the Chamber of Commerce. They are having their awards banquet that is close to sold out. They are remodeling and giving the building some updates and it looks great.

NON-ACTION ITEMS:

- **Discussion of ADA Transition Plan, planning - Crystal Ball**
Crystal Ball stated she never heard back if they wanted to add anything to her list, so she is going to keep it the same. She has several grants to bring to the next meeting.
- **Discussion of Appointment of Municipal Judge – David Miranda**
Judge Barbra Campbell gave her resignation. Mr. Miranda read the ordinance regarding how the vacancy should be filled when this happens. He requested from the Mayor and Commission how this should be handled. Mr. Miranda stated he has had some interest in the position from Mr. Jim Trujillo and from Mr. Mark Owens. Both were in attendance. This is something that the commission can consider and vote on in a future meeting. In the meantime, Jim Trujillo has been acting as the interim judge. After some discussion the commission is looking into how they need to advertise the open position. Then at the next meeting they will discuss it again and decide how to proceed forward.
- **Discussion of Proposed MOU & Lease Agreement between City and Chamber of Commerce-David Miranda**
The Chamber of Commerce would like to have a lease agreement for 5 years because they would like to make some improvements that will be equal to approximately \$50,000. The improvements are on the inside which include

removing the false wall, painting, redoing the bathroom, fixing the broken windows, putting a flagpole outside, other items that need to be fixed and landscaping and possibly a new sign. They would like to have a place they can stay for at least 5 years since they are putting this kind of funding into the building. After discussion by the Mayor and Commissioners, they decided they would put this into the next meeting action item.

- **Discussion of Paramedic Program Agreement Between Nor-Lea and LFD/EMS-David Shaw**

Gave a presentation which explained how the program structure works.

- It's a Partnership between Lovington EMS and Nor-Lea Hospital District providers. High risk patients would be identified while in the ER, IP floor or participants for ACO program.
- EMS would be contacted with a patient who needs follow up.
- EMS would go to the home to do an initial assessment. Needs would be communicated back to the Community Health Workers' department at NLHD
- When necessary, EMS would conduct a follow up visit.
- NLHD would pay City of Lovington to perform Paramedicine program in its service area.
- Funding would cover salary and recruitment costs.
- NLHD would build in metrics that would have to be met:
- Reduction in non-Lovington EMS ground transports
- Reduction in ER bounce back rate and reduction in readmissions
- Documentation of NLHD market-based salaries for EMS personnel
- Recruitment of frozen EMS positions

After the presentation the Mayor and Commission discussed with the Fire Chief and Mr. Shaw how this program could work to help the community and decided to bring it to an action item at the next meeting.

- **Discussion of North Love (Runnels) Ballpark-Scott Boldt**

Commissioner Boldt didn't have a copy of the signed lease agreement between the schools and the city. He wanted to make sure that we are taking care of our responsibilities that are in the contract and if we make any improvements do they stay? Because we don't own these ball parks the school does. So, we need to know where we are putting our money that is being given to us by our benefactors. School Superintendent Pam Quinones was present and said she wanted to make sure everyone has a signed copy of the lease. She had sent it to Dr. Martinez before. She thinks the city does a great job working with the kids.

ACTION ITEMS:

- **Resolution 2024-009 Adopting the Lea County Hazard Mitigation Plan**
Commissioner Gandy made a motion to approve, Commissioner Boldt seconded the motion. Ms. Ball explained this resolution was never adopted but was written man years ago and needs to be rewritten but to rewrite it we must adopt it first. So, the Commission is adopting tonight so they can rewrite it so they can still get the federal funding Ms. Ball needs for her grants. Mayor Roberts requested a Roll call Vote. Commissioner Boldt, yes; Commissioner White, yes; Commissioner Trujillo, yes; Mayor Roberts, yes; Commissioner Gandy, yes. Motion Carried.
- **Resolution 2024-010 - MOA Between City and Nor-Lea - Elimination of Water Charges for Wellness Center**
Commissioner Gandy made a motion to approve, Commissioner Boldt seconded the motion. Mr. Miranda stated that in exchange for the water the residents would have full access to the outdoor walking track and soccer field for free. Mayor Roberts requested a Roll call Vote. Mayor Roberts, yes; Commissioner Boldt, yes; Commissioner White, yes; Commissioner Gandy, yes; Commissioner Trujillo, yes. Motion Carried.
- **Finance Report and Accounts Payable**
Commissioner White made a motion to approve the bills and Commissioner Gandy seconded the motion. Mayor Roberts requested a Roll call Vote. Mayor Roberts, yes; Commissioner Boldt, yes; Commissioner White, yes; Commissioner Gandy, yes; Commissioner Trujillo, yes. Motion Carried.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mayor Roberts adjourned the meeting at 7:43 pm

APPROVED: _____
HOWARD D. ROBERTS, MAYOR

ATTEST: _____
SHANNON LESTER, CITY CLERK