

STATE OF TEXAS

CITY OF BIG LAKE

MINUTES
CITY OF BIG LAKE CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
OCTOBER 1, 2019 6:15 P.M.

1. Call to order by Mayor Phil Pool at 6:29 p.m.
2. All Council Members present: Mayor Phil Pool, Mayor Pro-Tem David Melms, Lissa Cammack, Cindy O'Bryan, Larry Hallmark and Robin Collins
3. Mayor Phil Pool led the Council Chambers in the Invocation and Pledges of Allegiance to the National Colors and State Colors.
4. Citizen Comments: Municipal Judge Donna Holden briefed the Council on recent jury trial at City Hall. This was not a typical case, this trial involved an individual claiming to be a sovereign citizen. Judge Holden commended the City Prosecutor Paige Skehan as being a consummate professional. Jury selection brought challenges because of the room size, 40 letters for potential jury service were mailed with 14 individuals appearing. Six Jurors were selected to serve on the Jury.
5. Consent Items: Discussion of pay requests for Acme Bridge Company in the amount of \$90,302.40 and Texas Water and Soil Company were pulled down for further discussion. Motion to pass Consent Items, with two items pulled down, was made by Mayor Pro-Tem Melms, seconded by Councilmember Cammack. Vote: 6/0/0
6. John Voller, representative from Enprotec/Hibbs & Todd, brought further information on City of Big Lake 12th Street Water and Wastewater Line improvements. Two bidders: Barclay's at \$271,878.20 and Roberts Construction at \$275,156.00. Good construction credentials for both bidders. Barclay's is from Houston and with no apparent allowance for housing in bid, Voller contacted Barclay's regarding the housing matter. Roberts Construction is in town on a job and is set for commuting from San Angelo. Barclay's given until 4:00 p.m., October 2, 2019, to remedy bid after being made aware of housing hardship in area due to oilfield activity. If Barclay's does not remedy bid, or refuses, then bid would be awarded to Roberts Construction. Motion proposed by Councilmember Cindy O'Bryan to award bid to Roberts Construction because of past work performance on Big Lake projects. Discussion put forth that Barclay's has until 4:00 p.m., October 2, 2019, to remedy or refuse bid. Motion withdrawn by Councilmember O'Bryan. Mayor Pro-Tem Melms made motion to award bit to Roberts Construction in the amount of \$275,156.00 because of proven record for work in Big Lake. Motion failed for lack of second. Motion made by Councilmember O'Bryan to award Barclay's big contingent upon phone call before 4:00 p.m. on October 2, 2019 accepting bid with housing situation being remedied. If no phone call is received from Barclay's opting out of the bid, the

bid will be awarded to Roberts Construction. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Hallmark. Mayor Pro-Tem Melms stated “no” during vote. Vote: 5/1/0

7. There was a brief presentation by City Administrator/City Secretary Box on financing options for Waste Water Treatment Plant expansion. Plan, overall, calls for 25 years of debt service of Certificates of Obligation in the amount of \$5,905,000 construction proceeds and a withdrawal of \$1,049,000 from City of Big Lake Water and Sewer Reserve Fund for a total of \$6,954,000 to build a two basin expansion to the current three basins for a total of five basins. No tax increase, Water and Sewer Reserve Fund will service the debt. Motion to approve made by Mayor Pro-Tem Melms and seconded by Councilmember O’Bryan. No further discussion. Vote: 6/0/0
8. Publication of intent to issue Certificates of Obligation and adopting the resolution as such was discussed briefly. Motion made by Mayor Pro-Tem Melms to publish notice, etc., seconded by Councilmember Collins. Vote: 6/0/0
9. Pay request in the amount of \$90,302.40 by Acme Bridge Company for 7th Street paving improvements. Mayor Pro-Tem Melms asked general questions about quality of work, project manager Voller responded positive about Melms’ questions. Motion made by Councilmember Collins, seconded by Councilmember Cammack. Vote: 6/0/0
10. Pay request in the amount of \$27,776.60 by Texas Soil and Water Company for final amount on the existing Waste Water Treatment Plant improvements was made by John Voller. Per Voller, this is the final payment releasing retainage on the project. Motion made by Mayor Pro-Tem Melms, seconded by Councilmember Collins, to honor pay request. Vote: 6/0/0
11. Ms. Amber Pedigo made an extensive presentation of the U.S. 2020 Census and the importance of getting everyone counted. Presentation well received. April 1, 2020 is the important date (Census Day). Pedigo stressed counting everyone as many federal dollars are allocated on population and political districts are set for representation. Overall, presentation was received very well.
12. Discussion led by Mayor Pro-Tem Melms regarding enforcement of Ordinance 190618-01. Code Enforcement Officer Cindy Mitchell responded to Mayor Pro-Tem Melms’ question that she was enforcing the ordinance, does not feel RV’s are getting out of control. Melms indicated satisfaction with Mitchell’s response.
13. Councilmember Collins requested discussion concerning housing and recruiting for the full-time City Administrator/City Secretary. The lack of suitable housing was discussed extensively. Councilmember Cammack mentioned the house should not be free, and, may not be a house for the City Administrator/City Secretary. Melms suggested a house down payment as an enticement to bring them here. Discussion focused on ways to draw someone to Big Lake. Older homes and infrastructure are real problems in the real estate market in Big Lake. Councilmember Collins urged Council to think about securing a house. Councilmember

O'Bryan voiced that she is not in favor of buying a house. Citizen, Donna Holden, voiced impact on tax base, demand versus supply, city has never bought a house for any candidate. Collins wants it as a draw for future candidates, school has bought home for teachers. Consensus in exploring options for recruitment. No action.

14. No action for City Staff from Mayor and/or Council regarding any items on tonight's agenda.

15. Adjourned at 7:37 p.m. by order of Mayor Phil Pool.

Douglas Box, City Secretary

Phil Pool, Mayor