

## Work Session Minutes

June 10, 2024

@ 5:00 PM

Present for the Meeting were: Mayor Roger Weatherwax  
Brent White  
Cassandra Lee  
Joyce Jeffreys  
Jason White

Absent: Denise Lovett

Caleb Harville Gas Superintendent was present to speak on gas extensions that are currently approved and being worked on. He stated that he is currently waiting on some items needed to begin laying the pipe but has piping in and has equipped a trailer and other equipment to make the project flow once all necessary items are in. He explained that he receives request from people and then looks into the area and considers cost and return once installed. When an area meets those criteria then engineers are consulted and if needed used to form the plan to install services. Currently the Gas Department is expanding services from Hwy 33 South at Wren up Hwy 36 to County Road 9 and also from Hwy 33 South on County Road 100 to the Golf Course installing for this area should begin mid-July if there are no supply delays.

Ms. Cassandra Lee had requested that updates be given to Council on current projects and the use of engineers on these projects. Council approves projects Ms. Lee said and sometimes they never know where the projects are as in terms of completion or what the status is so she also ask that all Department Heads come to meetings and give reports on a regular basis. Mayor Weatherwax stated he could request they come to Work Session monthly.

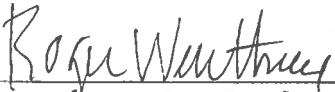
The property at 14321 Court St, FD Gibson Building is set for demo and we have 2 bids for this: 1) CDI, LLC - \$48,711.00 2) T & T Contractors, Inc - \$49,750.00 . There has been many attempts to the property owner to contact the City and he will not respond to phone calls, letters, certified letters or even the police calling upon him. When Mr. Saint was our building inspector the Chief Craig Knight

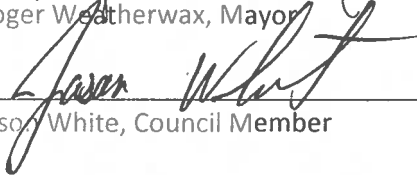
spoke up and said they attempted to serve him several times and finally caught him once to serve him. In the audience was Marvin Jackson whom the Mayor recognized who was concerned about the building being torn down and was it really in that bad of shape – and could the City not force the owner to do something to save it. The Mayor expressed that the City had tried every avenue to speak to the owner with no responses so the City had to proceed due to the condition of the building being a hazard. All legal ads, notifications etc have been done that are required per Ordinance and law so next step will be for the Council to approve one of the bids. Mr. Jackson expressed his concern about that building as well as the building next to Wilkerson Diamond building which the City owns and that side of the square already still in disarray due to the Fire that burned some of the buildings that haven't been rebuilt or anything. The County owns the property now is the Cities understanding but there is liens also on the property so the City can't do anything with that burned area. After discussion Mr. Jackson understood where the City was on this matter. Ms. Cassandra Lee also stated that with this property as the others once action begins we can't keep stopping and then having to start all over on the properties – she has concerns about those in her district that have been delayed due to the process not being completed in the timeframe that is required once the process is started.

Mayor Weatherwax spoke on the Resolution for the Sewer Grant and if granted the City would be responsible to provide \$245,100.00 in matching funds.

The cost of cemetery plots and opening and closings was the next item spoken on by Mayor Weatherwax. He proposed an increase for both items as we are still cheaper than surrounding cemeteries and our cost have increased also. Ms. Lee spoke on the condition of the cemetery still not being maintained as it should and that she didn't think that raising cost should be done when people are upset with what they have paid already and it not being satisfactory. This brought back up from Councilman Brent White that they had decided not to contract out the cemetery before when this had been addressed. Councilwoman Lee stated she still wasn't for contracting out the cemetery work. Ms. Lee said that the Mayor can not supervise the cemetery and run the City, that someone needed to be hired to supervise the employees and be there on the site to make sure things are handled daily. More discussion was back and forth between Council Members and the Mayor on this subject but no formal solution was agreed upon.

The paving at the ball park was discussed and noted that bids would have to be approved to be let due to the estimated cost for the job.

  
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Roger Weatherwax, Mayor

  
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Jason White, Council Member

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Joyce Jeffreys, Council Member

  
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Deroma Pepper, City Clerk

  
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Denise Lovett, Council Member

  
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Cassandra Lee, Council Member