

**MINUTES**  
**FRITCH CITY COUNCIL REGULAR SESSION**  
**TUESDAY FEBRUARY 16, 2016**  
**CITY ANNEX 509 W. BROADWAY FRITCH, TEXAS**  
**DIRECTLY AFTER WORKSHOP**

**1. Call to order.** Meeting called to order by Mayor W. Kelly Henderson at 7:22 p.m. Council members present: Richard Hein, Denise Campbell, Yvonne Blackwell, Arturo Gutierrez and Mayor Pro Tem Arlin Audrain. City Employees present: Monte Leggett, Cody Bengé, Steve McKay and Cindy Cook. Also present: Fire Chief Ed Adamson and Deputy Chief Kris Money maker and Assistant Fire Chief Rodney Kerbo with the Fire Department.

**2. Invocation – pledge of allegiance.** Prayer given by Mayor Pro Tem Arlin Audrain and pledge led by Council member Blackwell.

**3. Recognize visitors – Mayor Kelly Henderson.**

**4. Open forum.** Barbara Vaughn – First and foremost, I thank God for giving you the wisdom to straighten out the city's money problems. I also want to thank Cindy and Steve for getting me information to answer my questions. In reviewing the information, I see that the water revenue is paying for everything including utilities and salaries. Then property taxes are added to it plus bond money, correct? Mayor Henderson told Ms. Vaughn that the Bond is an expenditure not revenue. What is happening with the PUC litigation? Mayor Henderson – Nothing yet. Darla Harriman said that the petition had been filed but no hearing date has been set. Ms. Vaughn – What effect will it have on the city? City Manager Steve McKay – We will not know until the hearing.

**5. New business:**

- A. Approve minutes of the following meetings: January 19, 2016.** Council member Hein said there are some corrections to be made to the minutes: The time I came in was 7:17 p.m. and the count on the vote on items 5. D, E, F and G should be 5/0 not 4/0. Motion made by Council member Blackwell to approve the minutes with the corrections as noted by Council member Hein. Second made by Mayor Pro Tem Audrain. Vote 5/0.
- B. Discuss and take action on accounts payable.** Motion made by Council member Campbell to approve the accounts payable as presented. Second made by Council member Hein. Vote 5/0.
- C. Discuss and take action on Xcel rate case.** City Manager McKay said that on the advice of our attorney, it has been recommended this item be pulled from the agenda until next meeting after the Alliance of Xcel Municipalities has met. No action taken on this item.
- D. Kendal Glover with Fritch Economic Development Corporation would like to discuss possible vehicle purchases by the City of Fritch.** President Kendal Glover with Fritch EDC informed the Council that the City still owed \$34,810.59. We would like to know when we can expect this payment. Does the City have a plan in place to take care of this debt? Mayor Henderson said that it is not in this current year's budget to repay this debt. After the 2003 bond is refinanced, we might can look at repaying it. Mr. Glover said he believed the City should take care of current debt before incurring new debt. Mayor said we can put it in the next agenda. It is possible that when indictments are handed down on the prior City Secretary, that the proceeds from her bond could be used to pay this money back. We have no timeline on the indictments. No action taken on this item.
- E. Discuss and take action on purchasing a new command vehicle for Fritch Fire Department.** Fire Chief Ed Adamson informed the Council that it is very important for the Fire Department to have a new command vehicle. The cost of the new vehicle, a 2016 Police Interceptor Ford Explorer, is \$34,954.39. Proposal 1: \$15,000 from Fire Dept. budget, \$10,000 from General fund, \$9,378 from Crime Control for lighting package, leaving \$576.39 to be covered. Mayor Henderson responded that this is an incredible amount of money to spend. We did not raise water rates to a historic level so the City could buy new vehicles. Chief Adamson said that the new vehicle comes with a 125,000, 5 year full coverage warranty. If we purchased a used vehicle, we would not have the warranty should any repairs come up. In the past few years, previous Fire Chief Ronnie Morrison cut the budget in every area possible. There is no more room to keep cutting. Mayor said every department has been hit by the mismanagement of the previous administration. There was much discussion concerning repairing the current command vehicle and making it last until the next budget year. Members of the audience also brought up asking for donations from local companies. Proposal 2: \$15,000 from Fire Dept. budget, \$10,000 from Fritch Volunteer Firefighters' Association, \$9,378 from Crime Control for lighting package, and

approximately \$1500 from the City to cover any additional expenses. The money from the Fritch Volunteer Firefighters' Association comes from fund raisers and donations. Assistant Fire Chief Kerbo also told the Council that the Fire Department had stepped up vehicle maintenance, hoping that the life of the vehicles would be extended. Council member Campbell asked if enough cushion was left in the Fire Department budget to cover unexpected repairs. Chief Adamson replied I believe so. Mayor Pro Tem Audrain made a motion to allow the Fire Department to purchase a new command vehicle based on the second proposal. Council member Hein made a second to the motion. Vote 5/0.

**F. Discuss and take action on purchase of new patrol vehicle for the Police Department.** Chief Leggett informed the Council that the City had received \$23,464 in insurance money from hail damage on the police vehicles. \$7798.33 was received on 2010 Charger and \$7220.50 on 2008 Charger. The 2008 Charger was totaled and surrendered to the insurance company. The \$8446.15 was received on 9/5/2013. Chief Leggett said with this money and \$5,000 from PD budget, the City would only need about \$6,000 more to make the purchase. The Council said that the insurance money from 2013 could not be considered. City Manager McKay said that the Magnum is not safe to drive and should be taken out of commission. It is possible that the engine could be sold for \$4,000. Chief Leggett said the 2010 Charger is having mechanical issues. He stated that when the engine light comes on you have about three seconds to pull over before the vehicle dies. He has had mechanics look at the car but it is not throwing a code. Chief Leggett said if we have to wait until the next budget year, he will have to change schedules. Mayor Henderson asked if the Crime Board had been asked to help. Chief said no, but he can ask them. Darla Harriman asked if there were any grants available. Chief Leggett said the PD is not eligible at this time. Council member Hein made a motion to put the 2007 Dodge Magnum out for bid and postpone purchase of a new patrol vehicle at this time. Second made by Council member Campbell. Vote 5/0.

**G. Discuss and take action on purchasing new Public Works fleet.** Public Works Director Cody Bengé told the Council that he has no Crime Board or Association or donations to turn to for assistance with purchase of a new maintenance vehicle. Director Bengé brought bids he had received from Refinishing Systems for making repairs to the current fleet. The repairs were extensive and usually more than what the vehicle was worth. Council member Blackwell asked why the only bid was from Refinishing Systems. Director Bengé said they were the only company who had answered his request for bids at this time. Council commented that it would be better to have more bids with detailed repairs to look at. The maintenance crew is down to 4 running vehicles. They need five vehicles plus a leak truck. Council mentioned checking auctions including military auctions. Public Works has \$10,000 in their budget for a new vehicle. Council stated if they could find a vehicle within their budget no action would be needed. No action taken.

**H. Discuss and take action on Recycle Center services and costs for inside and outside customers.** City Manager McKay read the following proposed costs for Recycle Center: "Pickup load of trash will be \$7.00 per load for inside city limits and outside city limits. If you live inside the city limits, you are allowed 1 free pickup load a month as long as you have that month's current water bill. Trailers are figured by foot. 10 ft. - \$10.00, 16 ft. - \$16.00. There will be absolutely no household trash. Dumping of household trash could result in being banned from the Recycle Center." Darla Harriman stated that we need to be more specific on separation of materials and what can go in the bins. She also asked if there was a compost area. Ms. Harriman mentioned that Clarendon ad received a grant from TCEQ to educate people on using recycle centers. Tara Huff with the Eagle Press asked if it had ever been considered giving everyone one free dump per month since it is one water system now. Mayor Henderson said not during the time he has been on Council. Council member Hein made a motion to accept the Recycle Center costs and services as presented. Second made by Mayor Pro Tem Audrain. Vote 5/0.

## **6. City officers' reports.**

**A. Report from City Manager.** City Manager Steve McKay reported the City had a record month in sales tax allocation, receiving a little more than \$30,000. He also estimated that the City will receive \$868,000 in water revenue for the rest of the budget year. Council member Hein asked if there had been any news on the case against previous administration. Manager McKay said he is supposed to call the attorney general's office Wednesday morning. Hopefully, there will be some good news then. He said the district attorney's office is ready to roll; just waiting on the attorney general to give the go ahead. Once we receive an indictment on the previous city secretary, then the city can claim \$100,000 from her bond.

**B. Report from Chief of Police.** Mayor Pro Tem Audrain asked if there were any problems with drugs. Chief Leggett said yes and it was usually the same core group. He reported he had put one in jail this morning. A local

man was attacked by another man with a sword. He was cut eight times. Currently, the Hutchinson County jail is closed. It should be reopened in April. All of the drug dealers have moved outside of town just out of reach of the police. Chief has positively identified two of them. Prosecution is disheartening.

- C. Report from Public Works Director.** The number of leaks is down. We just found a new one off of Shoenhals. Council member Hein asked if leaks were works in summer. Director Benge said yes. As the ground warms up, it shifts and causes the lines to pop.
- D. Report from Fire Chief.** Chief Ed Adamson said this is the first time he had given a report because no one had ever asked for a report from the fire department. He said this gives him the opportunity to use the new software purchased. He reviewed the report as given to the Council in their packet. Chief Adamson said every fire department is gearing up for March. One of the main causes of fire is electrical shorts from the wind whipping power lines. There is a lot of fuel on the ground currently with all of the brush and dried vegetation. Council member Hein asked if the burn ban eliminates control burns. Chief Adamson said no, but the citizens see any kind of burning they think the ban has been lifted. He said his volunteers had been quite generous with their time. There are five different departments ready to assist should a fire come across from Potter County. He encouraged citizens to secure their property and eliminate hazards.
- E. E.D.C. Report.** Council read over minutes given in packet.
- F. Crime Control Report.** No report at this time.
- 7. Mayoral/councilmember announcements.** Mayor announced that Dwight Kirksey had turned in his application for place on the council. Mayor said he is optimistic that we will be able to refinance the 2003 bond. This will be very important for needed repairs next year.
- 8. Future agenda items.** Because of spring break, the next council meeting will be March 8, 2016.
- 9. Adjourn.** Motion made by Council member Hein to adjourn and second made by Council member Campbell. Vote 5/0.

**READ, PASSED AND APPROVED on this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2016.**

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**Mayor W. Kelly Henderson**

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**Cindy Cook, City Secretary**