

MINUTES
FRITCH CITY COUNCIL REGULAR SESSION
TUESDAY DECEMBER 15, 2015
CITY ANNEX 509 W. BROADWAY FRITCH, TEXAS
7:00 P.M.

1. Call to order. Meeting called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Mayor W. Kelly Henderson. Council members present: Mayor Pro Tem Arlin Audrain, Richard Hein, Denise Campbell, Yvonne Blackwell and Arturo Gutierrez. City Employees present: Steve McKay, Cody Bengé, Monte Leggett, Ed Adamson, Chris Morris, Abby White and Cindy Cook.

2. Invocation – pledge of allegiance. Prayer led by Mayor Pro Tem Audrain. Pledge led by Council member Blackwell.

3. Recognize visitors – Mayor Kelly Henderson. Mayor welcomed the visitors saying, “I appreciate everyone coming. I appreciate a full house regardless of your motives.”

4. Open forum. Mayor Henderson read the rules regarding open forum. He informed those in attendance that if they wanted to speak about city personnel or make a complaint, that they could make appointment to speak with the City Manager. No one would be allowed to speak about city personnel in open forum.

Darla Harriman – Asked how many outside city water meters are there. City Manager Steve McKay answered 1147 as of November 2015 billing. Ms. Harriman informed the council that a group has filed with the PUC over the water rates. We have over four hundred (400) signatures. Some of the individuals had received intimidating comments.

Gerald Purdy – Signed up to speak about the police department. Passed.

Kevin Black – As a community, how many feel secure with what’s going on around you or going to the mall or even to Wal-Mart? He said the world is turning south real quick. I am here representing Adobe Walls State Militia. We can be activated by a county judge or the governor. We have six to twenty individuals sign up every meeting. We respect the police department. They have an awesome job but there are not enough of them. We can provide training for active shooter scenarios.

Mike Dees – Signed up to speak about the police film. Passed.

Mike Clark – I live at 709 S. Robey. Cities let Police Departments run. Just because you put on a badge and a gun doesn’t make you a cop.

5. New business:

- A. Approve minutes of the following meetings: November 17, 2015.** Motion made by Council member Blackwell to approve the November 17, 2015 minutes. Second made by Mayor Pro Tem Audrain. Vote 5/0.
- B. Discuss and take action on accounts payable.** Motion made by Council member Hein to accept the accounts payable as presented. Second made by Council member Gutierrez. Vote 5/0.
- C. Discuss and take action to approve out-of-city depository by resolution.** Motion made by Council member Hein to approve Resolution No. 15-1117-2, adopting a written policy to expressly permit the city to contract with an out-of-city depository. Second made by Council member Campbell. Vote 5/0.
- D. Discuss and take action to award depository bid by resolution.** Based on the two bids received, City Manager McKay recommended awarding the depository contract to Amarillo National Bank. Motion made by Council member Campbell to award the depository contract to the Borger Branch of Amarillo National Bank. Second made by Council member Hein. Vote 5/0.
- E. Discuss and take action to amend water tap and maintenance rates by resolution.** Council

reviewed information presented by Public Works Director Cody Bengé. Based on current prices of parts and labor, Director Bengé recommended raising the cost of .75" water tap to \$981.30. If the tap is larger than .75", then a call will be made to obtain current prices of necessary parts. .75" is the normal residential water tap. Council member Hein made a motion to set water tap fees as presented on attachment A of Resolution no. 15-1215-1. Second made by Council member Gutierrez. Vote 5/0.

F. Discuss and take action to approve grazing lease contract. Last month, bids for the grazing lease behind the sewer plant were received and awarded to James Murley/Cody Bengé. The previous lease was for fifteen (15) years. The agreement has been updated changing dates and setting the term for five (5) years. Motion to accept the grazing lease as presented made by Mayor Pro Tem Audrain. Second made by Council member Blackwell. Vote 5/09.

6. City officers' reports.

A. Report from City Manager. We have approximately \$620,000 in the bank accounts. About \$564,000 is for City use. We have \$125,000 in the 2003 debt fund and \$50,000 in the 2011 debt fund. The money from the increased water rates is going to the designated funds as planned. It is possible that we will look at refinancing the 2003 bond in February. Refinancing would save us interest. Russell Grisham said, "I was under the impression the water increase was for repair of the water system." Mayor - The purpose of the increase was to get caught up on the bond debt and then making repairs. Darla Harriman asked if the City had received a loan from the Texas Water Development Board in 2011. Mayor and City Manager – Not that we are aware of.

B. Report from Chief of Police. Chief Leggett told the Council that he had begun the installation of the new computer system for Cop Sync in the police cars. Crime Control purchased the computers for the Police Department. This should save the city money on dispatch fees.

C. Report from Public Works Director. TCEQ will be inspecting the water system on January 7, 2016. Russell Grisham asked about the licenses held by the water department. Director Bengé said we have two class C operators and one class B operator.

D. E.D.C. Report. No report.

E. Crime Control Report. No report.

7. Mayoral/councilmember announcements. Mayor once again said that the proper procedures for personnel complaints is to give them to the City Manager. Open Forum is not the proper setting. He said, as Mayor, he has an open door. Complaints and comments may be sent to the mayor by email.

8. Future agenda items. January 19, 2016 will be the next council meeting. Mike Clark asked if we have something to say, why keep it behind closed doors. Mayor answered personnel items are discussed in Executive Sessions. Mr. Clark said since we are here, we should be allowed to voice our opinion. Gerald Purdy asked, does the City of Fritch have a Code of Ethics? Manager McKay said that he is currently working on a new handbook. Mr. Purdy said that he had asked the same question about three years ago and people just started at him. Russell Grisham asked how the city can get its finances in order if the City Manager has had two bankruptcies. Mayor Henderson reprimanded Mr. Grisham for speaking out on personnel items and asked him to leave the building. Darla Harriman said the City needs to have a business plan instead of just being in reactive mode. Tara Huff encouraged the people to participate in the Project Fritch America Light Contest.

9. Adjourn. Council member Campbell made the motion to adjourn. Second made by Council member Hein. Vote 5/0.

READ, PASSED AND APPROVED on this _____ day of _____, 2015.

Mayor W. Kelly Henderson

Cindy Cook, City Secretary