

Minutes

City Council – Regular Session City Council Meeting

CITY OF SIMONTON

September 19, 2023

This is a true and correct copy of the Minutes of the City Council – Regular Session Meeting of the Simonton City Council held on September 19, 2023, at 6:34 P.M.

1. Call to Order

A quorum was present with all City Council Members in attendance:

Laurie Boudreaux, Courtney Cox, Burns Turner, Faith Haley, Justin Boudreau, Kelli Matula

City Staff and other presenters:

City Financial Specialist Julie Watts

Interim City Secretary Janie Willman

City Attorney Justin Pruitt

City Auditor Natalie Ridley, Breedlove & Co. P.C.

Former City Administrator Jennifer Jones Ward

Ryan Fortner, Revenue Management, attended virtually due to illness.

Public Present:

Names from the Attendance Sheet

Ken Haley

Dan McJunkin

Abbie Ferguson

Susan LaDart

Barbara Minton

2. Invocation and Pledge

Councilmember Burns Turner delivered the Invocation.

Mayor Laurie Boudreaux led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Public Comments

Ms. Susan LaDart addressed the City Council commenting on the need to fix the City's roads.

Ms. Barbara Minton, Fort Bend County Library Committee Board Member, addressed the City Council noting materials offering study and learning opportunities and other opportunities at the Fort Bend County Library are now available at Simonton City Hall.

Ms. Natalie Ridley, Breedlove & Co. P.C. will address the City Council during the agenda items on Audits and Audit Engagement Letters.

4. Public Hearing on Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year 2023-2024
FY 2023-2024 Proposed Budget City of Simonton, Texas
 - a. Open. Mayor Boudreaux opened the Public Hearing at 6:38 p.m.
 - b. Public Comments. There was no one to address the City Council during the Public Comments.
 - c. Close. Mayor Boudreaux closed the Public Hearing at 6:39 p.m.

5. Adoption of the Budget Ordinance for Fiscal Year 2023-2024
 - a. Ordinance of the City of Simonton General Municipal Budget Fiscal Year 2023-2024.

Councilmember Haley made a statement related to the upcoming Budget Year, the use of taxpayer funds for staffing noting the administration of the City during recent years.

Motion by Councilmember Turner to approve and adopt the Budget Ordinance for Fiscal Year 2023-2024. Councilmember/Mayor Pro Tem Cox seconded the motion.

The City Council voted by Roll Call Vote as follows:

Councilmember / Mayor Pro Tem Cox	Yes
Councilmember Matula	No
Councilmember Haley	Yes
Councilmember Boudreau	Yes
Councilmember Turner	Yes

Mayor Boudreaux was present but did not vote as the Mayor only votes in the event of a tie.

Motion passed.

Mayor Boudreaux asked the City Council's permission to consider Agenda Item 7. New Business in recognition of several guest presenters with some having traveled a distance.

7. New Business
 - a. Receive Quarterly Report from Ryan Fortner, Revenue Management. Mr. Ryan Fortner appeared virtually. Mr. Fortner informed the Mayor and City Council he planned to attend in person but on the advice of his physician was presenting from his home.

He briefed the City Council on the work of identifying and correcting revenue items attributed to other cities. The work will continue until the project is completed.

- b. Consider and take action to approve Audits for Fiscal Years 2019, 2020, and 2021. Ms. Natalie Ridley, Breedlove & Co P.C. addressed the Mayor and City Council. She introduced each of the audits for Fiscal Years 2019, 2020, and 2021 and read through areas of note or concern emphasizing the City's written response letters to each of the three years. Former City Administrator Jennifer Jones Ward provided input during the discussion of the agenda item. Councilmember Cox expressed concern with Ms. Ward's participation based on her separation from the City's employ. Mayor Boudreaux noted Ms. Jones Ward was present on her invitation as the audits covered years during which Ms. Jones Ward was City Administrator. The City Attorney noted that it was appropriate for Ms. Jones Ward to participate.

Motion by Councilmember Matula to approve the Audits for Fiscal Years 2019, 2020, and 2021. Councilmember Boudreau seconded the motion.

Ayes: Five

Noes: None

Motion Passed.

Present and not voting except in the event of a tie: Mayor Boudreaux.

- c. Consider and take action authorizing the payment of bills for each of three Audits for Years 2019, 2020, 2021.

Following the explanation of the presentation of the bills for each of three Audits, City Council considered action. Councilmember/Mayor Pro Tem Cox asked about the availability of the funds being used to pay the bills. Following confirmation that the funds were budgeted for in the approved and adopted Budget, the City Council took action.

Motion by Councilmember Matula to authorize the payment of the bills for each of three Audits. Councilmember Haley seconded the motion.

Ayes: Five

Noes: None

Motion Passed.

Present and not voting except in the event of a tie: Mayor Boudreaux.

- d. Consider and take action to approve audit engagement letters with Breedlove & Co, P.C. for Fiscal Years 2022 and 2023. Following the explanation and purpose of the audit engagement letters, with City Council considered action.

Motion by Councilmember Turner to approve the audit engagement letters with Breedlove & Co, P.C. for Fiscal Years 2022 and 2023. Councilmember Haley seconded the motion.

Ayes: Five

Noes: None

Motion Passed.

Present and not voting except in the event of a tie: Mayor Boudreaux.

- e. Speed Zone Ordinance. Consider and take action to approve An Ordinance Altering the Prima Facie Speed Limits Established for Vehicles Under the Provisions of Section 545.356, Texas Transportation Code, Upon the Basis of An Engineering and Traffic Investigation, Upon Certain Streets and Highways, of Parts Thereof, Within the Corporation Limits of the City of Simonton as Set Out in this Ordinance, and Providing a Penalty of a Fine Not to Exceed \$200 for the Violation of this Ordinance. Following the explanation of the proposed Speed Zone Ordinance changes, the City Council considered action.

Motion by Councilmember Haley to approve the Ordinance as presented. Councilmember Boudreau seconded the motion.

Ayes: Five

Noes: None

Motion Passed.

Present and not voting except in the event of a tie: Mayor Boudreaux.

6. Consider and take action on the Consent Agenda
 - a. Monthly Paid Bills
 - b. Minutes for August 15, 2023

Motion by Councilmember/Mayor Pro Tem Cox to approve the Consent Agenda Items as presented. Councilmember Boudreau seconded the motion.

Ayes: Five

Noes: None

Motion Passed.

Present and not voting except in the event of a tie: Mayor Boudreaux.

8. Reports
 - a. Mayor's Report
 - b. Staff Report
 - c. City Councilmembers Reports

9. Adjournment. Mayor Boudreaux adjourned the meeting without objection at 7:56 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Claire Boudreau

Mayor

Janet Miller

Interim City Secretary