

City of Stanford
Regular Council Meeting
Thursday, January 3, 2019

I. Call to Order

Mayor Scottie Ernst called to order the regular meeting of the City of Stanford Council at 6:30 pm on January 3rd, 2019, at the Historic L&N Depot by welcoming all the new council members and community leaders. Opening prayer was led by Councilman Dr. Naren James, after which all recited the Pledge to the U.S. flag.

II. Roll Call

A roll call was conducted with the following council members present: Ella Mae Curlis, Ronnie Deatherage, Sara Givens, Peggy Hester, Dr. Naren James and Dalton Miller.

Also present were: Aaron Miracle (Street Department), Scott Maples (Fire Chief), Zach Middleton (Police Chief), Jeff Knouse (Code Enforcement), Ryan Kirkpatrick and Tim Morris (SPD Detectives), Johnny Williams (SPD), and Farris Marcum (County Coroner).

Not present: John Hackley. All in attendance were asked to remember our City Attorney, John Hackley's mother who is very ill.

III. Recognize Eddie Carter for his many years of service to the City of Stanford

Mr. Carter had a previous engagement and could not be in attendance for tonight's meeting. He will also be away on a trip to Israel during the February meeting, so has asked that we move the recognition to the March City Council Meeting.

IV. Meeting Protocol

Mayor Ernst presented a booklet to the council concerning parliamentary procedure as well as pages from the KLC Legal Handbook that outline proper meeting protocol. He stated that he would like for the meetings to follow these procedures. He asked that the council read over these and opened the floor for any questions concerning this information.

Councilman James requested that there be a procedure in place where city council members may add items to the agenda by contacting city hall prior to the council packets being delivered. Councilwoman Hester requested that citizen's comments be placed towards the top of the agenda and council comments be added. Mayor Ernst stated that this would be done for future meetings.

Councilman James also requested that items that are added at the last minute to the agenda be emailed to them as well, before the meeting.

Council members requested that packets and any items of business will be delivered to the council members by paper copy as well as by email.

V. Republic Services Mailing and Billing Discussed

Mayor Ernst addressed the mailing of the postcard to all sanitation customers explaining the changes to billing. He stated that several calls have come in to city hall asking if customers must continue using Republic for their sanitation service. It is our understanding that Republic has the exclusive contract for service within the city limits of Stanford. The floor was opened to council members and the public to ask any questions they had concerning the changes.

Larry Nunemaker questioned when the first quarter bill would go out for services with Republic. He and some members of the council understood that the billing would not go out until February. This was requested from Republic, but at the time of the meeting no information was available as to when the actual bill would be mailed.

VI. Presentation of Report on Pothole Repair

Mayor Ernst reported to the council that he had canvassed the city with Eddie Sowers and together they had put together a list of potholes that were going to be repaired with cold patch. Councilwoman Hester asked to add an additional pothole at the entrance to Harmon Heights on Danville Avenue. She also mentioned Lancaster Street, two houses back from Herndon, (which is a state road) that still needs attention and the entrance to Powers Court off Powell Street. Mayor Ernst shared with the council that blacktop is not currently being produced, so at this time the best that can be done is using cold patch. Blacktop will not be produced again until April unless a big job is scheduled. Councilwoman Givens shared her appreciation for the entrance to Brock Drive being repaired. Councilman James asked if these fixes would be permanent. They are not a permanent fix, but will be long term until something permanent can be done. Mayor Ernst shared that if the potholes were less than two inches deep, they would not be repaired at this time, due to the fact that they would not hold the cold patch.

VII. Presentation of Department Reports

Monthly reports from each department as well as a year long overview of all the fire runs that have been completed were shared with the council. Councilwoman Hester questioned if there was a Code Enforcement Report for December. Code Enforcement Officer Jeff Knouse shared that no violations were sent out in the month of December.

VIII. Streetlight Outage List

Councilman Miller submitted a report to city hall listing the streetlights in the city that are not working. This report will be submitted to KU and Inter County Energy for those to be repaired. The lights at the Depot and the Caboose will be turned in to be looked at as well.

IX. Approval of the Minutes

-December 6, 2018 6:30pm Regular Meeting. Councilman Deatherage asked that a correction be made concerning the opening prayer as he was not present. The prayer was led by Dalton Miller. Motion was made by Councilwoman Givens (second by Councilman James) to approve with the above mentioned change. All in favor, motion carried.

-December 20, 2018 5:30pm Special Meeting and Training. Motion was made by Councilman Deatherage (second by Councilwoman Hester) to approve. All in favor, motion carried.

X. Portman Avenue Drainage Work

Councilman Deatherage asked if the work had been completed on this project. He stated that something needs to be done to divert the water coming down out of the driveway so that it does not all end up in the neighbor's front yard. He suggested that the culvert be dug out so the water can drain properly. Matt Sowder did the original work.

Councilwoman Hester asked about the drainage ditch in front of the health department that was blacktopped over. Larry Nunemaker stated that when it was blacktopped the culvert was crushed.

XI. Council Comments

Councilman James asked what changes were to be made going forward after our training. Councilwoman Hester discussed a recent Attorney General's opinion concerning the closed meeting that council went in to. The attorney general has come down with a ruling against the city on the three points of complaint that Ms. Abigail Whitehouse filed. John Hackley, City Attorney, was not present to discuss what was being done concerning the ruling. Councilwoman Hester requested that in the future, anything of that magnitude be brought to the attention of the council. Mayor Ernst stated that there is nothing we are trying to hide, that

everything will be addressed, and that the city is just trying to make sure that all the proper steps are followed.

Councilwoman Hester stated that there are three offices that are non elected offices and require council approval: city clerk, city attorney and police chief. She asked the Mayor to address how he plans to proceed with the City Attorney and the City Clerk. Mayor Ernst stated that he is working with City Attorney John Hackley still on an interim basis and is discussing a plan for billing with him. Councilman James recommended that we get a letter of engagement with him that specifies exactly what his costs would be. As far as the city clerk position is concerned, we have a full time city clerk and an assistant that works two – three days a week as needed. There was discussion about full vs part time insurance, the impact to the budget, additional revenue potential and extending hours to Saturday. There are options that the mayor is considering, and if changes are needed in the future they will be considered.

Councilwoman Hester asked about what decision has been made regarding Hadden Owens continuing to take care of the city website and facebook page. Currently Mr. Owen's scans in the council minutes each month at the cost of \$40 per month. Mayor Ernst is considering requesting proposals from KLC's IT in a Box Program, BGADD, and Mr. Owen's as to what services they can offer the city to update, network and secure our IT needs and will bring that information to council when it is received.

XII. Resolution Declaring Surplus Property and Disposition

A Resolution was presented to the council listing 11 vehicles and a snow plow that the city currently would like to declare as surplus. A motion was made by Councilman Miller (second by Councilman James) to accept Resolution #2019-0103 declaring 11 vehicles as surplus and a snow plow. All were in favor and the Resolution was accepted.

XIII. 1st Reading of Ordinance Annexing the Area Approximately One-Half Mile South of Stanford Along US 27 and including the Surrounding Properties

Mayor Ernst requested a motion be made to have the first reading of the Ordinance Annexing the Area Approximately One-Half Mile South of Stanford Along US 27 and including the Surrounding Properties. Motion was made by Councilman James (second by Councilwoman Curlis) for the first reading to be done. All in favor, motion carried. City Clerk, Jone Allen, read the Ordinance for the first time, January 3, 2019.

A special called meeting was scheduled for 5:00pm, Tuesday, January 8th for the 2nd reading.

XIV. New Business

Councilman Deatherage asked that now that we have the new cruisers, we look into putting the police fleet into a rotation schedule, so that they are regularly updated. Councilman Miller asked that the Police Chief put together a long range plan that outlines when new vehicles would be rotated into the fleet.

Councilman Deatherage asked about finding the police department a suitable building to house their department. Chief Middleton shared that they are looking, but there is not a whole lot of space available that would meet their needs, but they are continuing to look.

Councilwoman Curlis requested that we look at purchasing ipads or tablets for the council members so that council packets and information could be distributed without making paper copies of everything. Mayor Ernst shared that it is part of the package that we are requesting KLC "IT in a Box" or other vendors to price for the city. Also discussed was the use of the whiteboard to project information for the public to see during the meeting.

Councilwoman Hester stated that she has asked several times in the past for a member of each city board, the Water Board and the Ethics Board be present at the city council meetings. Councilman Deatherage also mentioned that an ethics training should be coming due soon.

Mayor Ernst reported that he has appointed Dana Curlis Moore to replace Patrick Denham on the Ambulance Board and reappointed Dr. William Stafford for another term on the Ambulance Board. He asked that a motion be made to accept these appointments. Councilman James made the motion that we accept (second by Councilman Deatherage). All in favor, motion carried.

Mayor Ernst shared his idea of creating a work order that can be completed by city employees and the council when they see things that need to be addressed. Those can be filled out and turned in to city hall and then distributed to the proper department to complete. This will be a good tool in tracking when work is completed.

Councilman Deatherage asked our street department director, Aaron Miracle, if he felt that his department was adequately equipped. Aaron shared that he feels the department could use another larger truck that was capable of hauling larger loads as well as to plow, that way two reliable trucks would be available to plow during the winter. Using the box truck would require being able to take off the spreader and the plow each season and we are not equipped to take the spreader off.

Mayor Ernst shared that he would like the council to come down and take a look at city hall, the basement, storage areas, etc that need to be cleaned out. He is working on making a plan for selling the surplus, record retention, and destruction of records that are past the retention rate.

XV. Citizen's Comments

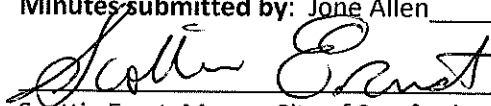
Larry Nunemaker stated that one of the things he is concerned about is if there is a budget for condemned housing. He would like to see money appropriated to take care of all these condemned properties. He also mentioned that he would like to see something done concerning how long garbage cans are allowed to sit out at the street once the garbage is collected. He suggested that the cans should be removed from the street by 5pm the day after they are picked up.

There was discussion concerning the amount of money set aside in the budget for condemnation and where the proceeds from the sale of these properties is allocated. Code Enforcement Officer Jeff Knouse shared that there are several projects currently being worked on by he and the City Attorney, but that names and details could not be discussed in an open meeting.

XVI. Adjournment

With no other business or citizen's comments, motion was made to adjourn the meeting by Councilwoman Hester (second by Councilwoman Givens). With all in favor, the meeting was adjourned at 8:34pm.

Minutes submitted by: Jone Allen _____, City Clerk

 _____ Date: 2/11/2019
Scottie Ernst, Mayor, City of Stanford