

**CITY OF SCHULENBURG  
SCHULENBURG, TX  
May, 2, 2022**

The City Council of the City of Schulenburg met in regular session on Monday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2022, at 6:00 P.M. in the Council Chambers located at 607 Upton Avenue, Schulenburg, Texas. The elected officials present included Mayor Elaine Kocian, Wendy Fietsam, Ben Herzik, Clarence Ahlschlager, and Larry Veselka. City Staff present were City Administrator, Tami Walker, Operations Manager, Darryl Moeller, Water/Wastewater Superintendent, Eric Cullen, and City Secretary, Mason Florus.

Visitors included Darrell Vyvjala of the Schulenburg Sticker, Ben Cohen of Belt Harris Pechacek LLLP, Howard Stoner, and Iván Velasquez.

Mayor Kocian called role and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Mason Florus said a prayer over the meeting and its members.

At 6:02, Alderman Greg Thomas entered Council Chambers and took his place at the Aldermen Dais

Under Presentations By Citizens, Howard Stoner thanked Council for the opportunity to speak. He stated that attendance at Council meetings is "embarrassing" but stated that there is no point if concerns are not addressed. Mr. Stoner then quoted item 2 of the Fair Campaign Practices " I will not use or permit the use of character deformation or slander on any candidate." He then stated that the comments of " Howard Stoner is the worse thing for Schulenburg and will only stir up trouble" means there is trouble to stir up. Stoner added that this is not directed at his opponent. Mr. Stoner also stated that lies and coverups have to stop and police administration should give more information to citizens about areas of crime.

Under Presentations, Proclamations and Recognitions, City Administrator, Tami Walker, read a proclamation for Municipal Clerks Week. Mrs. Walker also thanked the City's Municipal Clerks Megan Bartos, Julie Cernosek, Mason Florus, and Kenny Schramek.

Alderman Veselka made a motion, seconded by Alderman Herzik, to accept the Consent Agenda Items A and B. The motion passed unanimously.

- (A) The Minutes of the Regular Scheduled Meeting held on April 19, 2022
- (B) The payment of current bills

Ben Cohen of Belt Harris Pechacek LLLP addressed Council and presented the results of the Audit Financial Report for the Fiscal Year-Ending September 30, 2021. Mr. Cohen thanked City Staff for producing the necessary documents and announced that his office produced a "clean opinion" and the City's assets are "healthy."

Alderman Veselka asked if "it looks bad" if there are too many budget amendments. Mr. Cohen replied that you can have as many as you want. Cohen elaborated that amendments can come up as income with items such as grants or expenditures due to emergencies. Mr. Cohen concluded that since the City combines their General Fund and Utility Fund you have to look at the City as a whole. However, at the end of the day it's a matter of opinion, not a law or mandate.

Mrs. Walker added that it's hard to be "in the black" with the Service Departments such as Public Pool, Sports Complex, PD, Fire, Streets, etc.

Alderman Fietsam made a motion, seconded by Alderman Thomas, to accept the audit. The motion passed unanimously.

Mrs. Walker led discussion on possibly changing dates of the upcoming June and July Council Meetings. Mrs. Walker stated that scheduling conflicts and holidays may need to see meetings moved. After discussion, Council decided to move the June 20<sup>th</sup> meeting and July 4<sup>th</sup> meetings to the following Tuesdays.

Alderman Fietsam made a motion, seconded by Alderman Thomas to move the Monday, June 20<sup>th</sup> meeting to Tuesday, June 21<sup>st</sup>, and move the Monday, July 4<sup>th</sup> meeting to Tuesday, July 5<sup>th</sup>. The motion passed unanimously.

Municipal Court Judge, Kayla Peters, Chief of Police, Troy Brenek, and Library Director, Thadius Polasek's reports were included in Council's packets.

Operations Manager, Darryl Moeller, reported the following to Council:

- Street Department repaired the street on Upton where the big water leak occurred. They also patched pot holes, moved tables under the Pavilion, swept streets, and assisted with hauling garbage
- Garbage Department hauled 10 roll offs and 9 compactors
- Swater drained 16 boxes of sludge at Babylon, for two weeks they've been draining every day. They also installed new panels at the Dollar General and Wright's Park Lift Stations.
- Electric Department installed new poles at the Walking Trail, worked at America's Best Value Inn, changed meters, and trimmed trees. Smith Construction was also in town. They worked at Colonial Nursing home and did major clearing of easements out in St. John and Moravia on the City's rural lines.

Moeller thanked LCRA for changing out the ballfield lights at the Sports Complex free of charge. He also announced that the City hired Wayne Janda. He has a Class A CDL and is assisting in Garbage Department and is already a great asset to the City.

Moeller concluded that Haworth was supposed to start today on the Civic Center but didn't because the uncertainty of the weather. They will hopefully start tomorrow.

Alderman Fietsam inquired about the insulation at the Civic Center. Mrs. Walker stated that she went back and reviewed all three proposals and one had it as an added cost and the others wanted to see what the insulation looked like. The builders wouldn't be able to assess until work began. Moeller was asked if it was about \$14,000. Moeller answered that that was correct

City Administrator, Tami Walker, reported the following to Council:

- On April 20, met with general contractor for Legion on the damages to the residents on Russek St. Legion advised the City to cease discussion for legal reasons and Legion's General contractor will work directly with Mrs. Wagner who runs the Russek St. Apartments. Also set up safety meetings that will be conducted through TML.
- On April 21 and 22, worked with staff to produce documents both for the grant administrator and the auditors
- On April 25 and 26, attended PFIA training in Austin
- On April 27, celebrated Administrative Assistants day in the office, attended an Airport Meeting, and attended the Special Council Meeting
- On April 28, met with Mrs. Shelby
- On April 30, filled in for Mason and stayed at the office until 5:00 P.M. for the campaign finance report deadline

Mrs. Walker also stated that her and Julie have begun preliminary budget conversations. Letters have been given out to residents on Keuper announcing the beginning of the street construction. All the Election postings have been fulfilled and a reminder that Election Day is Saturday, May 7<sup>th</sup> from 7:00 A.M. to 7:00 P.M. at the Public Library. There will be a staff meeting on May 16.

Mrs. Walker concluded by announcing that Mary Ann with Meals on Wheels has been relocated to the Expo Center while the Civic Center is being remodeled. She wanted to thank Darryl and all the guys that assisted with the move.

Alderman Veselka made a motion, seconded by Alderman Herzik to adjourn the meeting at 6:40. The motion passed unanimously.