

**CITY OF SCHULENBURG
SCHULENBURG, TX
May 1, 2023**

The City Council of the City of Schulenburg met in regular session on Monday, May 1, 2023, at 6:30 P.M. in the Council Chambers located at 607 Upton Avenue, Schulenburg, Texas. The elected officials present included Mayor, Elaine Kocian, Alderwoman, Wendy Fietsam, Aldermen, Larry Veselka, and Clarence Ahlschlager (Alderman Thomas tried to call in via Zoom but was absent due to technical difficulties). City Staff present were City Administrator, Tami Walker, Operations Manager, Darryl Moeller, Police Sergeant, Tobey McFadden, and City Secretary, Mason Florus.

Visitors included, Darrell Vyvjala of the Schulenburg Sticker, Tim Sanders of BEFCO, Daniel Heber with Belt Harris Pechacek, Karen Kokes, Armen Herzik, Loretta Baumgarten, and Irene Handley.

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

Under Presentations by Citizens, Karen Kokes handed out packets to Council and expressed concerns about the cellphone tower located on the East side of town on BWI's property. She claims that there are high EMF readings around the Library, St. Rose, and the Sports Complex. She is asking Council to address the issue.

Under Presentations by Citizens, Irene Handley complained about lack of communication from the Police Department.

Mrs. Walker read a proclamation for Municipal Clerks Week designated for April 30-May 6, 2023. Mrs. Walker recognized the City Hall Staff, Megan Bartos, Julie Cernosek, Mason Florus, and Kenny Schramek for their hard work.

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

- A. Minutes from the Regular Scheduled Council Meeting held on April 17, 2023
- B. Payment of Current Bills

Mrs. Walker invited Daniel Heber of Belt Harris Pechacek to the podium to present the Audit Financial Report for the Fiscal Year ending September 30, 2022.

Mr. Heber stated that his firm presented an unmodified opinion which is the highest level of assurance that they can bestow upon a client. Mr. Heber passed out the report to Council while elaborating on a few items stating that the City earned a "clean opinion."

Mrs. Walker thanked City Hall staff for a team effort in preparing for the audits and stated that the decreasing items on the management letter year after year is a testament that the City is complying with the auditors' recommendations and following the best accounting and record keeping practices.

Alderwoman Fietsam made a motion, seconded by Alderman Veselka, to accept the Audit's final draft. The motion passed unanimously.

Mrs. Walker welcomed Tim Sanders of BEFCO to address Council with awarding a Bid for the Russek Street and FM 957 Water Line Replacement and Russek Street Rebuild.

Mr. Sanders stated that the bid consists of a new waterline on 957 from Simpson to Kallus Streets, a new waterline on Russek from West Ave. to just West of Henderson Hill, and a street rebuild and improved drainage from West Ave. to just west of Henderson Hill.

Mr. Sanders said 11 contactors inquired and 3 submitted bids. He continued that the project was bid with two paving options for the Russek rebuild portion. With both options accounting for a 28-foot-wide street, option 1 would require an 8-inch base of limestone and a 2-inch layer of "hot mix" asphalt on top. Option 2 requires a 10-inch layer of limestone with a chip seal coating on top.

The bids for option 1 varied from \$1,134,912.51 to \$1,559,986.70. Option 2's bids ranged between \$1,130,198.37 to \$1,521,049.20. Mr. Sanders announced that WJC Constructors out of Smithville were the lowest responsible bidders. BEFCO has a history with WJC having worked on four projects in the past.

It is Mr. Sanders opinion that the City go with option one paving because going with asphalt will be more durable and a better investment for the City especially since there is only a little over \$4,700 difference between the hot mix and chip rock.

Alderman Ahlschlager asked if this is the same contractor from Smithville the City worked with in the past. Mrs. Walker answered no. Mrs. Walker added that the City budgeted \$1,138,000 for the project, and the asphalt would be a great option for the street which experiences high traffic including 18 wheelers.

Alderman Veselka made a motion, seconded by Alderwoman Fietsam, to accept BEFCO's recommendation and hire WJC. The motion passed unanimously.

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

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

- Water Department conducted chlorine maintenance at the Main Pump House, Henderson Hill, and Well 9. Allied Electric assisted with a burnt panel on the SCADA System, and while DFA was down for maintenance, the water department installed a new 6-inch water meter.
- Street Department cleaned out ditches, patched the street from a pervious water leak in Meadow Creek, conducted modifications on DFA's compactors, and removed trees and cleaned out the alley off of Hiljie between 90 and Anderson.
- Electric Department changed out a bad pot on 77, replaced lights and two motors at Babylon, completed non-payment-disconnects, and did some up and downs for DFA so they could perform maintenance.
- Sewer Department drained sludge, continue to execute plant maintenance, tomorrow they are replacing a whole rotor at Babylon.

Alderman Veselka asked if the Compactor at the Texan is up and running. Moeller replied that the compactor has been sitting at the Warehouse for 5 weeks. The City is waiting on the Texan to provide electricity to the location to feed power for the compactor.

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

- April 18-20, gathered last minute documents for auditors
- April 24, Conducted a staff meeting with department heads and HR about upcoming budget. Also met with Mayor Kocian and Stephanie Shroyer about painting down at the Sports Complex
- April 25, Darryl, Chief, and I met with Enterprise for possible fleet management services
- April 26, Megan, and I met with attorneys over franchise fees and pole attachment agreements. Also met with the personnel attorney finalizing the new Personnel Handbook.
- April 28 the bid opening was held for the James Ave. and Russek St. projects
- April 24-28 worked on records retention

Mrs. Walker announced that the City Hired Josh Cooper for the Water department and Richard Karstedt in the Sewer Department. Mrs. Walker stated that the City is now fully staffed in the Water/Wastewater Departments.

Mrs. Walker also professed to Council that she and Darryl are finalizing the map to place the generators at the plants around town.

Alderman Ahlschlager made a motion, seconded by Alderwoman Fietsam, to adjourn the meeting at 7:04. The motion passed unanimously.