

**CITY OF SCHULENBURG
SCHULENBURG, TX
November 20, 2023**

The City Council of the City of Schulenburg met in regular session on Monday, November 20, 2023, at 6:30 P.M. in the Council Chambers located at 607 Upton Avenue, Schulenburg, Texas. The elected officials present included Mayor, Connie Koopmann, Aldermen, Frank Wick III, Larry Veselka, Scott Stoner, and Clarence Ahlschlager. City Staff present were City Administrator, Tami Walker, Operations Manager, Darryl Moeller, and City Secretary, Mason Florus. Alderman Thomas was absent due to his wife being ill.

Visitors included Darrell Vyvjala of the Schulenburg Sticker, Pastor Lemaë Higgs, and Iván Velasquez.

Mayor Koopmann called role. Pastor Lemaë said a prayer over the meeting and its members. Mayor Koopmann led the Pledge of Allegiance and the Texas Pledge.

Mayor Koopmann read a Proclamation for Parents as Teachers (PAT). This is a joint proclamation signed by Mayor Koopmann and Mayor Koller of Weimar.

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

- A. Minutes from the Regular Scheduled Council Meeting held on November 6, 2023
- B. Payment of Current Bills

Mrs. Walker led discussion on a Suspension Resolution for CenterPoint Gas Rate Filing and Authorizing Membership of the City into the Cities Served by CenterPoint Gas Coalition and suspending the effective date of CenterPoint's proposed rate increase.

Mrs. Walker explained that the City is seeking Council's authorization to join a coalition of cities in the Texas Gulf Coast, South Texas, and Beaumont/East Texas divisions called Cities Served by, CenterPoint Gas and suspending the effective date of the rate change. This will delay the rate change by 90 days and it has to be in writing by December 4th.

Alderman Veselka made a motion, seconded by Alderman Ahlschlager, to accept the resolution and delay the rate change. The motion passed unanimously.

Mrs. Walker led discussion on an Amended and Restated Agreement between the City of Schulenburg and Landis+Gyr Technology Inc.

Mrs. Walker informed Council that Landis+Gyr oversees our Command Center for all our Electric Meters. Mrs. Walker continued that Landis is going up from \$830.36 a month to \$2726.67 a month. This is in response to them not increasing their price for eight years. Mrs. Walker stated that the attorney has read the agreement and it is ready to approve with a 3-year structure on pricing vs. a 5-year option.

Alderman Veselka made a motion, seconded by Alderman Stoner, to accept the agreement. The motion passed unanimously.

Mrs. Walker led discussion on purchasing a Garbage Truck for the City of Schulenburg that exceeds the budgeted amount.

Mrs. Walker professed to Council that the City budgeted for a garbage truck but current prices exceed the budgeted amounts. Mrs. Walker explained that Operations Manager, Darryl Moeller, has looked into several different trucks. Council has several options:

1. Purchase the truck and use funds budgeted for the Straight Truck payment (\$100,000). The truck payment is not due until 2024-2025.
2. Purchase the truck and put down the budgeted funds of \$250,000 and finance the difference.
3. Purchase the truck and finance the entire truck and save the cash
4. Do not purchase the truck and take a chance of the costs as they continue to increase.

Mrs. Walker reminded Council of the work that will have to be done on Well 13 and this could be a chance to free up some funds for the well repair.

Alderman Ahlschlager asked Moeller when the truck would be available. Moeller answered 110-120 days.

Alderman Wick commented that if the City doesn't need this truck, we can re budget it for next year.

Alderman Veselka asked how much the interest would be. Moeller replied 5.53%

Alderman Veselka made a motion, seconded by Alderman Ahlschlager, to purchase the truck by financing it for five years at a price of \$327,320 before financing. The motion passed 3-1 with Alderman Wick voting against.

Mrs. Walker led discussion on canceling the December 18th Regular Scheduled Meeting and the January 1st Regular Scheduled Meeting due to the holidays.

Alderman Ahlschlager made a motion, seconded by Alderman Veselka, to cancel the December 18th and January 1st Meetings. The motion passed unanimously.

Mrs. Walker led discussion on rescheduling the January 15th meeting due to the Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday.

Alderman Ahlschlager made a motion, seconded by Alderman Wick, to reschedule the meeting for January 16th. The motion passed unanimously.

Mrs. Walker led discussion on setting a Special Meeting / Workshop date for January 2024.

Mrs. Walker explained that she has been in contact with City Hall Essentials LLC, an organization that provides training for elected officials and asked to provide one-on-one training with the City Council. Andy Quittner is an attorney and provided Mrs. Walker with several dates for up to 3 hours of training.

Council was unaware of Alderman Thomas' schedule. As a result, Alderman Veselka made a motion, seconded by Alderman Wick, to table the item. The motion passed unanimously.

Operations Manager, Darryl Moeller, reported to Council that the City just received the quote for the work necessary to repair Well 13 today. The City was already charged \$12,500, and it's going to be an additional \$189,162. If Council gives their blessing, staff can go ahead and order pipe and start the repairs.

Alderman Ahlschlager stated that he worked with this company when he was in the water department and they are very good.

Alderman Veselka asked if everything would be new. Moeller answered yes. Alderman Ahlschlager inquired if they were going to jet or clean anything. Moeller replied no, he stated the contractor said everything looked good and it wasn't necessary.

Mayor Koopmann then directed staff to go ahead and order the pipe and start the process of the repairs.

Moeller also reported that the old Cemetery House is knocked down and the lot is clean.

Alderman Ahlschlager asked if water usage is down. Moeller responded yes, in fact, the City has started selling bulk water to contractors and residents again.

Alderman Thomas text in his schedule. As a result, Mayor Koopmann asked to revisit Item F, the special meeting, Council agreed.

Alderman Veselka made a motion, seconded by Alderman Wick, to schedule the special meeting January 24th at 4:00 P.M. at the Council Chambers. The motion passed unanimously.

Mrs. Walker reported the following to Council:

- Attended a pre-construction meeting for the generators at the water plants
- Tami took over HR duties while Mason was on his Honeymoon
- The City has terminated Health Insurance with TML and will continue to offer Blue Cross Blue Sheild Medical Insurance to the employees through Principal
- Cutwright and Prihoda and the attorney are continuing to work out an agreement
- SISD and The City are continuing to work on their agreement, will consult with Darryl and Johnie about the agreement
- Chief and I are working on the RFP for the Police Station remodel, we're looking at readvertising the first of the year

- Mason will attend a TML HR training in Victoria on November 29th
- I will attend PFIA Training in San Antonio the first week of December

Alderman Veselka made a motion, seconded by Alderman Stoner, to adjourn the meeting at 7:07. The motion passed unanimously.