

**CITY OF SCHULENBURG  
SCHULENBURG, TX  
February 5, 2024**

The City Council of the City of Schulenburg met in regular session on Monday, February 5, 2024, 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, Police Chief, Troy Brenek, and City Secretary, Mason Florus.

Visitors included Darrell Vyvjala of the Schulenburg Sticker, Chamber Director, Terri Wagner, Reverend Andrew Stafford, Reverend Dr. Pamela Sattiewhite, Clarence Steward, and Iván Velasquez.

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

Under Presentations by Citizens, Chamber Director, Terri Wagner, addressed the Council with concerns over the Downtown Restrooms. She stated that the Downtown Restrooms are not open on a regular basis. She asked if regular hours could be posted.

City Administrator, Tami Walker, commented that the City wants the Downtown Restrooms to be used, but the way people take care of public restrooms, it forces the City to lock them at the end of the day.

Mayor, Connie Koopmann, read and presented a Proclamation for Black History Month.

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

- A. Minutes from the Regular Scheduled Council Meeting held on January 22, 2024
- B. Minutes from the Workshop held on January 24, 2024
- C. Payment of Current Bills

Mrs. Walker invited Chamber Director, Terri Wagner, to address Council requesting HOT funds for the 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Schulenburg Sausage Fest.

Mrs. Wagner stated that in 2023 they were awarded \$20,650 but spent \$23,257. As a result, the Chamber is requesting \$24,600 for this year.

Mrs. Walker informed Council that the City budgeted \$18,000.

Alderman Veselka asked Mrs. Wagner if the Chamber gets any revenue for the event. Mrs. Wagner answered that the revenues are from sponsors and they pay for things that are not eligible for HOT funds.

Alderman Veselka made a motion, seconded by Alderman Wick, to allot \$20,650 in Hot Funds for Sausage Fest. The motion passed unanimously.

Mrs. Walker led discussion on an Ordinance ordering and providing notice of General Election of the City of Schulenburg to be held on Saturday, May 4, 2024.

Mrs. Walker read the ordinance.

Alderman Stoner made a motion, seconded by Alderman Ahlschlager, to accept the Election Ordinance. The motion passed unanimously.

Mrs. Walker invited Police Chief, Troy Brenek, to lead discussion on a Resolution for approval and support concerning grant funds from the Office of the Governor for Bullet Resistant Shields.

Chief Brenek informed Council that the shields will be necessary in an active shooter situation.

Mrs. Walker read the Resolution.

Chief Brenek added that these would be worth around \$42,000. Alderman Stoner asked how many shields would be purchased. Chief answered 12. Each car will have one and the remainder will be stored at the schools.

Alderman Wick made a motion, seconded by Alderman Veselka, to approve the Resolution. The motion passed unanimously.

Mrs. Walker invited Chief Brenek to lead discussion on a Resolution to apply for grant funds from the Office of the Governor for In Car and Body Worn Cameras.

Mrs. Walker read the resolution. Chief Brenek stated that the PD's current cameras are 10 years old and this grant could be worth up to \$100,000.

Mayor Koopmann asked if we ever pull film from these cameras. Chief answered yes, they pull film quite frequently and there is a retention period.

Alderman Wick made a motion, seconded by Alderman Stoner, to accept the Resolution. The motion passed unanimously.

Mrs. Walker invited Chief Brenek to lead discussion on a Resolution to apply for grant funds from the Office of the Governor for Mobile License Plate Readers.

Mrs. Walker read the Resolution. Chief added that this would outfit 6 vehicles for approximately \$42,000.

Alderman Veselka made a motion, seconded by Alderman Ahlschlager, to accept the Resolution. The motion passed unanimously.

Mrs. Walker led discussion on a Resolution stating the intent of CenterPoint Energy Resources Corp., DBA CenterPoint Energy Entex and CenterPoint Energy to change rates filing within the city should be denied.

Mrs. Walker read the Resolution, and mentioned that CenterPoint is increasing their revenue by \$37.4 Million, which is an increase of 5.8%. Mrs. Walker continued that we were advised to suspend CenterPoint's application for a rate increase for 90 days.

Alderman Wick made a motion, seconded by Alderman Veselka, to accept the Resolution. The Motion passed unanimously.

Mrs. Walker led discussion on restrictions listed on the Cemetery Deed issued by the City of Schulenburg.

Mrs. Walker announced that curbing and grave cradles are currently listed as a restriction, and to be consistent throughout the cemetery there is a request to change the language on the deed to allow curbing and grave cradles. Mrs. Walker added that if the City relaxes these restrictions, she is advising to keep the restrictions of trees and to require a building permit while pouring concrete for plots.

Alderman Ahlschlager made a motion, seconded by Alderman Veselka, to remove the restriction of curbing and grave cradles, but require a permit and keep the restriction of trees. The motion passed unanimously.

Mrs. Walker invited Chief Brenek to lead discussion on the purchase of a new police vehicle and equipment.

Chief professed to Council that he has already spent \$17,000 on vehicle repairs just 4 months into the fiscal year. He said he has located a vehicle for \$52,000 and it will be anywhere between \$12,000 and \$18,000 to outfit the vehicle.

Mayor Koopmann asked if this car in in addition to the one budgeted. Chief answered yes. Alderman Ahlschlager asked when he could get the vehicle. Chief said February 24<sup>th</sup>, and it would take 8-12 weeks to outfit the vehicle.

Alderman Veselka asked where we would get the money from. Mrs. Walker answered it would come out of other PD line items although we may have to take it from reserves.

Alderman Ahlschlager made a motion, seconded by Alderman Stoner, to purchase the new vehicle and equipment. The motion passed unanimously.

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

Operations Manager, Darryl Moeller, stated to Council that the guys have been busy fixing electric lines and water leaks. The contractors are continuing to lay water lines, and we are still waiting on the Rail Road for a permit.

City Administrator, Tami Walker, announced to Council that either her, Darryl, Glenn Polasek, or a combination of the three, are meeting 6 different contractors over the next several days to get bids for City Hall's foundation repair.

Mrs. Walker also mentioned that she met with Cutright and Prihoda, in regards to the Civic Center. The City is trying to utilize the space as efficiently as possible. As a result, the plan is to square off the building better by eliminating the current stage and sound room.

Mrs. Walker stated that some of her comments from the last meeting were misconstrued but she and the City supports and appreciates the Friends of the Schulenburg Public Library.

Mrs. Walker announced that this month is Red Door Month for Mental Health Awareness and the City is participating by displaying a red door outside City Hall.

Mrs. Walker concluded, the Ground Storage Tank at Henderson Hill is closed out with TDA, we are still waiting to close out with the contractor.

Alderman Veselka made a motion, seconded by Alderman Wick, to adjourn the meeting at 7:48. The motion passed unanimously.