

**CITY OF SCHULENBURG  
SCHULENBURG, TX  
March 18, 2024**

The City Council of the City of Schulenburg met in regular session on Monday, March 18, 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, Greg Thomas (Via Speaker Phone), Frank Wick III, Larry Veselka, Scott Stoner, and Clarence Ahlschlager. City Staff present were City Administrator, Tami Walker, Operations Manager, Darryl Moeller, Police Officer, Byron Powe, and City Secretary, Mason Florus.

Visitors included Layne Vyvjala of the Schulenburg Sticker, Pastor Lemae Higgs, Alderwoman Elect, Kathy Kleiber, Miguel Camacho, and Iván Velasquez.

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

Mrs. Walker presented a variance request from the property located at 1607 S. Kessler Ave. per the City Ordinance setback requirements of 25 feet to 13 feet for the purpose of adding a room to the home as part of a remodel.

Mrs. Walker announced that Mrs. Marak was unavailable tonight. However, Mrs. Walker read the notes from the meeting. The Board met on March 13<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 P.M. Ronald Ryba made a motion, seconded by Mark Shimek, to approve the variance. The motion passed 4-0.

Mrs. Walker addressed Council about the Gardenia E. Janssen Animal Shelter and their partnership with the City of Schulenburg.

Mrs. Walker announced to Council that representatives from the Shelter couldn't attend tonight, and requested another meeting with the Mayor, Mrs. Walker, and Chief.

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

- A. Minutes from the Regular Scheduled Council Meeting held on March 4, 2024
- B. Payments of Current Bills

Mrs. Walker led discussion on an Interlocal Agreement between Counties and Cities Associated with Operation Lone Star for Law Enforcement Services.

Mrs. Walker professed to Council that this agreement gives priority with grants as well. The department recently submitted an e-grant for \$372,988.44 for a vehicle, K9, equipment, mobile license plate readers, etc. This would allow us to assist or work with the task force upon availability.

Alderman Wick asked if Schulenburg officers would work for these other departments.

Officer, Byron Powe, stated that upon availability, SPD Officers could assist with these other departments. They would be assigned to assist with human trafficking, border security, etc. not everyday patrolling. The officer's travel expenses and salary would be paid through these grants.

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

Mrs. Walker led discussion on a Resolution between Counties and Cities Associated with Operation Lonestar for Law Enforcement Services.

Mrs. Walker read the resolution.

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

Mrs. Walker led discussion on an agreement that would be added to the Personnel Policy Manual.

Mrs. Walker announced that the City encourages employees to continue their education and obtain new licenses. The City also pays stipends for such. However, recently the City has spent anywhere from \$1,000 to \$3,000 on employees' courses and exams only for the employees to terminate.

As a result, the City is proposing to implement an agreement where each \$100 spent on continuing education is worth one month of service. If the employee still owes the City at the time of termination, they will payback the City for training they obtained.

Mrs. Walker explained that the Attorney has written up an agreement and the City will no longer allow employees to study on the clock.

Alderman Ahlschlager asked that if current employees would be subject to this agreement if they are required to upgrade their license.

Alderman Thomas entered the Council Chambers at 6:56 and took his seat at the Dais.

Mrs. Walker replied that the City currently doesn't have water or wastewater facilities that require a B License. However, if this was the case, yes, the employee would have to agree.

Alderman Thomas made a motion, seconded by Alderman Ahlschlager, to add the amendment to the policy manual. The motion passed unanimously.

Mrs. Walker updated Council on repairs to City Hall. Mrs. Walker announced that this is a non-action item and it's meant to be a brief overview.

Mrs. Walker stated that the bids received are anywhere between \$9,500 and \$65,000 with different opinions and different approaches on what is needed for fixing the foundation issue.

Mrs. Walker professed that City Staff has worked hard removing all the carpet from the Multipurpose Room and cleaned out the Back Vault.

TSI was hired to drill holes and collect soil samples. Once these samples are collected, we can determine where, if any, moisture is getting under the building. Once this is known, it will help in deciding what approach to use to fix the foundation. TSI will charge \$3,600.

Mrs. Walker concluded that some of the work might require the sidewalks to be redone. Also, the City is working with Mr. Dawson because his building will be affected as well. Mrs. Walker said she's looking for a 50-year fix, not a band-aid.

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

- Cleaned out ditches on South St., Lyons Ave., and by the KC Hall. We plan on doing the same thing on a few more streets.
- This Saturday City Wide Clean Up shut down at 12:30 because of lightning. However, 3 containers were still filled.
- City Wide Clean up will be open two more days this Wednesday and Saturday.

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

- Service Order to JS Water Well went out for \$23,909. This is over the \$20,000 limit but it was an emergency situation at Well 8
- There will be a mobile clinic on April 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> at Wolters Park providing free medical, dental, and mental health screenings
- Attended a meeting with the Chamber for the upcoming Sausagefest
- Conducted a staff meeting
- This Saturday the Library is hosting an Easter Egg Hunt
- This week Darryl and I are meeting with Langford
- This week meeting with LCRA about the steps forward program. LCRA will paint the downtown handrails the weekend after Sausagefest
- The Auditors field visit is complete
- The Library passed their follow-up fire inspection

Alderman Wick asked about the house at 211 N. Main. He said citizens are asking him about it sitting vacant for a while with no work being done. Mrs. Walker said she will look into it and follow up with Alderman Wick tomorrow.

Mrs. Walker concluded that Joanna with Cutright and Pihoda will be at the next Council Meeting to discuss the Civic Center. Also, the Electric Department is almost finished installing the metal poles and new lights at the Sports Complex Walking Trail.

Alderman Veselka made a motion, seconded by Alderman Ahlschlager, to adjourn the meeting at 7:14 P.M. The motion passed unanimously.