

BE IT REMEMBERED that on Tuesday, **FEBRUARY 15TH, 2022**, the Riesel City Council met in a REGULAR called meeting, at 6:30 p.m. in the Riesel City Hall Meeting Room, at 104 Hwy. 6 North in Riesel, Texas, with notice of said meeting having been posted at least 72 hours in advance in accordance with Section 551, Texas Government Code.

Call to Order: Mayor, Kevin Hogg, called the meeting to order at 6:32PM

Council Members Present: Todd Ehlers, Marshall Shaw, Jeff Tanner, Kooper Sjolander & Jeanne Lehrmann

Employees Present: Alisha Flanary & Randy Ehlers

Visitors Present: David Marek, Jennifer Boen, Katherine Bode, Katherine Ehlers, Kathleen Wetzel, Mae Ehlers, Amelia Tull, Tom Flanary Jr, Erlene Neumann, Bob Wallace, Mr. & Mrs. David Schimschat

Consent Items: Jeanne Lehrmann made a motion to approve consent items, minutes & financials, from 11/9/21 & 11/21/21. With a second by Todd Ehlers, the motion carried unanimously.

Visitor's Comments:

1. David Schimschat addressed the Council regarding his concerns about locating a City of Riesel water well near his home. He told Council that he had met with city representatives that requested permission to drill test holes on his property, and he declined permission to allow any such testing. He then said he was upset to learn that an adjacent landowner had agreed to allow test holes on their property. He said he had nothing against his neighbor, but he pleaded with Council not to follow through with test holes on that property. Mr. Schimschat expressed his fear that drilling a water well from the neighboring property would deplete his personal water supply. He said that his property has been in the family for generations, and they have their own water well to supply the family's needs and they have an old gravel pit that they use for fishing and for wildlife. He does not want anything to jeopardize either of them. He pleaded with Council to consider other options wanted to know why they wouldn't just install filters at every home or get water from the river or BASF lake. He also brought pictures of his family fishing on the property. Bob Wallace of CP&Y made some statements and said that if the tests showed a significant impact on the neighboring gravel pit or private well, then the prospective site would not be suitable for the City.
2. Katherine Ehlers addressed the Council as a leader of Girl Scout Troop # 22301. She introduced the girls in the troop and they thanked the Council for holding the Christmas parade and said that they really enjoyed it. After winning the first prize in the parade float competition, the girls wanted to inform Council that they were donating their gift card to a local charity.
3. Katherine Bode addressed Council and thanked them for their service. She also said that she wanted to encourage enforcement of animal control in town. She said that she had been approached by an aggressive dog on Adams Street while out walking.
4. Erlene Neumann asked that the animal control ordinance be enforced and to publicize it, on Facebook if possible, to make sure the public is aware that dogs must not be allowed to be unrestrained.

Smoke Test: City engineer, David Marek, gave an update on the results from recent smoke testing on the sewer lines in the Charles Street area. Todd Ehlers made a motion to have CP&Y get more information on manhole rehab, a dosing system and to investigate possible grant applications. Jeff Tanner seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Alluvium Well: Jennifer Boen and Bob Wallace gave an update on the well project. They have hired new ROW agents and are talking to several landowners about test hole sites and setting up agreements to start test drilling on Joe Rice's property in Falls County.

Water Rate Increase: Current and historical costs of operating the water system were presented to Council. The water fund has not been self-sustaining the last few years and there has not been a rate increase in over nine years. A rate analysis was presented and a 15% increase was recommended to get on track in order to cover current expenses. Additional increases will be needed next year to keep up with the costs of the alluvium well project and the new debt incurred. Jeanne Lehrmann moved to increase the water rates by 15%. Marshall seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

New Alternative Green Energy, Inc.: Todd Ehlers made a motion to issue the following prepared public statement:

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC:

The City Council of the City of Riesel gave New Alternative Green Energy, Inc. and The Maker's Group the opportunity to make a presentation to the Council. In retrospect, a concern exists that giving these companies that opportunity may have lent credibility to their purported projects or mistakenly indicated the City's support for their purported projects. To ensure that no ambiguity exists, the City Council wishes it to be known that they do not endorse these companies or their purported projects and do not intend to provide support in any form to the companies or their purported projects. Citizens are encouraged to do research and exercise due diligence before investing in any company, including these companies.

Kooper Sjolander seconded the motion and the motion carried, unanimously.

Sandy Creek: Todd Ehlers made a motion to accept the annual Operation Report from Sandy Creek Power. Jeanne Lehrman seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Racial Profiling Report: Council reviewed and analyzed the annual Racial Profiling Report filed by Chief Krumnow. Jeanne Lehrmann moved to accept the report as presented. Jeff Tanner seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Overpayment: The Texas State Comptroller notified the City of Riesel of another overpayment that they had to refund to a taxpayer. They are requiring the City to repay \$24,379.20. Jeff Tanner made a motion to authorize the repayment in monthly, interest free installments, beginning on October 1st (the beginning of the next budget year). Marshall Shaw seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Executive Session: At 8:46 PM Council convened into a closed, executive session, pursuant to Section 551.074 of the Government Code to deliberate the duties, employment, evaluation, and/or appointment of a public officer or employee: Chelsea Kemp, annual evaluation
At 9:04 PM Council reconvened into open session, stating that no action was taken during closed session.

Raise: Jeanne Lehrmann made a motion to give Chelsea Kemp a 5% raise in pay. Todd Ehlers seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Executive Session: At 9:04 PM Council convened into a closed, executive session, pursuant to Section 551.074 of the Government Code to deliberate the duties, employment, evaluation, and/or appointment of a public officer or employee: review applicant for utility/maintenance assistant position
9:14 PM Council reconvened into open session, stating that no action was taken during closed session.

Job Offer: Todd Ehlers made a motion to offer the position to Justin Carpenter for \$16.50 per hour, with a 90 day probation. Jeff Tanner seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Adjournment: With no further business, Mayor Hogg adjourned the meeting at 9:16 PM



Mayor, Kevin Hogg



Attest: Alisha Flanary, City Secretary

