

BE IT REMEMBERED that on Tuesday, **FEB. 27, 2024**, the Riesel City Council met in a SPECIAL called **WORK SESSION** 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, Jennifer Hogg called the meeting to order at 6:32 PM

**Council Members Present:** Bill Barker, Debbie Kilgore, Ralph May & Bobby Dieterich **Absent:** Paul Winkler

**Employees Present:** Alisha Flanary, Jared Bonner & Ryan Dieterich **Visitors Present:** Linda Hogg, Glenna Sandhoff, Tom Flanary Jr.

Mayor Hogg led the Pledge of Allegiance and Ralph May led the Invocation.

#### **COUNCIL DISCUSSED THE FOLLOWING ITEMS AND TOOK NO ACTION**

#### **POLICE DEPARTMENT**

**Chief Candidates:** Jennifer Hogg stated that, in selecting a Police Chief, she believed it was important to have someone that resides in the city and is a part of the community. Bill Barker also stated the importance of having ties to the community and that it's been his experience that attrition rates are lowest with local employees. Jennifer Hogg stated that due to the small size of Riesel's police department, Council requires the police chief to be a "working" chief, not just an administrator.

Debbie Kilgore mentioned that it is highly important to hire someone who is fair and objective. Ralph May commented that an officer's objective should be to serve, not chastise or belittle. Jennifer Hogg brought up that she appreciated how Interim Chief, Jared Bonner, always introduces himself and greets visitors at council meetings. Ralph May said that some of the simplest of actions can have the most profound impact and that people had mentioned to him how Interim Chief Bonner had stopped by the coffee shop to say hello to them. He said that they really thought a lot of that and that he was personable and eager to interact with them and that they had not experienced that in a long time. Debbie Kilgore stated that the Chief must be above reproach, and honest. Jennifer Hogg mentioned that she wanted to see someone work FOR and WITH the city, not against it.

Bobby Dieterich said that the Chief and officers must maintain a good working relationship with coworkers in the police department and all other departments. Jennifer Hogg proposed the question as to whether the City really needed four officers. Regarding Shift Coverages: Interim Chief Bonner spoke about response times, overtime, and morale.

**Police Vehicles:** Jennifer Hogg stated that since officers have started putting more mileage on vehicles by taking them outside the city's response area daily, due to officers driving them home, the mechanical issues and fuel costs have significantly increased. Ralph May stated that the police policy does not allow for vehicles to be driven home outside of the city unless they are "assigned" to an officer and as far as he knew, Riesel had never assigned cars to individuals.

Bobby Dieterich said that if an officer is on call, they need to take the car home to keep the response time down.

**Response Time:** Ralph May stated that a 30-minute response time is not a benefit to the city.

Bill Barker stated that there is minimum of 22 minutes for an ambulance to respond.

Ralph May asked about Mutual Aid Agreements.

**GPS:** Ralph May mentioned the need to modernize.

Jennifer Hogg went on to mention that officer safety is extremely important and is a priority.

**Inventory:** Ralph May talked about complete inventories of all items being implemented and inventory being conducted annually. Jared Bonner recommended possibly contacting a 3<sup>rd</sup> party, neutral company to come in and do the property room/evidence inventory and that many departments do that because it is more efficient and doesn't tie up officers.

#### **UTILITY DEPARTMENT**

**Streets:** Pothole repairs begin this week. \$200,000 was budgeted for street maintenance for the year. This current project is probably under \$35,000 and will consist of patches and potholes.

**Street Lights:** repairs will be made around town over the next few weeks to ensure all street lights are working, and to possible reactivate some lights that have not been on an account in many years.

**Park Lights:** the lights around the walking track are not working properly and need to be replaced and need to be budgeted in the next annual budget cycle. The street lights near the park have already been reported for repairs.

**Park Security:** cameras would be helpful in the park to deter mischief and vandalism. This also needs to be budgeted. Discussion was also held regarding fences/gates or some barrier to prevent vehicles and ATVs from entering the park and driving on the splashpad causing damage.

**Park Signs:** signage at park all needs to be replaced. Quotes have been requested and new artwork is underway for new signs.

**Animal Control:** complaints are received about dogs and cats on a regular basis. The city does have an ordinance requiring spaying/neutering/and microchipping. Dogs are not permitted to roam free. An unrestrained dog is illegal and could result in a costly ticket. Pet owners must keep their animals detained in their own yards and homes.

**Drainage:** issues regarding poor drainage have plagued the city for many years. This is an extensive problem and needs to be addressed on a large scale. There are some intersections and large culverts that need replacing. Most ditches and culverts need to have the silt, debris and dirt cleaned out to allow for proper drainage. But, homeowners are supposed to be responsible for cleaning their own ditches.

## ADMINISTRATIVE

**Purchasing:** discussion was held regarding a purchasing policy. A sample policy was presented to council and they will be reviewing and making recommendations for the next work session.

**Zoning/Development:** Discussion was held regarding zoning and development.

**Budget:** brief discussion was held pertaining to the next budget cycle

**Grants:** brief discussion was held regarding grant research and applications

## ENGINEERING

**Sewer Odor Monitoring:** test results should be available and presented at next council meeting

**Arsenic Reduction – New Well:** ERT results will be presented at next meeting

**Hwy 6 Utility:** sewer line repairs have been made and this project is nearing completion

**Shell Truckstop & Sonic:** This project has been slowed down by the lack of city infrastructure being in place. But, as mentioned above, the Hwy 6 utility lines being installed by Gary Bennet is almost complete.

**Hwy 6 Maintenance:** maintenance on highway 6 is being planned by TxDot. This will NOT widen highway 6, but will consist of resurfacing. The only widening will be at the site of the truck stop, where a right turn lane will be installed.

## CITY HALL

Discussion was held regarding shortcomings of the existing city hall, courthouse, and police department. Land adjacent to the park was purchased several years ago for a site for the new city hall. Drainage issues along the backside of the property are known to exist and may require a new facility to be 2 story. Discuss planning for future growth and needs with each department.

## COUNCIL

Sandy Creek Power Plant extended an invitation to council members to come tour the plant and have lunch.

Jennifer Hogg mentioned that she wanted to show city support for the Lions Club Fair and discussion was held regarding purchasing a city booth at the event to provide community outreach from the council and police department and support staff.

Volunteers were requested for City-wide Spring Clean Up Day on April 20<sup>th</sup>.

Discussion was held pertaining to ordering polo shirts for council and possibly caps to wear at community events.

## TxDOT

Bill Barker initiated discussion regarding the need for a bridge over the Brazos, between Riesel and Robinson. His concern is emergency response time to reach hospitals and for ambulance service.

**Adjournment:** With no further business, Mayor Hogg adjourned the meeting at 9:12 PM

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Mayor, Jennifer Hogg

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Attest: Alisha Flanary, City Secretary