

BE IT REMEMBERED that on Tuesday, **JAN. 30, 2024**, the Riesel City Council met in a SPECIAL 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: Due to the resignation of Mayor Shaw on January 29th, 2024, Mayor Pro Tem, Jennifer Hogg called the meeting to order at 6:32 PM

Council Members Present: Jennifer Hogg, Ralph May, Bobby Dieterich & Paul Winkler

Employees Present: Alisha Flanary, Cristen Conner, Jared Bonner & Darryl Welch

Visitors Present: Jerry Smith, Glenna Sandhoff, Robin Winkler, Debbie Kilgore, Deanna Davis, Courtney Cormier, Jo Ferguson, Linda Hogg, Becky Kinder, Kelly Burke, Rosalee Schraeder, Glyn Schraeder, Scott Lewis, Rob Bailey, Ray Woodruff, Phyllis Koester, Tom Flanary Jr., William Barker, Leigh Ann Holloway, Michelle Matus, Katie Tullous, Kevin Tullous, Jeanne Lehrmann, Sherrie Thompson, Harli Lueck, Tony Lueck, Amanda Lueck, Brad Moravek, Dustin Keller, Dori Dieterich, Billy Heaton, Lu Ann Borth, Kevin Hogg, Tony Paradise, Debra McCormick & Mike Dixon

Visitor's Comments:

1. Glenna Sandhoff addressed council in support of Ryan Dieterich and asked that he be reinstated.
2. Becky Kinder said she wanted to show her support for Ryan Dieterich. She said she believed that Cospers wanted to make way for his own people. She also said she supported him for the appointment of Interim Chief and hoped that Patrick Bellringer would also come back.
3. Kelly Burke stated that there were issues with Ryan Dieterich involving a call to Ryan Dieterich from Denise Krumnow pertaining to a domestic disturbance in the neighborhood.
4. Ray Woodruff spoke in support of Ryan Dieterich. Mr. Woodruff said that he was a veteran officer of 23 years with Waco PD and the Sheriff's department and that he has worked alongside Ryan over the years assisting him on many occasions said he could vouch for Ryan's professional abilities and that Ryan was very conscientious. He asked for transparency within the city and the police department.
5. Tom Flanary Jr. yielded his 3 minutes to Dori Dieterich
6. Bill Barker jokingly stated that he was not there to speak on behalf of Ryan Dieterich, but went on to say that he was there on behalf of Sandy Creek Power Station to invite the city council members to visit and tour the power plant.
7. Leigh Ann Holloway thanked the council for addressing her previous complaint against Chief Cospers. She mentioned several issues with the police department, including what she described as a delayed response by former Chief Cospers to respond to her report of a three-car accident where a woman was trapped inside a vehicle, and his failure to respond to open records requests over the same matter. She said that she believed the lack of response was due to the fact that he did not want the public to know that he did not immediately respond to a car accident after it was reported. Mrs. Holloway also spoke highly of Ryan Dieterich and asked that the council reinstate him.
8. Courtney Cormier stated that the job for police officer has not been posted. Secretary Flanary responded and stated that there actually was an advertisement flyer that was posted stating that the city was hiring a chief and officers. Courtney then mentioned that there was only a job description listed for the Chief position and wanted the council to be aware that it could be a concern.
9. Dustin Keller, stated that he was a previous council member and attended all meetings and that he wanted the public to know why Ryan was fired. He stated that Ryan fired for insubordination, whether it was right or wrong and then he said that Ryan had 70 hours of unlogged time in the CopSync software.

10. Kevin Hogg stated that he was that his comments were in reference to comments made at a previous meeting about a month ago where he was accused of depending on a certain number of tows from the Riesel Police Department. He then directly addressed former Councilman, Dustin Keller, and said that if you trust someone else to make your money when you're self-employed, you'll be out of business very quick because nobody cares about your business like you do. He went on to say that the city paid Matt and Lloyd a lot more than 70 hours to perform a bogus investigation on him and his family for allegedly doing illegal tows.
11. Dori Dieterich stated that Matt Cospers and Walter Lloyd resigned before official complaints against them could be recorded in their police personnel files. She stated that it had been brought to the Council's attention on several occasions that there had been possible policy violations and state statute violations made by Officer Lloyd at Scruffy Murphy's on May 6th, 2023. There had been several requests for Council to review the body cam video of the incident, but she stated that Riesel PD disputed the existence of such a video. She went on to say that she believed the denial of the existence of the video was simply to conceal possible policy violations and state statute violations. She said that she has never seen the video in question and that she does not have the video, but she was told about it and that improper behavior was going on. Mrs. Dieterich then said she placed an open records request with the City of Waco Police Department asking for information regarding all incidents that happened on May 6th, 2023 and on page 2 of the incident report, it named Walter Lloyd as an involved party in the incident at Scruffy Murphy's at approximately 12:48am and that on page 5 of the report, Waco PD had written "contact Officer Lloyd at Riesel PD for the body cam video footage". Dori stated that they had asked former city council members to investigate this and the only response ever received was that there was no such video. Following this, another citizen placed an open records request with Riesel PD asking for just a list of all the videos recorded on officer Lloyd's body cam the night of May 6, 2023. In response to that records request, Chief Cospers responded that there were no videos available on May 6, 2023 from 12:01am to 6:00am. She said that Chief Cospers was telling them one thing and the City of Waco was telling them the complete opposite. Dori then stated that social media could be your best friend or your worst enemy. She said that she eventually reached out to the defendant from the incident through social media and corresponded with him. She said that she does not defend his actions in any way, but she asked him if he happened to have any video footage from the night of this incident and he did, and he sent them to her. She said she wanted the citizens of Riesel to know that Matt and Walter lied about the existence of body cam videos. She then sent those videos that she received from the defendant in the incident from May 6th and a formal complaint to the Riesel City Council and before they could take action on it, the officers resigned. She stated that in her formal complaint that she had asked the council and mayor to remove the server that those videos were stored upon and said that it should be turned over to the District Attorney or Texas Rangers to be investigated. She said that there is a digital footprint of everything and if those videos were deleted, there would be a time stamp of when that happened. She said she believed that council would find that if they were deleted, they were deleted after the public started asking about them.

Executive Session: at 6:57 PM city council members convened into a closed executive session, pursuant to Section 551.074 of the Government Code (V.C.T.A.) regarding personnel matters including but not limited to: assignments, duties, evaluation, employment actions, and hearing grievances regarding: **rehiring Ryan Dieterich as a police officer**

Reconvene: At 8:26 PM, council reconvened into open session, stating that no action had been taken during the closed executive session.

Rehire: Ralph May made a motion to rehire Ryan Dieterich as a Riesel Police Sergeant. Paul Winkler seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Executive Session: at 6:57 PM city council members convened into a closed executive session, pursuant to Section 551.074 of the Government Code (V.C.T.A.) regarding personnel matters including but not limited to: assignments, duties, evaluation, employment actions, and hearing grievances regarding: **Appointing an interim chief of police**
THIS ITEM WAS TABLED and no action was taken to appoint an interim chief of police

Patrol Officers: former Mayor Shaw had asked for this item to be on the agenda to discuss staffing the department back up to four officers. No action was taken on this matter.

Adjournment: With no further business, Mayor Pro Tem Hogg adjourned the meeting at 8:34PM

Mayor Pro Tem, Jennifer Hogg

Attest: Alisha Flanary, City Secretary