

**MINUTES
CITY COUNCIL – CITY OF JOSEPHINE
REGULAR MEETING
SEPTEMBER 9, 2024**

Mayor Turney called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

Council members present: Mayor Turney, Doug Ewing, Brad Ahlfinger, Dr. Sardo and Gary Chappell.

Council members absent: Alex Esquivel.

Pledge of Allegiance led by Mayor Turney.

Invocation – Dr. Sardo.

Hayde Spencer with the Royse City American Legion along with Post Commander James Watson, US Army were here to promote the number 988. This is a suicide and crisis lifeline number that is free, confidential and available 24/7, 365 days a year. September is National Suicide Month and is a National Month for suicide awareness. Two signs were presented to be placed at City Hall or out in the community. Mayor Turney presented a Proclamation by the City of Josephine proclaiming that the month of September 2024 is recognized as Suicide Prevention and Awareness Month.

Presentation by Bill Mason regarding the Josephine Area Chamber of Commerce. The city was recognized as an honorary member and a plaque was presented to the Council. They want to form a coalition with other cities from Lavon to Greenville. The city was invited to attend an event with complimentary wine and snacks at the Cedar Hollow Winery at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, September 10th.

Citizen Comments

Dr. Tonya Knowlton, Superintendent of Community ISD – here on behalf of the district to thank the city for partnering with CISD. The district will be hosting a city official tailgate party on October 4, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. at the administration building with hamburgers for all the officials from the cities they partner with. They also have passes for the football game that night and there will be a special section for the city officials, and they will be recognized throughout the night.

Consent Agenda

Doug Ewing made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Seconded by Brad Ahlfinger. All in favor, the motion passed.

Update from Project Manager Ethel Huggins representing AGCM regarding the Community Center and the Public Safety Building Projects. The city annex building has been added to the projects and work will start on Wednesday.

The question was asked about the budget showing good in the July report and this month the budget shows at risk. Ethel explained that is a waterline issue on the Public Safety Building site and they are working on a way to correct this. This was an unseen issue, and they have to report this, but they will work on getting the budget back to good.

Monthly Report from Dunaway/DBI – Jacob Dupuis.

Bids were opened for the North wastewater treatment plant on August 29, 2024, and Horton Excavating was the low bidder in the amount of 18.98 million. It is recommended that Council wait to award or reject the bids for the project until more information is available on approval of the Discharge Permit by TCEQ.

The Discharge Permit application has been placed on the TCEQ Commissioners Court meeting for October 11, 2024. Dunaway and City staff will be in attendance.

Questions were asked about Riverfield regarding flood plain for Phase 3 and Phase 4. Jacob addressed these questions.

Monthly Report from Kimley-Horn – Elizabeth Livergood was present for any questions. Holly McCuiston and Todd Strouse presented information on Elevated Storage Tanks.

Elizabeth Livergood – bids received for the Caddo Street Rehabilitation Project. Bids were opened on August 15, 2024, with four bids received. WOPAC Construction Inc. was the low bidder for this project at \$190,931.75.

Doug Ewing made a motion to award a contract to WOPAC Construction Inc. for the Caddo Street Rehabilitation Project in the amount of \$190,931.75. Seconded by Brad Ahlfinger. All in favor, the motion passed.

Final Plat – Riverfield Phase 3 located in the of Josephine ETJ and within the Riverfield Municipal Utility District No. 1 in Collin and Hunt counties.

Brad Ahlfinger made a motion to approve the Final Plat for Riverfield Phase 3. Seconded by Doug Ewing. All in favor, the motion passed.

Final Plat – Riverfield Phase 4 located in the City of Josephine ETJ and within the Riverfield Municipal Utility District No. 1 in Hunt County.

Brad Ahlfinger made a motion to approve the Final Plat for Riverfield Phase 4. Seconded by Doug Ewing. All in favor, the motion passed.

Receive a presentation from Police Chief Graham regarding Josephine area emergency preparedness.

Resolution approving the Master Fee Schedule for Fiscal Year 2024-2025. City Administrator Lisa Palomba went over the schedule.

Brad Ahlfinger made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2024-09-09 approving the Master Fee Schedule for Fiscal Year 2024-2025. Seconded by Doug Ewing. All in favor, the motion passed.

Ordinance declaring unopposed candidates for Mayor and Council member Place 5.

Doug Ewing made a motion to adopt an Ordinance declaring unopposed candidates for Mayor and Council Member Place 5 cancelling the November 5, 2024, City Council Election. Seconded by Brad Ahlfinger. All in favor, the motion passed.

JCDC expenditure to provided funding to the Josephine Area Chamber of Commerce for business startup grants.

Bill Mason explained the request.

Mayor Turney asked City Attorney Rob Dillard if this would be considered a legitimate expense for the JCDC.

Rob Dillard said that he was unable to find anything in the Local Government Code Chapters 501 and 505 that would include this as a project. They are required to have a project that is authorized by these chapters. The Council had concerns about how broad the information was.

Doug Ewing made a motion to deny an expenditure by the JCDC for \$2,000 to provide funding to the Josephine Area Chamber of Commerce for business startup grants. Seconded by Brad Ahlfinger. Gary Chappell in favor to deny and Dr. Sardo abstained from voting. Three in favor, the motion passed.

Josephine Community Development Corporation (JCDC) removal of some or all directors on the Board.

Gary Chappell asked why this is on the agenda because he was not aware of anything after the joint meeting with the Council and the JCDC and that things had been worked out.

Doug Ewing said that things that were discussed at that meeting have not been done and rules are not being followed.

Patrick Cusic – JCDC Board Member asked to speak. He was unaware of any rules not being followed.

Doug Ewing explained they had violated the Open Meetings Act by not following the rules for Executive Session. He also expressed lack of confidence that they were working in the best interests of the city.

Brad Ahlfinger also said that he had no information regarding why this was on the agenda, and he would like more information on this before he can vote.

Mayor Turney suggested that the Council be more involved in these meetings and get more information. He also suggested that the Council watch the online recording of meetings that the JCDC has had. This item was tabled until the next meeting.

The Regular Meeting was recessed at 7:43 p.m.

Executive Session at 7:45 p.m.

Pursuant to Section 551.071 – Government Code – Private consultation with the city attorney. The City Council will meet in Executive Session (closed meeting) regarding staggered elections for council member places.

Adjourn Executive Session.

The Regular Meeting was reconvened at 7:53 p.m.

There was no action taken in Executive Session.

Items for future agendas. There were no items requested.

Dr. Sardo asked about getting an updated Municipal Utility District Map and any updates regarding the Unified Development Code and any meeting minutes available.

Doug Ewing made a motion to adjourn. Seconded by Brad Ahlfinger. All in favor, the motion passed.

ATTEST:

Patti Brooks, City Secretary

APPROVED BY:

Jason Turney, Mayor