

The regular meeting of the Rule City Council was called to order at 5:30 p.m.

In attendance were Mayor Delle Watkins, Kimberly Eaton, Sandy Flores, Marshall Bradford, and Kim Stulir. Kyle Kitley was absent. Also in attendance was Hugh Brady, Joyce Ramirez, Jeffrey Murray, Tye Stulir, Doris Williams, Angela Hertel, Dallas Willis, Hannah Hertel, Mona and Terry Anderson, Chris Keith (Sheriff Dept.) and Kenny Barrett (Haskell P.D.)

Mayor Delle Watkins opened the meeting with a prayer followed by the pledge of allegiance.

Approving of last meeting minutes. The minutes were looked over and Kim Stulir made the motion to approve the minutes and Sandy Flores seconded. All in favor.

Dallas Willis with Rule I.S.D. was here to present a proposal to the city for a community project the FFA/AG dept. wanted to do. They want to paint some things in the park like the awnings, stage area and bathrooms. They will buy the paint and do the work. The Rule ISD 8th grade class and the Rule FFA will paint in the spring. They wanted the approval from the City Council. Marshall Bradford made the motion and Kimberly Eaton seconded. All in favor.

PUBLIC COMMENTS- Mona Anderson spoke about the chickens running loose and being in her yard. She also spoke about the houses around town that need to be cleaned up or torn down. Hugh told her we have a Code Enforcer in place now and he is addressing these problems. No written comments.

Tye spoke about the Law Enforcement proposal. Sheriff Department proposal- Chris Keith said about a 1/3 of their calls are from Rule. Chris said the Sheriff dept. has standing orders for people roaming in the alleys and they are being cited. He also said he has quite a few people from Rule in jail now. A contract with the Sheriff Dept. would be for patrol. At this time, he doesn't have enough personnel to patrol full time, coverage is an issue. He would like to talk with Rochester also to see if both towns could contribute to the Sheriff Dept. to pay for an additional officer to patrol just in Rule and Rochester and Hwy 6. If this happens, he would want the citations to go to the cities and not Haskell. He will try to work on figures and approvals for this. Police Department proposal- This would be with the City hiring their own police officer, The initial cost could be around \$143,000. This would be salary, vehicle, equipment and training. Police Chief Kenny Barnett and Tye spoke about grants to help with the startup. Tye stated that a USDA grant could offset some of the cost. Kenny also said that Haskell uses a finance company called Rockdale for their vehicles. USDA and West Texas Council of Government has grant.

Sandy Flores asked Chris how long it would take to put something in place. Chris said he would have to find deputies and they can't get anyone to apply. He also said it takes about 7 months to get through the academy. Kim Stulir asked if we did contract with the Sheriff Dept., and something came up would we not have an officer? Chris said no, if we are contributing, he would not pull the officer because of a shortage with the Sheriff Dept. He would have rotation of the deputies.

It was mentioned that an upside to restarting a police dept. would with our ordinances, the sheriff dept can't help with city ordinances. Kim Stulir said she would look for grants and Sandy Flores said we would

wait and see what the figures would be. Delle said the Sheriff Dept. is the most doable with our budget. Chris will try to get some rough figures before our next meeting.

New Audit Company- We will put this item on next month's agenda.

The financials of Deposit were looked over. The bills to pay were looked over for approval. Sandy Flores made the motion to approve the bills and Kim Stulir seconded. All in favor.

MUNICIPAL COURT- Tye gave his report. He discussed the FundView software program. The initial cost for the startup will be \$6250.00 and then it will be \$2750.00 every year after. This software generates all the reports and the comptroller fees. If we go with either the Sheriff Dept or a PD will need this in place. The program is for the Municipal Court. Kim Stulir made the motion to budget this and Kimberly Eaton seconded. All in favor.

CEMETERY REPORT- Jeffrey gave his report. He cut down two trees. He made sure with Delle before he removed the trees that were in bad shape. He received the quote for the Pre-emergence and the price is \$518.00. He will do the park and the cemetery. Sandy Flores made the motion to buy the chemical and Kim Stulir seconded. All in favor.

PUBLIC WORKS- Hugh gave his report. They ran the sewer on 600 block of Adams, fixed water leak at the gin meter, had to run a new line from the main and 2 new valves. Water leak at 701 Adams, changed out the curb stop. Changed out the curb stop at 611 Central. Waiting on Harn R/O quote to do the cleaning of membranes and the annual inspection. During Freeze the chlorine line froze in the chlorine room so added a bigger heater, worked on dump bed trailer doors, waiting on Interstate to replace bad battery. The County bladed roads, went around on tractor cleaning up dirt on sides of the roads, have added road base to some spots and patched holes with asphalt. Worked on the intersection of 13th and Pawnee, priced 2- 15X40 culverts \$27/ft. total\$2160.00. Brian passed his wastewater D test. His raise will be on next paycheck. The ARP money that is left will be used to HyroVac the meter cans, Kelly will invoice us for this.

FIRE REPORT- Hugh gave his report. Had a vehicle fire 2 miles south of town, EMS assist and they have sent 4 members to fire school, they have attended 2 classes and have 3 remaining.

Kim Stulir Made the motion to adjourn and Kimberly Eaton seconded. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 7:09 pm