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"Crossroads to the Metroplex"

**CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
REGULAR SESSION**

**September 10th,** 2015

Mayor Michelle Pittman called the meeting to order at 7:00pm and announced a quorum. Council Members present were Jo Ann Wilson, Ronnie Moore, Dawn Davis, and Tim Robison.

Staff Present: City Secretary Angie Young, and City Attorney Walt Leonard

Citizen David Wilson gave the invocation and Mayor Pittman led the assembly in the pledge of allegiance.

**Citizens Presentations and Public Input for Future Agenda Items**

Dana Gillock spoke regarding water bill due dates and fees. She also spoke regarding her termination.

Ramah Burns spoke regarding a statement she wrote on 9/23/14 concerning several incidents involving Brandon Davis. She also spoke regarding the city finances, more on incidents involving Brandon Davis, the firing of city officials, and a complaint made against her husband.

Robin Holmes spoke regarding city council representation from each region of the city and also on city finances.

Tommie Eason spoke regarding her husband’s previous presentation and petition to be appointed to vacant council seat and on diversity on city council

Sam Eason spoke as to his knowledge of city government, regrets on his previous presentation, his intentions to continue to address concerns, and any mistaken information on comments made by him. He also spoke to the filling of the vacancy on city council.

Judy Almeada spoke regarding her long time residency and her approval of Sam Eason.

LeeAnne Mackowski spoke regarding her support for Sam Eason and the public interest.

Kenny Crenshaw spoke regarding his disagreement with the firing of the City Attorney and his support of Sam Eason to fill the vacancy

**Announcements from Mayor and Council Members**

Council Member Wilson reminded everyone that the Fall Festival is coming up and we still need volunteers.

**Consent Agenda**

Debbie Stewart of the Parks & Recreation Board said a parade permit had been signed off on by the Chief of Police. Mayor Pittman reminded Chief Davis that any raises were pending until city council had a chance to discuss them. Council member Wilson made a motinon to approve the Consent Agenda and Council Member Moore seconded the motion. All voted aye, the motion carried.

**Executive Session**

At 7:45pm council convened into Executive Session. At 9:11pm council reconvened into open session. No action was taken as a result of the Executive Session.

**Old Business**

Sam Eason addressed the council reading the City Attorney. He stated that the current attorney has served well and asked what his offenses are. Council Member Moore stated it is a trust issue and one that for legal reasons he cannot go into. After a brief discussion Council Member Moore made a motion to remove the city attorney for no confidence. Council Member Wilson seconded the motion. All voted aye, the motion carried. Council Member Wilson read a resolution citing Texas Local Government Code section 22.07(b) and section 1.06.002 of the City Code. Mayor Pittman directed Walt Leonard to assist in transitioning to new legal counsel at reasonable costs

Sam Eason addressed council regarding the vacant seat. He said he is for representation from each region of Rhome. He said it is sticking to diversity and strengthening democracy. Mayor Pittman explained the vacancy as it relates to a special election. Council Member Wilson made a motion to appoint Jeff Becraft to the vacant seat. Council member Robison seconded the motion. Council Member Davis abstained from voting, all others voted aye. The motion carried.

Mayor Pittman explained the city auditor resigned a few months ago and that we have received one proposal from Bill Spore. Council Member Wilson said Mr. Spore also works for Newark, Boyd, and Pelican Bay. She also noted that we paid the last auditor $24,000.00 and this proposal of for $12,000.00. Council Member Wilson made a motion to appoint Bill Spore as the City Auditor and Council Member Davis seconded the motion. All voted aye, the motion carried.

**New Business**

Council Member Wilson made a motion to establish November 14th as the date for the Veteran’s Day Program. Council Member Moore seconded the motion. All voted aye, the motion carried.

Council Member Robison addressed the need for a 36 month review of the west sewer plant. He explained that we need to look at 18-20 months of costs and the need to stop throwing money at it. Mayor Pittman agreed and asked for a due date. Council Member Robison said after the budget and conferred with the City Secretary that it would take about eight weeks. Council Member Wilson said it is so old an update may not be feasible. Planning & Zoning Member Julie Weldon is looking into grants for infrastructure. Mayor Pittman asked David Wilson to assist on the matter.

Mayor Pittman met with representatives of USW Utility and they have scheduled a tour of the facilities. They will provide a quote based on services they can provide by the end of next week. Citizen David Wilson said there are Public Works for hire companies out there and they come one good but don’t meet the city’s needs. He said he does not think it will work and the costs are outrageous. Council Member Wilson asked David Wilson to go on the tour of the facilities.

Council Member Wilson said she spoke with the former mayor of Newark and they had used Amazing Grants. She also noted that the city’s engineers can also assist with getting grants and she would like to set up a meeting. Julie Weldon from the Planning & Zoning Board also noted the names of several agencies that have grants to offer.

Mayor Pittman said she had a citizen request from Dan Sessler regarding the sound system in the council chambers. She said that Mr. Sessler can put speakers in the ceiling and run lines to the back. His services are free of charge with the city paying just for the equipment. Mayor Pittman also noted that we can utilize finds in the court security account to pay for the equipment. Council Member Robison asked Mayor Pittman to clarify if these were the same funds used to pay for the bailiff uniforms. Mayor Pittman said she will see what is left in that fund after bailiff uniforms are paid for.

**Adjourn**

At 9:59pm, there being no further business Council Member Wilson made a motion to adjourn and Council Member Robison seconded the motion. All toed aye, the motion carried.

 **CERTIFICATION:**

 **Passed and approved on this the 22nd day of September, 2015.**

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 **Michelle Pittman, Mayor**

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 **Angie Young, City Secretary**