



INGRAM CITY COUNCIL AGENDA MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING ON TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2023

The meeting facility is wheelchair accessible and accessible parking spaces are provided. Requests for accommodations or interpretative services must be made to the City Secretary 48 hours prior to this meeting. Please contact the City Secretary's office at 830-367-5115 for further information.

CALL TO ORDER:

On February 21, 2023, at 6:00 P.M., the Ingram City Council Regular Meeting was called to order by Mayor Claud Jordan at City Hall, 230 Hwy 39, Ingram Texas.

ROLL CALL:

Mayor Claud Jordan-Present
Mayor Pro Tem Rocky Hawkins-Present
Councilman Robert Kimbrough- Present
Councilman David Britton-Present
Councilwoman Twanda Brown-Present
Councilman Ray Howard-Present

CITY STAFF:

Police Chief Glenn Juenke - Present
City Secretary Ruby Nix - Present

Prayer: Councilman R. Howard

1. CITY EVENTS, ANNOUNCEMENTS AND PROCLAMATIONS:

1 A. Texas History Month

2. VISITORS/CITIZENS FORUM: COMMENT PERIOD-LIMITED TO THREE (3) MINUTES

TOTAL: None

3. CONSENT AGENDA:

Possible action to approve minutes from Ingram City Council Regular Meeting held on February 7, 2023. Councilman Kimbrough made a motion to approve these minutes. Councilwoman Brown seconded the motion and the motion carried 5-0 votes.

DB – aye

RK – aye

TB – aye

RH – aye

RH – aye

4. CONSIDERATION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON BUSINESS ITEMS:

4. A. Phase III Wastewater update. (Greg White) On week 41, with 10,224' of pipe laid, 40 manholes and 45 service connections. Mineola St has been completed. We have now started on Winona towards Moore St; we'll end up crossing the street at Clark St where we'll tie in and will start decommissioning septic systems after we've done our testing. The winter storm created a mess. The general contractor has been laying base to try and make the roads a little better. Mr. White then went through and described what various pictures were depicting.

- 4 B. Mr. Dickie and Ms. Russell of 119 Mineola St wish to speak to council regarding damages to lawn and trees on their property by phase III construction. Mr. Dickie brought in his cell phone and passed it around to members of the Council and Mayor showing them the issues that he previously reported to Council at the last council meeting. Mr. White stated that he would find out how to proceed with replacing trees and dirt that Mr. Dickie has requested. *No action needed by council.*
- 4 C. Occupancy permit purpose? (R. Nix) *Tabled*
- 4 D. Wastewater Tap Fee and Capital Recovery Fee (R. Nix/Mayor Jordan) Mayor Jordan asked Mr. John Sheffield to address the council with information that he has regarding the \$3800 Capital Recovery Fee and the \$1200 Tap Fee. Mr. Sheffield provided copies of information to the Council and Mayor from a congressional inquiry that he had made regarding "what is a colonia?" Ingram was designated as a colonia by the county commissioners. The response was that the colonia financing is delivered by 306C water and wastewater disposal programs to low-income, rural communities who's residence face significant health risks. Funds may be used to construct, enlarge, extend, or otherwise improve community water and/or waste disposal systems. The project may include residential, commercial, municipal and other users; however, connections to vacant lots for future development are generally not allowed. Mr. Sheffield was present in April 2013 when Chris Hughes presented the proposal to council in Mayor Salter had advised that this was just for residential. Mr. Sheffield advised that he has a list from the USDA state office that show 989 locations that was turned in by the engineer to the USDA to be funded for the colonia. One of those addresses that was submitted was for his store, Ole Ingram Grocery, 3298 Junction Hwy, Ingram. In other words it was put on the list to be funded for. Mr. Sheffield also advised after many litigations that th3e documents are clear that it was never intended for businesses to pay in addition to or more than residential. This was decided here way before the current council took office. Mr. Sheffield is unsure where the capital recovery fee came from or what its for, its something that someone came up with here, not from the government. He was asked what he thought that fee should be as a tax payer and he advised that the City of Comfort both commercial and residential customers pay \$500. Mr. Sheffield made FOIA requests inquiring what debt that \$5000 went to and could never get any information showing what that \$5000 was contributed to. There were no funds returned to USDA by the City of Ingram. Mayor Jordan proposed that we change possibly change the fees to \$250 tap fee and \$250 for the capital recovery. Councilwoman Brown advised that due to the length of time that has passed we should make some inquiries. Councilman Hawkins advised that we should make the inquiry through the city attorney. *Subject has been tabled for the time being.*
- 4 E. Public Works scope of work changing to "Building Maintenance/Street Signs" and consider hiring third party to work on the streets and potholes. (G. Juenke) Chief Juenke advised that public works is not equipped to handle street construction or repair at all; never have been, and never will be with the people we have working for us. *No further information was provided requiring a vote.*
- 4 F. Wastewater language, balanced billing process for businesses, increase to new wastewater admin fee/deposit and late fee amounts. (G. Juenke) Chief Juenke advised that we've run into a problem with this due to Aqua America not wanting to give us a list of the customers that they provide water to in our community. He has put in a simple request that since they can give us a move in and move out list then they should be able to give us their list of customers to cross reference with the wastewater customer's that we have. We want to make it easier for businesses by doing balanced billing similar to how other municipalities around us do. And he got an email response back that its tied up in legal. *Tabled*
- 4 G. City will not pay bills without proper paperwork. (G. Juenke) Chief Juenke request that we not pay bills without having a statement. For instance, the house next door there are two different amounts listed in the sellers agreement and the loan is at 8%. We

have never received a bill and the contact gave us a totally different amount that's due each month. He advises council that we should pay this off immediately. Councilman Kimbrough made the motion that no bill shall be paid without a statement. Councilman Howard seconded the motion and the motion carried 5-0.

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- 4 H. Use HOT funds to build a public restroom at the Event Grounds. (Mayor Jordan) The Mayor proposed to obtain bids to have a two stall female and two stall male bathroom be built down at the event grounds. This could be very beneficial when the eclipse happens. Councilwoman Brown made a motion to approve getting bids for this project once its confirmed that HOT funds can be used for such a build. Councilman Hawkins seconded the motion and the motion carried 5-0

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5. ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS: None

6. STAFF REPORTS:

6. A. City Secretary report. (R. Nix) I included in the council packets a breakdown from bill.com showing what bills have been paid. I have also made some calls inquiring as to what it would cost to run the electrical lines and conduit at the park due to it not being able to be done pro bono do to other paying obligations. We ended up having some vandalism at the park, if the electric had been run, so that our security cameras were installed we would have been able to identify suspects. All of the candidate applicant information has been turned in and today was the last day for write in candidates to have submitted their applications. Due to there only being 3 candidates the county will be sending us the cancellation form to cancel our election. I have spent the last hour of today searching for asphalt paving courses for the public works employees to attend should the council choose to not change their scope of work. On February 23rd I'll be attending the Kerr county eclipse meeting. We are ushering in a new era at IPD with the administrative assistant work being delegated to the officers to get paperwork and electronic reports ready for submission to the county attorney and district attorneys. I have typed up instructions listing the different steps that are involved in this process.

6. B. Police Departments stats and updates. (Chief Juenke) Chief Juenke advised council that pd has responded to 114 calls and have written 20 citations. There are 6 sex offenders that live in the Ingram area. We still have a dispatcher opening and 2 officer positions that we are seeking to feel.

In regards to wastewater billing, Ruby and I have uncovered when Ruby exported the information from the Caselle billing software to an excel spreadsheet that there are several businesses who's meters have never been read in years. We initiated an internal investigation and when we interviewed 3 employees all we got was conflicting statements, he said, she said, and past administrators said. It's a mess and Mr. Sheffield information just adds on to startling statistics and the information he has given us is compatible with what I have in an excel spreadsheet. There's never been a forensic investigation into the Wastewater fund.

7. OLD/NEW BUSINESS INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION: None

8. **INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION:** None

9. **ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS:**

- 9. A. Easter Egg Hunt.
- 9. B. Occupancy Permit.
- 9. C. Eclipse Workshop @ 5 prior to next regular meeting
- 9. D. Wastewater Tap Fee and pricing
- 9. E. Pumps

10. **EXECUTIVE SESSION:** Mayor Jordan called for an executive session at 7:03

11. **ACTON ON ITEMS DISCUSSED IN EXECUTIVE SESSION, IF ANY:**

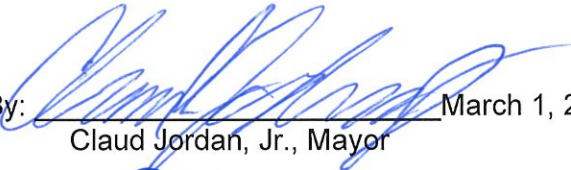
Mayor Jordan called council back into regular session at 8:06. Councilwoman Brown made the motion to rescind the 10/19/2021 order that had made the Chief of Police the supervisor of the City Hall supervisors/department heads. Councilman Howard seconded the motion and the motion carried 5-0 votes.

- DB – aye
- RK – aye
- TB – aye
- RH – aye
- RH – aye

ADJOURNMENT:

Councilman Hawkins made the motion to adjourn at 8:06 P.M. Councilman Britton seconded the motion and the motion carried 5 to 0 votes.

- DB – aye
- RK – aye
- TB – aye
- RH – aye
- RH – aye

Approved By:  March 1, 2023
 Claud Jordan, Jr., Mayor

Attest: 
 Ruby Nix, City Secretary