

MINUTES OF THE CROCKETT CITY COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON THE 27th DAY OF MARCH 2023 IN THE CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS, LOCATED AT 200 NORTH FIFTH IN THE CITY OF CROCKETT, HOUSTON COUNTY TEXAS AT 6:00 P.M.

THE COUNCIL MET IN SPECIAL SESSION WITH THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS PRESENT: IANTHIA FISHER, GENE CALDWELL, DARRELL JONES, ERNEST JACKSON & MIKE MARSH. CITY OFFICIALS PRESENT: CITY SECRETARY MITZI STEFKA AND CITY ADMINISTRATOR JOHN ANGERSTEIN. MARQUITA BEASLEY NOT PRESENT.

OPEN MEETING WITH INVOCATION AND PLEDGE

Mayor Fisher called the formal session open. Council member Jackson gave the invocation and all joined in the pledge.

RECOGNITION OF VISITORS

Mayor Fisher recognized all visitors present.

COMMENTS FROM AUDIENCE OR COUNCIL *(At this time, anyone will be allowed to speak on City related matters only; no personnel matters or matters under litigation will be allowed. The length of time may not exceed three minutes. NO Council discussion or action may take place on a matter until such matter has been placed on an agenda and posted in accordance with law.)*

- Natrina Hicks – Concerns about suspension of CEIDC
- Darrell Jones – Inquiry about status of CEIDC investigation

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: REGULAR SESSION - MARCH 6, 2023

Mayor Pro Tem Marsh made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 6, 2023 Regular Session. Council member Jackson seconded the motion. Motion passes 4-0.

2. POLICE DEPARTMENT MANPOWER & CRIMINAL INCIDENT REPORT FOR FEBRUARY 2023

Chief Smith was unable to attend and provided a written report for the council. February 2023: 15 total manpower, 2,334 total manpower hours, 346 total calls and 6 total accidents. Mayor Pro Tem Marsh made a motion to accept the report. Council member Jackson seconded the motion. Motion passes 4-0.

3. PRESENTATION / DISCUSSION / ACCEPTANCE OF FISCAL YEAR 2022 FINANCIAL AUDIT

Molly Abele from the accounting firm of Axley & Rode presented the preliminary audit report. The audit received a qualified opinion due to the inability of the firm to inspect CEIDC financials during the ongoing investigation. Council member Jackson made a motion to accept the audit. Council member Caldwell seconded the motion. Motion passes 4-0.

4. CONSIDER AND APPROVE A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CROCKETT, HOUSTON COUNTY, TEXAS APPOINTING THE ELECTION OFFICIALS FOR THE MAY 6, 2023 GENERAL ELECTION, SETTING THE RATE OF PAY FOR THE ELECTION OFFICIALS, THE MAXIMUM NUMBER OF ELECTION CLERKS FOR THE POLLING PLACE AND DESIGNATION OF THE EARLY VOTING BALLOT BOARD

Mayor Pro Tem Marsh made a motion to approve the Resolution appointing the election officials for the May 6, 2023 general election, setting the rate of pay for the election officials, the maximum number of election clerks for the polling place and the designation of the early voting ballot board. Council member Caldwell seconded the motion. Motion passes 4-0.

5. CONSIDER AND APPROVE DESIGNATION OF DEPUTY EARLY VOTING CLERKS

Council member Caldwell made a motion to approve the designation of Selena Eleby and John Angerstein as Deputy Early Voting Clerks. Mayor Pro Tem Marsh seconded the motion. Motion fails 3-2 with Mayor Fisher casting the deciding vote. Council members Jones and Jackson opposed the motion. Council member Jones made a motion to approve the designation with the exclusion of John Angerstein. Council member Jackson seconded the motion. Motion passes 3-1. Council member Caldwell opposed the motion.

6. CONSIDER AND APPROVE A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CROCKETT, TEXAS, SELECTING A GRANT WRITER / ADMINISTRATOR TO ASSIST THE CITY WITH THE SUBMITTAL OF AN APPLICATION FOR FUNDING AND ADMINISTRATION OF A CONTRACT, IF AWARDED, FROM THE TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE (TDA) FOR THE TEXAS COMMUNITY BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM – DOWNTOWN REVITALIZATION PROGRAM FUND (CDBG-DRP)

Mayor Pro Tem Marsh made a motion to approve the resolution selecting the firm of Traylor & Associates to assist the city with the submittal of an application for funding and administration of a contract, if awarded, from the Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA) for the Texas Community Block Grant Program – Downtown Revitalization Program Fund (CDBG-DRP). Council member Jackson seconded the motion. Motion passes 4-0

7. DISCUSSION REGARDING OUTSOURCING BUILDING PLAN REVIEWS, PERMITS AND INSPECTIONS

Mr. Angerstein explained the increased permitting and inspection workload due to economic growth in the city. Councilman Jackson made a motion to instruct the City Administrator to request information/proposals from third parties. Council member Jones seconded the motion. Motion passes 3-1. Council member Caldwell opposed the motion.

8. PRESENTATION OF KEEP TEXAS BEAUTIFUL PROGRAM AND CONSIDER AND APPROVE A "KEEP CROCKETT BEAUTIFUL" APPLICATION

Mr. Angerstein explained Crockett had membership in the Keep Texas Beautiful Program 10 years ago, but it had lapsed due to difficulty in keeping up with the program requirements. He introduced Scott Sheley to present information about the application process and program expectations. Council member Jones made a motion to move forward with the application process. Council member Jackson seconded the motion. Motion passes 4-0.

9. CONSIDER AND APPROVE AGREEMENT WITH RETAIL STRATEGIES, LLC FOR DOWNTOWN STRATEGIES WORKSHOP, MARKET ANALYSIS, AND DOWNTOWN STRATEGIC PLAN

Mayor Pro Tem Marsh made a motion to approve an agreement with Retail Strategies, LLC for downtown strategies workshop, market analysis and downtown strategic plan. Council member Caldwell seconded the motion. Motion passes 4-0.

10. EXECUTIVE SESSION - GOV. CODE 551.074 – PERSONNEL MATTERS. CONSIDER ANNUAL PERFORMANCE EVALUATION OF CITY ADMINISTRATOR

Mayor Fisher stated council would convene into Executive Session per: Gov. Code Section 551.074 – Personnel Matters. Consider Annual Performance Evaluation of City Administrator. Time was 7:12 P.M. Council member Jackson excused himself from the meeting before the executive session convened.

11. RECONVENE INTO REGULAR SESSION AND CONSIDER ACTION, IF ANY, ON EXECUTIVE ITEMS

Mayor Fisher reconvened the meeting into open session. Time was 7:49 P.M.

Mayor Pro Tem Marsh made a motion to accept the performance evaluation as favorable and renew the City Administrator's employment contract for five (5) years. Council member Caldwell seconded the motion. Motion passes 2-1. Council member Jones opposed the motion.

ADJOURNMENT

Without objection, Mayor Fisher adjourned the meeting at 7:51 P.M.

Dr. Ianthia Fisher, Mayor

ATTEST:

Mitzi Stefka, City Secretary