

Minutes

April 25th, 2023

@ 9:00am

Council Workshop

1. Call to Order @ 9:00am
2. Roll Call: Fladmark, Dumont, Lawhon, Brasfield, Figueroa, and Holley. Brasfield Absent. The Quorum was established with Mayor Lawhon presiding.
3. Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance
4. **Citizen Comments:** Citizens wishing to speak on an agenda item must sign up to do so (3 Minute Maximum)
 - a. Billie Hathaway asked where the park was mentioned on the agenda. City Administrator Julius Kizzee stated that the park was to be discussed on Items Eight and Nine.
5. City Administrator Kizzee led general discussion on the possible dates to hold Budget Workshops. City Administrator Kizzee concluded by stating that his intent was to Adopt the Tax Rate and Budget during the Regular Council Meeting which will be held September 21st, 2023.
6. Councilmember Figueroa stated that he expects big growth for Tool within the next ten years. Councilmember Figueroa continued by stating that the ten-year plan for the city should include the Park and a City Hall Renovation. Councilmember Figueroa concluded by stating that the City of Tool needs to establish a vision for the future and advised that hiring a consultant would be beneficial for establishing new roads, new neighborhoods and assisting in annexations.
7. Councilmember Figueroa discussed the 81-acre tract of land located on Joe Dupree/Arnold Hills Road being developed to create a City Square and that it would provide a method to create a marina. Councilmember Figueroa continued by stating that this would be a means to promote tourism to the city. Councilmember Figueroa concluded by stating that the 81 acres is currently for sale, and that he told the potential new owner of the vision for Tool, and they are for the idea of this project. Councilmember Holley agreed that building on the lake is going to be the best option for development and that taking a bold direction it will increase property values and lower property taxes. Councilmember Fladmark stated that he would like to see nature being maintained on the land.
(Break was taken @ 11:07 am. Reconvened @ 11:27 am.)
8. City Administrator Kizzee stated that the options we have for City Hall would be to either conjoin City Hall to the Oran White Civic Center, build a new City Hall or renovate the current City Hall. Councilmember Figueroa stated that this must be done and that the city has the money for this project. Councilmember Holley agreed that this project must allow for growth for all departments. Councilmember Holley discussed which department would be in the old building and the new building.
9. City Administrator Kizzee stated that this 4A Economic Development Corporation would be funded by sales tax and that this is a need for Tool. Councilmember Figueroa stated that this will be overseen by the City Council and that there will be five Board Members. Councilmember Fladmark stated that the City Council must remain in control and that there should be term limits for this Corporation. Councilmember Fladmark continued by stating that this should be an appointed position and that it should be limited to residents only. City Administrator Kizzee stated that Section 504 and Section 505 of the Texas Local Government Code outlines what projects can be funded through this. Councilmember Figueroa stated that there will need to be checks and balances in place. Councilmember Fladmark recommend that City Administrator Kizzee reach out to TML regarding this Corporation. Councilmember Dumont stated that the city does not need a second City Council.
10. City Administrator Kizzee stated that people need help and resources and that a Neighborhood Infrastructure Reinvestment Program could help. City Administrator Kizzee continued by cautioning that

this program could be abused if precautions are not put into place. Councilmember Figueroa stated that Hotel Occupancy Tax money could be used to help clean up the city. Councilmember Dumont stated that the Hotel Occupancy Tax money has very specific uses and would like to ensure that it could be used for this project. Councilmember Figueroa concluded by stating that city clean-up is most important.

11. City Administrator Kizsee stated that all positions are below average pay with the exception of the Court Clerk position which is above average pay. City Administrator Kizsee stated that his intent was to put all employees on a pay scale that factors in years of service and work demands. City Administrator Kizsee stated that his intention was to reopen the City Clerk position as soon as possible with the hope of having it filled by June 1st, 2023.

(Break was taken @ 1:06 pm. Reconvened @ 1:34 pm.)

12. City Administrator Kizsee stated that the most pressing staffing needs were hiring a City Clerk, a possible Full-Time City Controller and another Police Officer.
13. Councilmember Figueroa stated that there are currently no liquor sales in the City of Tool. Councilmember Figueroa continued by explaining the petition process for a liquor election.
14. City Administrator Kizsee stated that Emergency Sirens are costly and that the city should go out for grants. Councilmember Fladmark and Councilmember Figueroa recommended that the city consider hiring a grant writer for the sirens. Maintenance Supervisor Frank Martin provided several quotes of the emergency sirens and stated that the software cost was included in these quotes.
15. After Amendment, Motion to approve variance for Kevin Roberts on 64 Tangle was made by Councilmember Figueroa. No Second motion was made.
16. Councilmember Fladmark discussed the city's recycling contract, widening Highway 274 and adopting the newest International Building Codes.

Closing

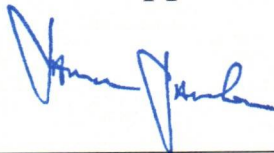
17. Staff
18. Next Meeting: May 18th, 2023
19. Adjourn @ 2:15 pm

A meeting that is "open to the public", pursuant to the Open Meetings Act, is one that the public is permitted to attend. The act does not entitle the public to choose the items to be discussed or to speak about items on the agenda. If the City Council, during the course of the meeting covered by this notice, should determine that an executive session is required, then such executive session, as authorized by the Texas Open Meetings Act, Texas Government Code, Section 551.001 et seq., will be held by the Council at the date, hour and place given in this notice, concerning but not limited to the following sections and purposes of the Act: 551.071 Private consultation with the city's attorney; 551.072 Deliberations about Real Property; or, 551.074 Discussing personnel or to hear complaints against personnel. Should any final action, final decision or final vote be required in the opinion of the City Council with regard to any matter considered in such executive session, then the final action, final decision or final vote shall be in the open meeting covered by this Notice upon the reconvening of the public meeting.

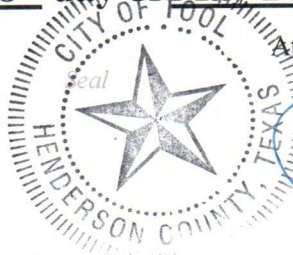
"Pursuant to Texas Government Code section 551.007, members of the public may speak on an agenda item during the citizens comment section of the meeting or at the time the agenda item is called for discussion by the Mayor. Speakers must sign up with the City Secretary to speak and shall be given three (3) minutes to speak. A speaker needing a translator and/or interpreter may be given six (6) minutes to speak. Criticism of city employees or staff is prohibited. Those wishing to address the Council regarding an item not on the agenda must be a citizen, property owner or business owner of Tool. Comments on such non-agenda items shall be limited to three minutes. The Council will not comment on items not on the agenda; however, the Council may refer the item to city staff for research, resolution or referral of the matter to the Council as a future agenda item."

I certify that the above notice of meeting, a true and correct copy, was posted on the bulletin board in front of Tool City Hall prior to the required 72 hours and that the city's official newspaper was notified.

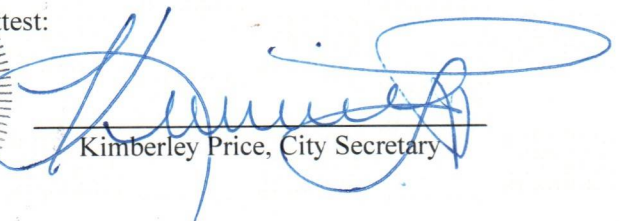
Passed and approved this 18th day of May 2023.



Tommy Lawhon, Mayor



Attest:



Kimberley Price, City Secretary