

## **BRYAN BOARD OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS**

**FEBRUARY 21, 2017**

Board of Public Affairs Chairman Richard Long opened the meeting of the Bryan Board of Public Affairs with the following members present: Jim Salsbury, Karen Ford, William Pepple, and Tom Sprow. Also present were: Director of Utilities Rob Berner, Mayor Douglas Johnson, City Attorney Rhonda Fisher, Human Resource Director Jacqueline Perry, Engineering Supervisor Nathan Gardner, Engineering Assistant III Suzy Hensley, Electric Superintendent Al Sullivan, City Council member Tommy Morr, and Clerk-Treasurer Laura Rode.

Mr. Salsbury moved, Mr. Sprow seconded, to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting held February 7, 2017, as written. Roll call vote: all ayes; nays, none. Motion carried.

Ms. Ford moved, Mr. Salsbury seconded, to approve the Clerk-Treasurer's report for the month ending January 31, 2017. Roll call vote: all ayes; nays, none. Motion carried.

Ms. Dawn Lund of Utility Financial Solutions, LLC gave a presentation on the electric cost of service study and financial projection. Questions were asked at various points of the presentation which highlighted proposing a cash reserve policy as well as a potential revenue neutral rate adjustment.

Resolution No. 2, 2017, titled,

### **A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE BRYAN DIRECTOR OF UTILITIES TO ADVERTISE FOR BIDS FOR THE EAST VILLAGE ADDITION UNDERGROUND ELECTRIC REPLACEMENT PROJECT PHASE C, ACCORDING TO SPECIFICATIONS SET FORTH BY BRYAN MUNICIPAL UTILITIES**

was presented and read by title only. Director of Utilities Berner requested the Board approve a resolution to bid the East Village Addition Underground Electric Replacement Project Phase C. This will be the final phase of the project allowing the Electric Department to upgrade the aging primary and secondary. Further discussion was held.

Mr. Pepple moved, Mr. Salsbury seconded, to pass Resolution No. 2, 2017. Roll call vote: all ayes; nays, none. Motion carried.

Resolution No. 3, 2017, titled,

### **A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AN ANNUAL WAGE INCREASE FOR BRYAN MUNICIPAL UTILITIES HOURLY AND SALARIED EMPLOYEES**

was presented and read by title only. Director of Utilities Berner requested the Board approve a resolution to provide a three (3) percent wage increase to non-contract hourly and salaried employees effective April 1, 2017. Further discussion was held.

Mr. Salsbury moved, Mr. Sprow seconded, to pass Resolution No. 3, 2017. Roll call vote: all ayes; nays, none. Motion carried.

A discussion was held regarding cable programming rates as programming cost increases of approximately \$74,000 are anticipated this year. However, as upgrades to the system will likely be necessary next year, Utilities Director Berner recommended freezing rates for subscribers at this time. Further discussion was held with several members concurring to freeze rates at this time.

Director of Utilities Berner recommended that the Board hire Patrick Wilde as a probationary Communications Technician I effective February 22, 2017, at a rate of \$19.52 per hour. He added that Mr. Wilde was a former Bryan Municipal Utilities employee. Further discussion was held.

Mr. Salsbury moved, Ms. Ford seconded, to hire Patrick Wilde as a probationary Communications Technician I effective February 22, 2017, at a rate of \$19.52 per hour. Roll call vote: all ayes; nays, none. Motion carried.

Director of Utilities Berner recommended that the Board hire Hunter Gerken as a part-time Utility Engineering Assistant I effective March 6, 2017, at a rate of \$13.50 per hour adding that Mr. Gerken is a student at Northwest State Community College. Further discussion was held.

Mr. Sprow moved, Mr. Pepple seconded, to hire Hunter Gerken as a part-time Utility Engineering Assistant I effective March 6, 2017, at a rate of \$13.50 per hour. Roll call vote: all ayes; nays, none. Motion carried.

Director of Utilities Berner then requested to post for a part-time Account Clerk position. Further discussion was held.

Mr. Pepple moved, Mr. Salsbury seconded, to permit the posting for a part-time Account Clerk position. Roll call vote: all ayes; nays, none. Motion carried.

The Board resumed a discussion regarding the four (4) rental houses owned by Bryan Municipal Utilities. Engineering Assistant III Hensley addressed the Board noting that the property she resides in is not an eyesore and that some repairs had been made to the home. The Board debated variable options including exiting the rental business and refurbishing the homes. Board member Ford requested information regarding the cost for necessary reparations.

Utilities Director Berner offered to develop an exit strategy and an improvement strategy for the Board's consideration. Further discussion was held.

Mr. Pepple moved, Mr. Sprow seconded, to get out of the home rental business. Roll call vote: Pepple, aye; Sprow, aye; Long, nay; Ford, nay; Salsbury, nay. Motion denied.

Further discussion was held with some Board members noting a need for additional information to make a decision on the subject.

Mr. Pepple moved, Ms. Ford seconded, to pay bills. Roll call vote: all ayes; nays, none. Motion carried.

Board members Sprow, Pepple, and Ford were appreciative of the presentation from Utility Financial Solutions, LLC. In addition, they both thanked Engineering Assistant III Hensley for attending the meeting. In addition, Board member Ford informed the public that Channels 3 and 4 carried information regarding a recent telephone outage due to a severe accident for public awareness.

Director of Utilities Berner advised the Board on his upcoming schedule.

Mayor Johnson reviewed items from the previous evening's Council meeting agenda.

Board member Salsbury requested an additional Executive Session on imminent litigation to include the five (5) Board members and City Attorney Fisher to the Executive Session noted on the agenda.

Mr. Salsbury moved, Mr. Sprow seconded, to take a brief recess. Roll call vote: all ayes; nays, none. Motion carried.

The Board amended the agenda regarding the Executive Session to only include imminent litigation.

Mr. Salsbury moved, Mr. Sprow seconded, to go into Executive Session to discuss imminent litigation at 6:38 p.m. Roll call vote: all ayes; nays, none. Motion carried.

City Attorney Fisher was asked to attend.

Mr. Pepple moved, Ms. Ford seconded, to adjourn Executive Session at 7:06 p.m.

Mr. Sprow moved, Mr. Salsbury seconded, to adjourn the meeting. Roll call vote: all ayes; nays, none. Motion carried.

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Chairman of the Board

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Clerk-Treasurer