

STATE OF TEXAS  
COUNTY OF CHEROKEE  
CITY OF WELLS

MAY 10, 2021

Members present at the Regular Meeting were Mayor Tony McKnight, Councilmembers Billie Petty, Clint Smith, Eva Alexander, Gordon Cole, and Robert Kalka.

Employees: Melanie Pounds, Harold Rapsilver, Carl Pennington, and Roy Shanks.

Visitor: Jed Morris, Goodwin Lasiter & Strong, Marco Martin, and Beckett Reagan.

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm.

Councilmember Gordon Cole led the Invocation, and Councilmember Billie Petty led the Pledge of Allegiance.

A motion was made by Councilmember Billie Petty and second by Councilmember Clint Smith approving the minutes of the regular meeting held on April 12, 2021. Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor McKnight welcomed the visitors and asked if anyone had signed up to speak to address the council. Marco Martin addresses the council to discuss the road needing repaired in the community. Mayor McKnight responded that the city was aware of all the road conditions and has requested the County Commissioner help with digging out ditches for drainage and road that have been damaged by the flooding that the city has had over the last few months.

City secretary Melanie Pounds administered the oath of office to councilmembers Clint Smith, Eva Alexander, and Gordon Cole.

Mayor McKnight requested nominations for the mayor pro-tem position. Councilmember Robert Kalka nominated Councilmember Gordon Cole. Councilmember Gordon Cole nominated Councilmember Robert Kalka. Mayor McKnight called for a vote.

Councilmember Smith, Alexander, Petty, and Kalka voted in favor of Gordon Cole for Mayor Pro-tem.

Councilmember Cole voted in favor of Robert Kalka for Mayor Pro-tem.

Councilmember Gordon Cole was nominated to the Mayor Pro-tem position for the 2021-2022 Council year.

A motion was made by Councilmember Billie Petty and second by Councilmember Gordon Cole approving the adoption of Election Ordinance No. 2021-2. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Councilmember Robert Kalka and second by Councilmember Billie Petty approving Commercial Bank of Texas as the city official depository for the City of Wells. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Councilmember Eva Alexander and second by Councilmember Gordon Cole approving Cherokeean Herald as the city official newspaper for the City of Wells. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Councilmember Gordon Cole and second by Councilmember Billie to filing Ordinance No. 2021-1, Rev. of Ordinance No. 98-1 Annexation of the City of Wells property located at 217 County Road 2628 aka Annie May Henson property into the City limits of Wells, Texas. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Councilmember Gordon Cole and second by Councilmember Billie Petty to pay the monthly bills. Motion carried unanimously.

Jed Morris presented the council with the Contractor bids for the TxCDBG Sewer Plant rehabilitation project. Duplichain Contractors presented the lowest bid at \$287,177.00. A motion was made by Councilmember Robert Kalka and second by Councilmember Clint Smith approving awarding the bid to Duplichain Contractors. Motion carried unanimously.

**Department Reports:**

**Water and Sewer – Carl Pennington, Operator:** The plants are both running great. Roy Shanks presented the report to the council. In the month of April, the utility department changed out many broken meters. The water plant sheds and offices have been cleaned.

The elevated water tower has a leak and will have to be inspected from the inside to determine the extent of the damage that will need to be repaired. The last time a leak was repaired was in 2018.

The water well shop is being deep cleaned, shelves have been built to organize the supplies in the shop.

The sewer plant is looking great; scrap metal is being gathered to be recycled, the money earned will be used for the equipment shed.

The lift station is seeing a lot of flooding with the weather. Lift stations are underground, and the rain levels is keeping them running. The lift station on North Highway 69 needs to be raised. Roy will get a price on a ring to raise it up. This will help it not to run for hours at a time.

A motion was made by Councilmember Eva Alexander and second by Councilmember Billie Petty for the city to build an equipment shed at the water well using the supplies that we have on hand and any additional supplies not to exceed \$1,500.00. Motion carried unanimously.

Roy discussed the personal shut-off valve prices. The city can get the parts for \$25.00 and will charge \$25.00 for installation.

**Police Department – Harold Rapsilver, Chief:** Chief Harold Rapsilver thanked the council for their support. Chief Rapsilver notified the council that the traffic was average for the month.

Type of calls	Totals February
Assisted Cherokee County	2
Arrest	7
Calls inside the city limits of Wells	7
Traffic Stops	247
Citations Issued	270

Chief Rapsilver discussed with the council the need to place the 2010 Crown Victoria police car on a sealed bid auction. The police cruiser is no longer running and is not usable as a police vehicle.

A motion was made by Councilmember Gordon Cole and second by Councilmember Robert Kalka to run a sealed bid auction for one month. Advertisements will be placed online and in the newspaper. Motion carried unanimously.

Chief Rapsilver presented a request for the police department to help in the County Sheriff's Department switching from analog to digital radio system so that the Wells Police Department can access the radio system. A one-time \$5,000.00 fee would be charged to upgrade the system.

A motion was made by Councilmember Billie Petty and second by Councilmember Clint Smith to table this item until a later date. Motion carried unanimously.

**VFD - Robert Kalka, Chief:** Chief Kalka.

EMS – April Report	10 calls, 26 Man-hours 9 Inside City Limits 1 In County 0 Training hours	26 Total Man-hours
FIRE – April Report	4 calls, 22 Man-hours 1,000 gallons - water used 4 Inside City Limits 0 In County 0 Training hours 0 gallons - water used	22 Total Man-hours 1,000 Total Water Used

**City secretary - Melanie Pounds:** Fifteen customers received the \$100.00 Non-payment, eight water meters were turned off for non-payment in April.

A motion was made by Councilmember Robert Kalka and second by Councilmember Clint Smith to cancel the lawn care contract with Mondays Lawn Care. Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor McKnight discussed with the council that he has met with Steve Norton, Pct 2 commissioner. He would like to enter an Interlocal Agreement to have the County help with digging out ditches for the many drainage issues and road patching at the cost of the City on First Street, Booker St., Preston Rd. and Wright Patman.

A motion was made by Councilmember Robert Kalka and second by Councilmember Clint Smith to present the County Commissioner an Interlocal Agreement for road repair and digging ditches. Motion carried unanimously.

Convened to executive session at 9:10 pm per Texas Government Code ANN 551.074 to discuss personnel.

The meeting reconvened from the executive session at 9:28 pm. The following motion was made, A motion was made by Councilmember Gordon Cole and second by Councilmember Clint Smith to hire James English as a full-time employee in the Water Department with full benefits and a \$10.00 per hour salary with a \$1.00 raise after a 90-day evaluation. Amanda Latham is to receive a .50 cent pay raise. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Councilmember Robert Kalka and second by Councilmember Billie Petty to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 9:31 pm.

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Mayor

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City Secretary

APPROVED BY THE COUNCIL ON JUNE 14, 2021, ORIGINAL SIGNATURES WERE STORED IN THE CITY SECRETARY'S OFFICE.