

STATE OF TEXAS  
COUNTY OF CHEROKEE  
CITY OF WELLS

JUNE 12, 2023

Members present at the Regular Meeting were Mayor Tony McKnight, Councilmembers Eva Alexander, Gordon Cole, and Robert Kalka. Councilmember Billie Petty was not in attendance.

Employees: Melanie Pounds, Roy Shanks, and Chief Harold Rapsilver.

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

Mayor Tony McKnight led the invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance.

Councilmember Gordon Cole made a motion, and Councilmember Robert Kalka made a second to approve the minutes of the special committee meeting on April 25, 2023. The motion carried unanimously.

Councilmember Robert Kalka made a motion, and Councilmember Gordon Cole made a second to approve the minutes of the regular meeting on May 8, 2023. The motion carried unanimously.

Councilmember Robert Kalka made a motion, and Councilmember Billie Petty made a second to approve the minutes of the city ordinance workshop on June 3, 2023. The motion carried unanimously.

Mayor McKnight acknowledged that there were no visitors attending the council meeting.

**Department Reports:**

**Water and Sewer – Roy Shanks, Operator:**

The Water plant and Sewer plant are both running well.

Roy advised the city council that the work on the ground storage tank will be starting this week.

While the ground storage tank is being bypassed, he is going to fix the aerator on top of the tank.

Roy asked that the secretary send out a mass text letting everyone know what is going to happen and what could happen during the time that we will be bypassing the ground storage tank.

Roy has resubmitted his application to take the test for his water license. Roy is also planning to attend the TCEQ Lead & Copper seminar in Lufkin this month.

**Police Department – Harold Rapsilver, Chief:**

Chief Harold Rapsilver thanked the council for their support.

Type of calls	Totals
Assisted Cherokee County	1
Arrest – Traffic/Warrant	2
Calls inside the city limits of Wells	12
Traffic Stops	327
Citations Issued	400

**VFD – Kelly Collins, Fire Chief, and Robert Kalka, Assistant Chief Robert Kalka.**

Robert reported that four volunteers are going to attend EMS School and three volunteers are attending fire school.

	<b>May Calls</b>	<b>Totals</b>
<b>EMS Report</b>	8 calls – 7 City Limits/1 County 22 Man-Hours 20 Training Man-Hours	42 man-hours in total
<b>FIRE Report</b>	3 calls - 3 City Limit/0 County 4 Man-Hours 0 gallons of water used. 12 Training Man-Hours 0 gallons of water used.	16 man-hours in total 0 gallons of water in total

**City secretary - Melanie Pounds:**

Eight (8) customers should have paid for the month resulting in the \$100.00 non-payment fee to their account. No customer received a \$50.00 partial payment fee. No customers received a disconnection.

Eighteen (18) customers received the ROW 48 hours after the trash collection, and these customers received a \$5.00 fee on their next water bill.

Convene to executive session at 7:28 pm per Texas Government Code ANN 551.074 to discuss personnel - All Departments.

The meeting reconvened from the executive session at 7:39 pm for action relative to the discussion in the executive session.

Councilmember Gordon Cole made a motion and Councilmember Eva Alexander made a second to hire Damien Blackburn as a full-time water employee with benefits, leaving his pay at \$11.00 per hour, and be on a probation period to discuss a pay raise in 90 days. The motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Tony McKnight presented the council with Clint Smith's resignation letter. Mr. Smith has moved outside the city limits and is no longer eligible to be a member of the city council.

Councilmember Robert Kalka made a motion and Councilmember Eva Alexander made a second to accept Clint Smith's resignation. The motion carried unanimously.

Councilmember Gordon Cole made a motion and Councilmember Robert Kalka made a second to repeal ordinance no. 2004-01, it is a state law that firearms cannot be discharged in the city limits and will be enforced by the Wells Police Department. The motion carried unanimously.

Councilmember Robert Kalka made a motion and Councilmember Gordon Cole made a second to create an ordinance covering food trucks, dwelling requirements for vacant properties, and the city of Wells not being a sanctuary city for immigrants that are in the United States illegally. The ordinances will be presented to the council for approval upon completion. The motion carried unanimously.

Councilmember Gordon Cole made a motion and Councilmember Eva Alexander made a second to amend ordinance no. 3-79 by adding that signs placed on light poles in the city ROW will be removed. Political signs must be removed following any election conclusion. The motion carried unanimously.

Councilmember Robert Kalka made a motion and Councilmember Eva Alexander made a second to amend ordinance no. 93-02 Establishing a policy regarding city park hours and usage requirements in the City limits of Wells. The following amendments were made:

(1) Summer hours will be from 7:00 am to 11:00 pm; (2) Winter hours will be from 7:00 am to 10:00 pm; (3) Birthday parties and events can only be held at the Depot portion of the park with the party being booked with city hall prior to the party; (4) All events/birthday parties are responsible to keep the area clean of debris, trash must be bagged and placed in the available trash carts. All party decorations must be removed; (5) Consumption of alcoholic beverages is always prohibited on city property. The motion carried unanimously.

Councilmember Robert Kalka made a motion and Councilmember Eva Alexander made a second to amend ordinance no. 2000-01 Establishing a policy regarding the raising of poultry, fowl, or hog requirement in the City limits of Wells. The following amendments were made: Section I that if a student has a show animal inside the city limits of Wells the parent of the FFA student will need to contact city hall to report that they have a show animal and the type of animal being shown. The motions carried unanimously.

Councilmember Robert Kalka made a motion and Councilmember Eva Alexander made a second to amend ordinance no. 2001-04 Establishing a policy regarding the keeping of livestock in the City limits of Wells. The following amendments were made:

Section I: Changing one half (1/2) acre per animal to three (3) Acres per animal for cows, horses, all four-legged equestrian animals, and one half (1/2) acres for no more than five (5) goats and sheep. Omit Guinness from this ordinance as they are covered under Ordinance no. 2000-01. The motion carried unanimously.

Councilmember Robert Kalka made a motion and Councilmember Gordon Cole made a second to amend ordinance no. 2001-05 Establishing a policy regarding dangerous animals in the City limits of Wells. The following amendments were made:

Section I: It shall be unlawful for any person to keep, possess, own, control, use or otherwise exercise dominion over any of the animals outlined herein and defined as "dangerous wild animals" within the city of Wells, Texas: add venomous snakes. The motion carried unanimously.

Councilmember Gordon Cole made a motion and Councilmember Eva Alexander made a second to amend ordinance no. 2003-02 Establishing a Burn Ban of Trash in the City limits of Wells. The following amendments were made:

Section A: Allow the burning of cardboard boxes but not in excess section b: add no burning on city rights-of-way (ROW). The motion carried unanimously..

Councilmember Gordon Cole made a motion and Councilmember Robert Kalka made a second to amend ordinance no. 2015-03 Requiring permits in the city limits of Wells. The following amendments were made:

Section 3.6 add monetary value prohibited; Section 7.1 remove Angelina County; Section 10.2 change" city manager" to "city secretary"; Section 10.3 change" city manager" to "city secretary". The motion carried unanimously.

Councilmember Gordon Cole made a motion and Councilmember Robert Kalka made a second to allow the Wells ISD softball team to hang sponsor banners on the softball fence using zip ties. The banners are to be removed at the end of each season to prevent damage to the fence and the banners. The motion carried unanimously.

Councilmember Gordon Cole made a motion and Councilmember Eva Alexander made a second to pay the monthly bills. The motion carried unanimously.

The city council reviewed the May 2023 budget summary; this is a discussion item only.

Councilmember Gordon Cole made a motion and Councilmember Robert Kalka made a second to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:13 p.m.

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Mayor

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City Secretary