



450 Thunder Head Lane • P.O. Box 1150 • Annetta, Texas 76008 • (817) 441-5770

City Council Meeting Minutes

The City Council of Annetta met in a regularly scheduled meeting on Thursday, April 20, 2023, at 7:00 p.m. in the Annetta Town Hall at 450 Thunder Head Lane to consider the following agenda:

- I. **Call to order.** Mayor Sandy Roberts called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.
- II. **Pledge of Allegiance/Invocation of Prayer.** Council Member Bruce Pinckard led the pledge and Council Member Danny Coffman gave the invocation.
- III. **Roll call/Quorum check.** A quorum check revealed that Mayor Sandy Roberts and Council Members, Kent Stasey, Jim Causey, Danny Coffman and Bruce Pinckard were all present. Council Member Shane Mudge was absent. Also present was City Secretary/Administrator, Jamee Long.
- IV. **Public Comments:** Citizen, Kristi Turner, discussed Wallis Road and the deaf child area sign request. She requested that CCPD funds be used for the deaf child area sign. Citizen, Julie Ignatiev, read a prepared speech regarding her opinion on the deaf child area sign, sidewalk and library (attached). Citizen, Jo Ann Roe, stated that she is in support of the deaf child area sign.
- V. **Consent Items: Reports from City Staff and Commission or Committees:**
 - a. Consider the approval of Minutes from the Regular City Council Meetings on March 16, 2023.
 - b. Public Works Report.
 - c. Financial Report.

Council Member Coffman moved to accept the consent items as presented with a correction in the minutes to the word "Jumbo" to "gumbo," Council Member Causey seconded the motion, with all aye. Mayor Roberts stated that there were 60 leak notifications in March. Council Member Stasey confirmed that these are leaks that the AML system reports and customers were notified by Town staff. Council Member Causey stated that it is good to see that the Town's operators are making repairs and the Town is not using contractors for all repairs. Motion passed unanimously.

- VI. **New Business:**
 - a. **Aledo ISD presentation on information about the upcoming bond that will be presented to the community for voting in May 2023.** There was no presentation.

- b. **Discussion and Action:** Consider authorizing the Mayor to execute Addendums No. 1 to Municipal-County Contract for Road Repair for an expenditure of \$68,901.76 for rebuilding Hillside Drive, Ridgecrest Drive, and Thunder Head Lane (labor and equipment). Council Member Coffman moved to authorize the Mayor to execute Addendums No. 1 to Municipal-County Contract for Road Repair for an expenditure of \$68,901.76 for rebuilding Hillside Drive, Ridgecrest Drive, and Thunder Head Lane for labor and equipment, Council Member Stasey seconded the motion, with all aye. Council Member Stasey stated that this has been discussed at a previous meeting and these are the formal addendums. Citizen, Kristi Turner, asked if Thunder Head Lane will be repaired while school is still in session. City Secretary/Administrator, Jamee Long, stated that the work on Thunder Head Lane should begin in June. Motion passed unanimously.
- c. **Discussion and Action:** Consider authorizing the expenditure of \$69,202.84 for P2 Stabilizer, Prime Oil-AEP, Chip Seal, and Grade 4 Rock for rebuilding Hillside Drive, Ridgecrest Drive, and Thunder Head Lane (materials). Council Member Coffman moved to authorize the expenditure of \$69,202.84 for P2 Stabilizer, Prime Oil-AEP, Chip Seal, and Grade 4 Rock for rebuilding Hillside Drive, Ridgecrest Drive, and Thunder Head Lane for materials, Council Member Stasey seconded the motion, with all aye. Council Members Stasey and Causey stated that they are looking forward to seeing the results with the P2 stabilizer. Motion passed unanimously.
- d. **Discussion and Action:** Consider Ordinance 222-A amending the FY 2022-23 Budget. Council Member Stasey moved to approve Ordinance 222-A amending the FY 2022-23 Budget, Council Member Causey seconded the motion, with all aye. Ms. Long stated that the FY 2022-23 Budget has \$94,580 for construction of roads. She stated the budget amendment is to add \$45,420 to the line item for construction of roads from reserve funds from prior years. Motion passed unanimously.
- e. **Discussion and Action:** Consider an ordinance amending Ordinance 175 regarding water well drilling by implementing spacing requirements from public wells. Council Member Stasey moved to open this item for discussion, Council Member Coffman seconded the motion. Council Member Pinckard asked why the well ordinance is being amended. Mayor Roberts stated that this would provide the Town's citizens guidelines, and so they understand the rules and regulations for drilling a water well. Council Member Pinckard stated that this information can be obtained from the Upper Trinity Groundwater Conservation District and the state. Ms. Long stated that this ordinance was recommended by the Town's attorney and water engineer. Council Member Pinckard stated that the ordinance language is also about maintenance of water wells. He continued that he has concerns about citizens with private wells. He stated that he does not feel comfortable supporting this ordinance until there is clarification on the maintenance of wells. Council Member Causey asked what is not already in state law. Council Member Pinckard stated that it is prudent to obtain additional research prior to making this change. Council Member Stasey stated that all water in Annetta is from water wells and the importance of protecting the water supply. Council Member Stasey stated that there is not enough detail regarding "maintenance" in the ordinance and would like further clarification prior to moving forward. Council Member Stasey moved to table this item until the May 18, 2023 City Council meeting, Council Member Coffman seconded the motion, with all aye. Motion passed unanimously.
- f. **Discussion and Action:** Consider Resolution No. 23-01 establishing a policy for the installation of "Deaf Child Area" signs. Council Member Pinckard moved to open this item for discussion, Council Member Coffman seconded the motion. Mayor Roberts stated that the City Secretary/Administrator did not make the decision about establishing a policy but did consult with the Town's attorney for their advice on how

to proceed with the request for a "Deaf Child Area" sign. Council Member Coffman asked for the history of the request for a sign. Ms. Long stated that the Town received a request from a citizen to install a sign because their child would be starting school next year. Council Member Coffman asked where the sign was requested to be placed. Citizen, Julie Ignatiev, stated that the mother of the child would like a sign installed at the bus stop at Portales and Pepperbush. Council Member Coffman stated that he does not think the Town can add this type of sign to a stop sign. He stated that he understands why she is requesting a sign be added at the bus stop but is asking for clarification if this is a verified bus stop or if the bus driver is just stopping at this location currently. Council Member Pinckard stated that this loading area may change. Council Member Coffman asked Ms. Ignatiev if she is a neighbor of the requester. Ms. Ignatiev stated that she lives across the street from the requester. Citizen, Kristi Turner, stated that the location for the requested sign is in a cul-de-sac. Council Member Coffman stated that he is in favor of this type of sign but wants to make sure the Town "does it right" and it is legal. Council Member Pinckard stated that the resolution was written by the Town's attorney and this sign may not be allowed because it is not a traffic control sign. He stated that the purpose of the resolution is to allow a resident to place this type of sign on their property. Council Member Pinckard stated that the Town will follow the law of the Texas Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices. Ms. Ignatiev asked where the sign could be placed on her property. Council Member Stasey stated that it would be 30 feet from the center of the road. Ms. Ignatiev stated that this is "not doable." Council Member Pinckard stated that this resolution was presented quickly to expedite this matter and for discussions. Council Member Causey stated that pursuant to his research, most cities do not allow these signs because they are not traffic control signs. He continued, stating that there are no studies that prove definitively that these signs have an impact, and in fact, some research is that they are a detriment because when there are many signs, drivers do not pay attention to the signs. He stated that he understands their passion for the sign, but he wants to make sure the Town is compliant with the law. Council Member Pinckard stated that he has not spoken to the Mayor or Ms. Long, but he believes the intention of the resolution was to expedite a path forward for the safety of the child. He stated that the right-of-way is for traffic control signs. Ms. Ignatiev stated that the deaf child sign is no different than the speed hump signs. Ms. Turner stated that an "ADA family" notices much more than most people. She read a lengthy document on deaf child signs. Council Member Pinckard asked where Ms. Turner located this document. Ms. Turner stated that it is on the City of Fate's website. Council Member Pinckard stated that he does not know anything about Fate, Texas or if they are a general law city. He stated that it is "dangerous territory" to plagiarize ordinances from other cities. He continued that the resolution is being presented so this can be discussed with possible action. Ms. Turner stated that Annetta Park has been discussed for four years with no resolution presented. Council Member Coffman stated that this has no reference to the item on this agenda. Council Member Pinckard stated that this is "off topic." Council Member Coffman stated that prior comments about the City Council not knowing about how someone with a disability would act or feel is not correct. He stated that he wants to put an end to that thought by saying that she has no idea what his background has been and what he has experienced in his life, both personally and with friends. He continued, requesting that "before those type of comments are made, be careful because they are hurtful." He stated that there is no place for those type of comments. He stated that he would jump in front of a bullet to save a child. Council Member Coffman stated that he does not make assumptions and that Ms. Turner should talk to him personally prior to making those type of comments. He stated that he would give anyone his personal cell phone number if anyone ever would like to talk to him, especially when it is a matter regarding children. He has worked hard to protect children. Ms. Turner stated that one of her children had a hearing issue and it was overwhelming. Ms. Turner requested that CCPD funds be used for this sign. Council Member Coffman stated that CCPD funds can only be used for crime control and prevention. Ms. Ignatiev stated that the resolution is void of compassion and that the Town's attorney should have compassion. Council Member Pinckard stated that the

resolution is a legal document. Council Member Stasey thanked the City Council for their research on this matter and stated that he also read the information regarding Fate, Texas. He continued that he has many questions. How long does the sign stay up? How does the law apply to the sign? Is the child in this case deaf or hearing impaired? Is there an application and renewal process? What risks are there? What are the reasons that cities install a sign and/or do not install a sign? Council Member Stasey asked Ms. Long when the request for the sign came to Town Hall. Ms. Long stated that the request was received a week ago via Facebook messenger. Council Member Stasey stated that it is a quick turnaround for this to be an agenda item and for a possible resolution. He stated that the Town does not go against the recommendations of the Town attorney. He continued that when he took the oath of office, he agreed to do what's best for all the citizens and children of Annetta by law. He stated that he cannot violate that oath and the Town cannot spend money on private requests. Council Member Stasey stated that every member of the City Council has been heavily involved with children and has children that have gone through the Aledo ISD. He stated that it is not right for someone to say that the City Council is disconnected from the children of this community. He stated that we will find the answer to this situation, but it may not be the answer you want. He stated that in his research that this sign would identify a compromised child and predators look for those. He continued that he wants to hear from the citizens, but he also wants to hear both sides of the story, the "good, bad and ugly." The requestor, Lauren Kolesar-Eatinger, joined the meeting. She stated that in June 2022, it was discovered that her daughter is right ear deaf. Due to a medical procedure, her daughter could regain her hearing in approximately two years. She stated that her daughter will start kindergarten in the Fall and will ride the bus. She is requesting a deaf child sign at the bus stop. Mayor Roberts stated that the Town currently has an ordinance against signs in the right-of-way other than for traffic control. She stated that she requested the Town's attorney to draft a document that could assist a citizen with this request. Mayor Roberts thanked Ms. Kolesar-Eatinger for coming to the meeting. Council Member Causey stated that it is not legal for City Council members to discuss Town matters on social media. He stated that "backroom meetings" do not happen. Ms. Ignatiev stated that she did discuss this matter on social media and some citizens are upset about the language in the resolution. Council Member Pinckard stated that the resolution was drafted to expedite this matter to allow for a deaf child sign. He stated that the Town must be compliant with the law. Council Member Coffman stated that he hopes everyone has a better understanding of the process. He encouraged everyone to call a City Council member or the staff at Town Hall prior to posting negatively on social media. Ms. Ignatiev stated that her frustration and her posting to social media was due to the email sent to the requester and wording of the resolution. Council Member Causey asked Ms. Ignatiev what portion of the resolution irritates her. Ms. Ignatiev said, "all of it." Council Member Causey stated that the resolution says that the Town is not going to stand in the way of you, as a parent, to take the action you feel is necessary for your child's safety. Ms. Ignatiev stated that this alternative "does not work." Council Member Pinckard stated that the Town has a process that must happen to comply with the law for a General Law Municipality. He stated that for a request of this type to be on an agenda after only 7 days, is "rocket speed." He stated that social media posts to bully the City Council are wrong. Mayor Roberts stated that she wanted this item on the agenda as quickly as possible so that everyone could discuss this matter. Council Member Pinckard requested all citizens that have questions to call Town Hall. He stated that the Town's phone number is on the sign in front of Town Hall and on the Town's website. Ms. Ignatiev stated that she appreciates the research done by the City Council members. Council Member Stasey stated that the 5 City Council members work for all of the citizens of Annetta and have to consider the impact of everyone. Council Member Pinckard asked Ms. Turner if citizens are afraid to contact Town Hall and if so, why? Ms. Turner did not answer. Mayor Roberts stated that the Town attorney is continuing to research this item, but she wanted this item on the agenda so that there is a resolution for this type of sign. Council Member Causey asked if the sign should be for a "special needs child" instead of "deaf child" sign. Council

Member Pinckard stated that he feels more comfortable approving the resolution, so this is not delayed. City Secretary/Administrator, Jamee Long, stated that the motion can be to change the wording of the resolution or to table the item. Council Member Pinckard moved to approve Resolution 23-01 establishing a policy for the installation of "Deaf Child Area" signs, Council Member Stasey seconded the motion, with all aye. Mayor Roberts stated that this is a solution for today. Motion passed unanimously.

- g. **Discussion and Action:** Consider a proclamation proclaiming May 2023 as Mental Health Awareness Month. Mayor Roberts read the proclamation. Council Member Coffman stated that this proclamation really means a lot to him. He stated that he has dealt with suicide in his family and that his wife is a doctor that helps patients and children with mental health issues. Council Member Pinckard moved to approve the proclamation proclaiming May 2023 as Mental Health Awareness Month, Council Member Stasey seconded the motion, with all aye. Motion passed unanimously.
- h. **Discussion and Action:** Consider a proclamation proclaiming May 2023 as Water Safety Month. Mayor Roberts read the proclamation. She stated that water safety information, bracelets and tags are available on the table. These are issued to property owners when applications for pool permits are submitted. Mayor Roberts thanked City Clerk, Diana Kotlinski, for her efforts in promoting water safety. Council Member Pinckard stated that he is thankful for Town staff and for the mayor's leadership. Council Member Pinckard moved to approve the proclamation proclaiming May 2023 as Water Safety Month, Council Member Causey seconded the motion, with all aye. Motion passed unanimously.
- i. **Announce winner of children's book contest.** This month's book is The Berenstain Bears' BIG BOOK OF SCIENCE AND NATURE, and the winner was 166 Lakeview Drive.

VII. Old Business:

- a. **Discussion and Action:** Consider an agreement with Vertical Bridge 500, LLC regarding a cell phone tower located at 700 Thunder Head Lane. Mayor Roberts stated that the Town is still in discussions with Vertical Bridge 500, LLC. Council Member Pinckard moved to table this item until the May 18, 2023, regular City Council meeting, Council Member Coffman seconded the motion, with all aye. Motion passed unanimously.

VIII. Executive Session: As authorized by Chapter 551 of the Texas Government Code, the City Council reserves the right to adjourn into executive session at any time during the course of this meeting to discuss the following:

- a. § 551.074. Deliberation regarding personnel matters. (1) The City Council may convene in executive session to deliberate the appointment, employment, evaluation, reassignment, duties, discipline, or dismissal of a public officer or employee including deliberation regarding the following officers or employees:

- 1. Water/Wastewater Operator

Executive Session began at 9:12 p.m. and ended at 9:30 p.m.

IX. Take any action from executive session, if needed. No action taken.

X. Items of Community Interest. Council Member Stasey stated that May 6 is the Aledo ISD's election. He encouraged everyone to go to the school district's website and their school board meetings to be well informed. He also discussed Split Rail's recent events at the clubhouse and golf course. He stated that they plan to have more events in the future. He discussed the April 28 crawfish boil scheduled at Split Rail. He said

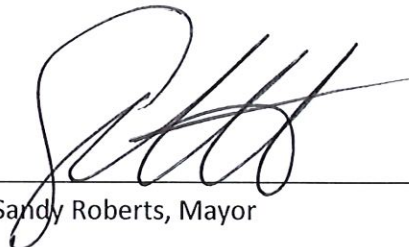
it is a nice place to enjoy dinner and entertainment that is local. Council Member Pinckard thanked the mayor for donating children's books each month. He stated that Annetta is a family community, and he is grateful for the work done by the City Council. Council Member Causey stated that the annual Deer Creek garage sale is scheduled for May 6. Mayor Roberts reminded everyone that Mothers' Day is May 14. She also discussed a prayer conference she is attending tomorrow morning on human trafficking. She wants to do whatever she can to bring awareness to this sad issue.

XI. Adjournment: With no further business before the council, the mayor adjourned the meeting at 9:38 p.m.

These minutes were approved on the 18th day of May, 2023.



Jamee Long, City Secretary/Administrator



Sandy Roberts, Mayor

Hello. I'd like to address the council today on something of upmost importance . I hate to assume that none of you have children with special needs, but that seems to be exactly the situation here. The only way you can feel okay about yourself after drafting a resolution such as the current document posted on the Town of Annetta website is that you honestly have no idea what it is like having to fight for every single thing your child needs every single day. I do . I understand what it is like. If you don't, be thankful.

My hope this evening is to share the concerns of many in our community. One of them being, the town prematurely sending out an email via Jamee Long, secretary whom by all accounts likely works hard, but is not qualified to make town decisions. The second being a most unfortunate response to the caution sign request in the form of a draft resolution. Sure, it's just a draft. Sure, we haven't given it due process. It also indicates on page 2 that the town plans on adopting this resolution on April 20, 2023 which happens to be today. You may not agree with the need for a caution sign to be placed near the school bus stop as an added layer of protection for a young child, but surely you recognize how hastily this was drafted. Surely, you recognize that there should be a process of hearing your own constituents.

It is becoming a regular occurrence with this town that children's needs are of less priority than others.

To date, more time was spent getting a sign for the butterfly weighing station than was spent on drafting this resolution. To date, the town has no desire to have a sidewalk placed in front of Stuard. To date, Town of Annetta contributes a pitifully small amount of money to our local library. To date, the town has drafted a resolution that once again is not in favor of children. A resolution that completely excludes the hearing impaired child, her parents who pay taxes and any future children in need of a caution sign. A resolution that is completely void of compassion. This resolution is also void of a reasonable explanation justifying the need for this ordinance.

The fact that 29 people have reached out offering to help fund this sign is all you need to know that the community also desires at least a say in whether or not this ordinance should pass/fail.

We elected y'all. Your seat exists for the sole purpose of serving your community. Our children are part of this community. It is time for you to prove that we are a town with principles. We can not let this child down by drawing parameters, creating last minute ordinances and ignoring the pleas of your own constituents.

I ask you to do the right thing and stand up for this child!

Thank you.