



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 via videoconference on Thursday, February 25, 2021, 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 Bruce Pinckard called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.
- II. **Pledge of Allegiance/Invocation of Prayer.** Council Member Sandy Roberts led the pledge and Council Member Coffman gave the invocation.
- III. **Roll call/Quorum check.** A quorum check revealed that Mayor Pinckard and Council Members Kent Stasey, Jim Causey (via WebEx), Danny Coffman, Shane Mudge and Sandy Roberts were all present. Also present was Jamee Long, City Secretary.

Dustin Schmitt hosted the WebEx and gave an introduction and instructions to the panelists and attendees.

- IV. **Public Comments:** Citizen, Al Goer, read his public comments regarding a WebEx. Citizen, Alyse Chung, read her public comments regarding her son's injury on September 18 while walking to Stuard Elementary. Citizen, Kristi Turner, read her public comments regarding possible sidewalk on Thunder Head Lane.

V. **Consent Items: Reports from City Staff and Commissions or Committees:**

- a. Consider the approval of Minutes from the Special City Council Meeting on January 7, 2021 and Regular City Council Meeting on January 21, 2021.
- b. Financial Report.
- c. Public Works Report.

Council Member Coffman moved to accept all consent items, Council Member Mudge seconded the motion, with all aye. Motion passed unanimously.

VI. **New Business:**

- a. **Drawing of candidates for place on May 1, 2021 General Election Ballot.** Al Gloer drew #1 and Bruce Pinckard #2 for placement on the ballot for Council, Place 3.

- b. **Discussion and Action:** Review and consider the Finance Committee Report on monetary reserves in both the General and Enterprise Funds for the Town of Annetta. Mayor Pinckard gave a PowerPoint presentation and went over all monetary reserves in both the General and Enterprise Funds and explained reasons for the reserves. He discussed the Town not having an ad valorem tax, and discussed franchise fees and sales tax revenue. The Mayor gave a General Fund history and discussed road maintenance over the past 3 years. He discussed the Town's process in working with Precinct 4 for road repairs and maintenance. Mayor Pinckard discussed drainage work needed on Old Annetta Road. He discussed the increase in sales tax due to citizens making purchase online and that this revenue is subject to change. He also discussed the allocations on sales tax and possible legislative changes. Citizen, Kristi Turner, asked if there have been more discussions about the repair to the dam on Meeker Lake. Mayor Pinckard stated that Mr. Thurman has not made any further plans for the repair of the dam known to the town. The Mayor completed his presentation on the General Fund and began a new presentation on the Enterprise Fund. He discussed the 80/20 split regarding staff salaries and building expenses that are split between the two funds. Mayor Pinckard discussed the licensing requirements with TCEQ and the contract with Hudson Oaks to operate the water and sewer systems. He discussed the utility billing, staff duties and council contributions to the workload. He discussed the water rates and stated there has not been an increase in water rates since 2014. The Mayor stated that the Annetta water system is not connected to another city's water system and it is totally dependent on ground water produced by wells. He discussed and reviewed a PowerPoint presentation that was presented at a prior council meeting titled "Cash Reserve Policy Guidelines". The Mayor discussed the Town's excellent credit rating and debt service obligations. He discussed future capital improvement projects, large scale or "big ticket" maintenance projects and that this is why the Town maintains reserves. He discussed possible changes in the Town's Business Continuity Plan due to extended power outages and the possible purchase of additional generators. Mayor Pinckard discussed a spreadsheet listing future capital expenditures. He discussed development and why the Town does not have impact fees. Citizen, Tim Pierce, stated that the Lakes of Aledo and Deer Creek water systems have two different rates and asked if the improvements to Lakes of Aledo would be paid by their water customers. Mayor Pinckard stated that he did not anticipate a rate increase due to the Town setting aside funds for this project and due to anticipated developer contributions.

- c. **Discussion and Action:** Review, discuss and consider the 2021 road evaluation and consider 2021 road projects. City Secretary, Jamee Long, discussed her notes from the road evaluation performed with Precinct 4 Foreman, Dion Berry. She stated the precinct is unable to rebuild any streets this year and can only do chip-sealing projects. Council Member Stasey discussed the number of homes that have been impacted by the work performed over the past few years. Council Members Stasey and Roberts discussed the addition of Kenwick due to the proximity of the other proposed road work. Ms. Long also discussed the need for Kenwick to be chip-sealed due to the amount of leak repairs on that street. Council Member Mudge moved to approve the 2021 chip-sealing of Black Oak Drive, Harvestwood Lane, Inglewood Drive, Kenwick Court, Langley Court, Meadow Glen Court, Meadow Park Drive, Oakwood Drive, Pepperbush Lane and Redbud Lane and to edit the spreadsheet regarding Kenwick, Council Member Roberts seconded the motion, with all aye. Ms. Long stated she will request an addendum from Precinct 4 for consideration at the March City Council meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

- d. **Discussion and Action:** Consider city staffing needs and discuss potential job description of needed position. Mayor Pinckard stated that he is stepping down from his role as Mayor at the end of his term

and that the job has included performing the duties of a city administrator. He stated that the Town needs to begin a search for the position of public works and development in order to fill these roles. Council Member Stasey moved to open this item up for discussion, Council Member Coffman seconded the motion. Council Member Stasey discussed the Town's need for an administrative professional and stated that he appreciated all the work the Mayor has done on a volunteer basis. Council Member Coffman stated that he agreed with Mr. Stasey's comment and stated that this position may save the Town money in professional fees. Council Member Roberts discussed the need for this position to "move forward successfully." Citizen, Al Gloer, asked where this person would office. Mayor Pinckard stated there is an extra office in Town Hall. Mr. Gloer asked about the salary for this position. Mayor Pinckard stated this position has been budgeted for several years. Citizen, Tim Pierce, asked about the position and where it would be posted. Mayor Pinckard discussed the possible job description further. Council Member Mudge moved to establish a job description, post the job description and schedule interviews for a public works and development position, Council Member Coffman seconded the motion, with all aye. Motion passed unanimously.

- e. **Discussion and Action:** Consider a proclamation proclaiming March 21-27, 2021 as Poison Prevention Week. Council Member Stasey moved to approve the proclamation proclaiming March 21-27, 2021 as Poison Prevention Week, Council Member Coffman seconded the motion, with all aye. Motion passed unanimously.
- f. **Discussion and Action:** Consider appointment of Emergency Management Director/Coordinator. Mayor Pinckard stated that most small towns move this appointment to the county level. Council Member Coffman moved to approve the appointment of Sean Hughes, Parker County Fire Marshal, as Emergency Management Director/Coordinator, Council Member Coffman Roberts seconded the motion, with all aye. Motion passed unanimously.
- g. **Discussion:** Discuss inclement weather, power outages and water/sewer system regarding February 14-19, 2021 weather event. Mayor Pinckard stated that Town Hall did not have power until late Wednesday, February 17, and did not have water until late Friday, February 19. He stated that the Town is looking into additional remote capabilities for the future based on what was learned during this event. The Mayor stated that the Town maintained water pressure and residual chlorine levels throughout the distribution system during the weather event. He stated the Town will always send notice to customers if there is a "boil water notice" but that triggers were not met to send out such notice. He discussed SCADA being powered off and that crews were out reading well information and making adjustments manually. Mayor Pinckard commended the Hudson Oaks staff for the hard work during the event. Council Member Stasey thanked the operations staff at Hudson Oaks, Dr. Harkins and Annetta staff for their work during the power outages. Mayor Pinckard thanked the citizens for helping each other and he is proud of the outpouring of support.

VII. Old Business:

VIII. Items of Community Interest. Council Member Coffman asked Ms. Long how much an election costs the Town. Ms. Long stated the cost is approximately \$7,000. Citizen, Tim Pierce, thanked the Hudson Oaks team for their work during the weather event.

IX. Adjournment: With no further business before the council, the Mayor adjourned the meeting at 9:10 p.m.

These minutes were approved on the 18th day of March, 2021.

Jamee Long

Jamee Long, City Secretary



Bruce Pinckard

Bruce Pinckard, Mayor

Public Comments for The February 25, 2021 Annetta City Council

Al Gloer

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With respect to the WebEx implementation procured by the city from Covington Services to provide for citizen interaction without requiring in person attendance.

I have seldom seen an implementation of a remote attendance system that was so poorly configured to meet the stated needs.

- 1) Audio is consistently poor.
- 2) Dialing in is touch and go.
- 3) The ability of a citizen to raise an issue is almost non-existent.

Essentially, if a citizen wants to be heard, then they are at the mercy of a host who has to follow a chat window looking for folks asking to speak. The host has to monitor what appears to be a confusing interface and often overlooks people.

The addition of two-way video should be considered. There is no reason that bi-directional video is not implemented.

If the city government needs to close city hall to citizens for any reason, then this system needs to be reevaluated and steps taken to make it a better substitute. Implementing a poorly configured system to replace or augment citizen interaction that was not requested by the citizenry and obtained without a thorough vetting of suppliers and technology is not in keeping with the idea of a representative city government.

This statement was written by Kristi Turner for the February 25, 2021 Annetta City Council Meeting

Good evening. Like those who aren't elected Annetta officials, I too have been attending virtual meetings since mid-December. Because I was home, my kids usually joined me for a bit. After one Annetta meeting my 8 year old asked me, "Mama, he seemed so nice. Why is he being so mean to you?" Annetta officials, I ask all of you, please do not use your platform to make unkind or disparaging remarks about a citizen, ever. Your words and actions have been noted by the community, young and old.

Secondly, on the agenda this evening is the discussion of hiring a new staff person. I realize from the officials packets since November that much of the reasoning behind this is being put on public information requests. Regarding such, I would like to point out a few things:

- 1) There is very little that is not public information. I applaud the town for starting to post files online, but there needs to be more and in a better manner for the public to see; such as the actual town website and not an unsecure website.
- 2) Sending a file that does exist or an email that something does not exist does not take even a half hour. If it is taking that long or longer then we have a different issue than not enough manpower.
- 3) We cannot keep subsidizing our general fund costs 80/20 with water revenue. We need to be paying down the debt that the town currently has.

My sidewalk safety fact for this month is, "unintentional pedestrian injuries are the fifth leading cause of injury related death in children ages 5-19."

I hope that you all make wise choices as we all move forward. What you say and do does not impact just you, it impacts our entire community.

I would like to begin by saying how disappointed I am in our elected officials. Until just two weeks ago I was told that by showing that there was interest in a sidewalk we could have a town hall to discuss the issue. Instead, the public received a three and a half hour diatribe about why you all do not support the idea.

It was said by multiple officials that by having a sidewalk and increasing pedestrian traffic it would make our community less safe. Because there were no facts by traffic engineers to support those statements, I would like to take this opportunity to share some facts.

According to Georgetown Law, sidewalks do increase public safety because they encourage people to be outside, which gives a community natural surveillance.

Walkable communities not only help reduce traffic emissions, but they also help to promote mental health. As one friend recently told me, she used to walk around Annetta for an hour or more daily to help with her postpartum depression. Based on the 2016 Comprehensive Plan, young families like hers are the primary demographic in our community who would benefit greatly from using this sidewalk for multiple reasons.

Additionally, many of you have also said that this would be "a sidewalk to no where". I would like to point out that this could connect our roads to not only Stuard Elementary but also our town hall which has been paid for by Annetta citizens.

You have repeatedly said that there is no money for a sidewalk, but tonight it appears that you plan to discuss purchasing mobile phones with town funds. Town business should be conducted over town email for retention purposes. I would like to suggest that you instead create town emails for each of our elected officials and utilize voice over IP via the laptops that were purchased last year. That would be a much more efficient use of town funds.

Again, I am very disappointed in the statements made by our Annetta officials, and I do hope that you remember that you are elected by the people.