



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, June 17, 2021, at 7:00 p.m. in the Annetta Town Hall at 450 Thunder Head Lane to consider the following agenda:

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

- I. **Call to order.** Mayor Sandy Roberts called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. There was one person online via WebEx.
- II. **Pledge of Allegiance/Invocation of Prayer.** Council Member Shane Mudge led the pledge and Council Member Bruce Pinckard gave the invocation.
- III. **Roll call/Quorum check.** A quorum check revealed that Mayor Roberts and Council Members Shane Mudge, Danny Coffman (via WebEx), Kent Stasey, Jim Causey and Bruce Pinckard were all present. Also present was Jamee Long, City Secretary.
- IV. **Public Comments:** There were no public comments.
- V. **Consent Items: Reports from City Staff and Commission or Committees:**
 - a. Consider the approval of Minutes from the Regular City Council Meeting on May 20, 2021.
 - b. Public Works Report.
 - c. Financial Report.

Council Member Stasey moved to accept all consent items as written, Council Member Causey seconded the motion, with all aye. Motion passed unanimously.

- VI. **New Business:**
 - a. **Discussion:** Discuss status of the Final Plat for Aledo ISD – Annetta Elementary. Council Member Pinckard asked for the status of the remaining documents needed from the school district. Public Works & Planning Director, Ryan Corbello, stated that his last check with Victoria Harkins was that we were missing the instrument for the lift station. Council Member Pinckard asked if the instrument missing was the access easement and Mr. Corbello said “yes.” Council Member Pinckard confirmed that the school district has

not submitted documents in order to finalize the plat with the Mayor's signature. He stated that this has been discussed with the school district and their engineers, but the Town has not received the documents. Council Member Stasey asked if there was a timeline for this to be complete. Mr. Corbello stated that sometimes the "turnaround is slow" and there is no definite timeline. Council Member Pinckard stated that all instruments need to come in prior to filing the plat. He stated that when the Town "inherits" the well and wastewater treatment plant that the Town will need an access easement. Council Member Pinckard stated that the plat only pertains to property owned by the school district and does not pertain to property along FM 5 which is under the jurisdiction of TXDOT. He stated that the plat documents define the property that is to be developed and the road along FM 5 is separate with TXDOT.

- b. **Discussion:** Review the Town's investment policy. Mayor Roberts stated that the policy is from August 2017 and is reviewed annually. There were no requested changes.
- c. **Discussion and Action:** Review recommendations by Town Staff and the Annetta Finance Committee for the FY 2021-2022 Budget and schedule public hearing and official notice as may be required by law. Council Member Mudge moved to schedule a public hearing on the FY 2021-2022 Budget for August 19, 2021, Council Member Pinckard seconded the motion, with all aye. Motion passed unanimously.
- d. **Discussion:** Budget FY 2021-22 workshop. Mayor Roberts opened the workshop at 7:05 p.m. Mayor Roberts asked Ryan Corbello for his budget recommendations and he stated that he is still working on the budget. Council Member Stasey stated that the Finance Committee will review capital improvement recommendations from the Town's engineer. He stated that he does not anticipate a rate change for next fiscal year. Council Member Stasey discussed fees associated with the new elementary school for operation of their water and wastewater systems. Council Member Stasey also stated that there are rising costs for legal fees due to open records requests. He discussed the burden for members to spend hours and hours searching for words that have your own name in them. He then discussed the need for ways to make this less cumbersome for individuals wishing to serve in the future. Council Member Stasey stated that the Town would need to provide devices and plans, and he believes this would be more cost effective than adding additional staff. He stated there will be an increase in technology assets on next year's budget. Council Member Stasey stated this is the only way he sees in order to make transparency key. Planning & Zoning Commission Member, Mike Herring, stated that he has spent 10 hours searching through his emails regarding the recent open records request. Mr. Herring discussed the possibility of "logging in" to a central computer to send and receive Town emails. Council Member Pinckard stated that the Town looked into this issue earlier in the year and that some citizens commented "this was Orwellian" and thought this would make it more difficult to reach council members. He continued by stating the truth is that many predicted what was going to happen because there is a pattern with particular requestors. He then stated that this is "vexatious requesting which is an attempt to bog down small city governments." Council Member Pinckard stated that it is unfortunate because it grants a certain amount of control through weaponization of the law to hobble small towns like Annetta and drive costs up. He continued by stating that in Annetta we have always had a "pay as you go mentality." He then stated this will drive up costs for hardware equipment. Council Member Pinckard added that when a FOIA request comes in, it takes considerable staff time away from projects that benefit ALL citizens. Council Member Pinckard stated that citizens are polled every year through elections and most citizens want the roads to continue to be repaired and want no ad valorem tax. He continued by stating that the intent of recent FOIA requests is not to get information but a "drag down operation" and meant to "punish those that they cannot control." He then stated that the citizens need to be aware of this situation and need to push back. He also stated the citizens have pushed back in the recent elections and requested council to "stay the course, be frugal and don't get into my pocket." Council Member Pinckard stated that there are "only so many dollars to go around and these costs will have to come out of something." He then stated that some of the same requestors are doing the same thing in the surrounding cities and the "Attorney General

knows the names because these names are common place in Austin now.” He continued by stating that he knows of no other city with approximately 3,000 in population, a superior water system and no ad valorem tax. He also stated that he knows of no member who wants another phone or device, but due to the vexatious requestors, this may be required. Council Member Stasey further discussed the budget stating that all three staff salaries have been budgeted. He continued by stating that the budgeting process is structured well and thanked staff for the ease in evaluating the budget. Council Member Stasey discussed how much the accounting structure has improved and also thanked the professional staff in Annetta. Council Member Pinckard discussed the possibility of road materials increasing in costs and this will be unavoidable. He thanked the council for keeping costs low and having adequate reserves. Mayor Roberts closed the workshop at 7:37 p.m.

VII. Items of Community Interest. Mayor Roberts thanked City Secretary, Jamee Long, for going above and beyond every day and especially the last month. She stated that she appreciates her professionalism. Mayor Roberts also congratulated Public Works & Planning Director, Ryan Corbello, on his recent marriage.

VIII. Adjournment: With no further business before the council, the Mayor adjourned the meeting at 7:47 p.m.

These minutes were approved on the 15th day of July, 2021.



Jamee Long, City Secretary



Sandy Roberts, Mayor