

The Town of Ceredo Town Council met in regular session on Monday, February 5th, 2024, at Ceredo Town Hall. The Mayor, Paul A. Billups, called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. Those present included the Mayor, Paul A. Billups, and Councilmen Steve Diamond, Ron Jarrell, Robert Leslie, Oscar Adkins and Joe Ratcliff.

Reading and Approval of the Minutes

The Mayor asked if Council had any additions or corrections to the minutes of the January 8th, 2024, Regular Session. None being heard and on a motion by Steve Diamond and a second by Bob Leslie, Council voted to accept the January 8th, 204 Regular Session minutes as presented. All were in favor, motion passed.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer, Robert Leslie, presented Council with the account balances for each account and the expenditures for January 2024. The Mayor asked if Council had any questions on the Treasurer's Report. None being heard, on a motion by Robert Leslie and a second by Joe Ratcliff, Council voted to accept the Treasurer's report for January 2024 as presented. All were in favor, and the motion carried.

Ceredo Volunteer Fire Department

Chief Rob Robson of the Ceredo Volunteer Fire Department addressed Council regarding the status of EMS service in Wayne County, and the number of calls that Ceredo EMS is currently handling outside the town.

Chief Robson also requested a letter of approval from the Council directed to the Wayne County Commission regarding the purchase of new fire hydrant adapters for 58 hydrants in the town. By consensus, Council agreed that a letter of approval for the change be directed to the Commission.

Jordan Branch Pump Station

Matt Myles, maintenance foreman, addressed council concerning the Jordan Branch Pump Station. During recent high water, it was discovered that the outflow pipes from the pump station were leaking and that the sluice gate on top of the levee appears to have a bend in the screw rod. The Mayor expressed that both issues should be immediately remediated, and with the consent of Council, the Mayor will contact an engineering firm to have the issues inspected and a cost estimate for repairs.

Outdoor Advertising – Billboards

The Mayor informed Council that an inquiry was made concerning the erection of a billboard on private property near Sixth Street West and the railroad. Council discussed an overview of the current outdoor advertising ordinance, and it was agreed that the matter would be tabled pending the presentation of formal drawings.

Armstrong Utilities Franchise Agreement

The Mayor informed Council that the current franchise agreement allowing Armstrong Utilities to provide service to the town will expire July 31, 2024. A renewal franchise agreement was presented, having a ten-year term with an option to extend a second term of ten years. The franchise tariff, established by the FCC, is 5% of gross revenue. The franchise is not exclusive. On a motion by Steve Diamond and a second by Oscar Adkins, followed by a unanimous favorable vote, the Mayor was given authority to execute the agreement.

Building Code Revision

An ordinance revising Article 1711 of the Codified Ordinances, Building Code, was presented. The revision provides current references to the state and federal building and fire codes, all adopted by the town. On a motion by Bob Leslie and a second by Oscar Adkins, followed by a unanimous vote of Council, the ordinance revising and updating Article 1711 et seq., was approved.

Ordinance to Create Planning Commission

The Mayor presented a proposed ordinance to create the Ceredo Municipal Planning Commission, a commission required to formulate a long-term plan for the future development and possible zoning of the town. After reading and discussion, a motion by Steve Diamond and a second by Ronnie Jarrell, the first reading passed.

Purchasing Card (PCard) Program Proposal

The Town Clerk presented Council with the recommendation to switch to a visa purchasing card program over the current use of debit cards. After discussion, the Mayor proposed a limit of \$25,000 to be pooled by all cards and users on the account. On a motion by Steve Diamond and a second by Oscar Adkins, followed by a unanimous favorable vote, the Mayor was given authority to execute the agreement.

Adjournment

No further business was brought before council. The meeting adjourned at 7:54 p.m.

Paul A. Billups, Mayor

ATTEST: Jacob M. Skeens, Town Clerk