

MINUTES OF THE CROCKETT CITY COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON THE 28th DAY OF MAY 2024 IN THE CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS, LOCATED AT 200 NORTH FIFTH IN THE CITY OF CROCKETT, HOUSTON COUNTY TEXAS AT 6:00 P.M.

THE COUNCIL MET IN SPECIAL SESSION WITH THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS PRESENT: IANTHIA FISHER, DENNIS IVEY, DARRELL JONES, NATRENIA HICKS, ELBERT JOHNSON & MIKE MARSH. CITY OFFICIALS PRESENT: CITY ADMINISTRATOR JOHN ANGERSTEIN, CITY SECRETARY MITZI STEFKA, CITY ATTORNEY BILL PEMBERTON AND ASSISTANT CITY ADMINISTRATOR LEE STANDLEY.

OPEN MEETING WITH INVOCATION AND PLEDGE

Mayor Fisher called the session open; Council member Ivey gave the invocation, and all joined in the pledge.

RECOGNITION OF VISITORS

Mayor Fisher recognized all visitors present. Mayor Fisher then presented former City Councilman Ernest Jackson with a plaque in recognition for his years of service in Precinct 3.

COMMENTS FROM AUDIENCE OR COUNCIL *(At this time, anyone will be allowed to speak on City related matters only; no personnel matters or matters under litigation will be allowed. The length of time may not exceed three minutes. NO Council discussion or action may take place on a matter until such matter has been placed on an agenda and posted in accordance with law.)*

- Vicki Cox - Concerns about council member Hicks serving on CEIDC board
- Sam James – Spoke in opposition to agenda item #1
- Tony Shuttlesworth – Spoke in opposition to agenda item #1
- Kat Cross - Spoke in opposition to agenda item #1
- Lawrence Minter – Concerns about nepotism at CEIDC
- Earnest Jackson - Spoke in opposition to agenda item #1
- Buddy Clonts - Spoke in opposition to agenda item #1
- Joni Clonts - Spoke in opposition to agenda item #1
- Pat Bounds – Questions about future CEIDC and City Council procedures
- Tammy Minter - Spoke in opposition to agenda item #1
- Wayne Lacy – Urged council to take their responsibilities seriously.
- Dianne Rhone - Spoke in opposition to agenda item #1
- Virginia Lewis - Spoke in opposition to agenda item #1
- Council member Hicks – appreciates Angelina College and stated desire to get Angelina College back
- Council member Johnson – expressed concerns about certain group of people/egos
- Mayor Fisher reminded council not to respond to any comments from public

BUSINESS

1. CONSIDER AND APPROVE REMOVING PAID ADMINISTRATIVE LEAVE STATUS OF CROCKETT ECONOMIC AND INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION DIRECTOR AND EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT

Council member Hicks made the following motion:

I, NaTrenia Hicks make a motion to: affirm the position of James Gentry as the Executive Director of Crockett Economic and Industrial Development Corporation with rights to receive legal and other official documents and act on behalf of the Corporation; rescind any implied or actual suspension and any implied or actual administrative paid leave status of James Gentry in the past by the City of Crockett Council effective immediately; and postpone consideration and actions on administrative paid leave status for assistant Executive Director until further notice from Councilman Darrell Jones. Council member Jones seconded the motion.

Mayor Fisher stated there was no suspension. Mr. Angerstein explained the difference in suspension and administrative paid leave and that the action items should be two-fold. Mayor Fisher further stated she understood the problems to be systemic, not linked to any one person, and should be addressed before any other decisions were made. Council member Ivey stated he believed the item should be tabled until the council gets a conclusion from legal counsel. Mayor Pro Tem Marsh stated that procedures need to be in place first. During discussion of the motion, Mr. Angerstein read a statement, informing council that it is his duty to provide information and advice to facilitate their decision making and to alert the council when the city is increasing its liabilities and exposure to litigation or prosecution. He expressed concern that approving this agenda item would indeed pose a serious risk of litigation or criminal prosecution to the city and/or the council members themselves. With the conclusion of an internal affairs review being imminent, he felt it was premature to take action on this item until the results of that review had been presented to the city council. As the CEIDC executive director and administrative assistant had been on paid administrative leave since January of 2023, he saw no harm in postponing action on this agenda item until the review had been presented and corrective measures had been discussed and implemented. After discussion Mayor Fisher called for a vote on the motion made. Motion passes 3-2. Mayor Pro Tem Marsh and Council member Ivey voted against the motion.

ADJOURNMENT

Without objection, Mayor Fisher adjourned the meeting at 7:06 P.M.

Dr. Ianthia Fisher, Mayor

ATTEST:

Mitzi Stefka, City Secretary