

MINUTES OF THE CROCKETT CITY COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON THE 21<sup>st</sup> DAY OF JULY 2025 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 REGULAR SESSION WITH THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS PRESENT: IANTHIA FISHER, DENNIS IVEY, CHRISTOPHER PRICE, NATRIENIA HICKS, ELBERT JOHNSON & MIKE MARSH. CITY OFFICIALS PRESENT: CITY ADMINISTRATOR JOHN ANGERSTEIN, CITY SECRETARY MITZI STEFKA, ASSISTANT CITY ADMINISTRATOR LEE STANDLEY, CITY ATTORNEY DONNA GORDON, POLICE CHIEF CLAYTON SMITH, AND FIRE CHIEF JASON FRIZZELL.

OPEN MEETING WITH INVOCATION AND PLEDGE

Mayor Fisher called the formal session open and council member Ivey gave the invocation. All joined in the pledge.

RECOGNITION OF VISITORS

Mayor Fisher recognized all visitors present.

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.)*

- Stephen Millhouse Barr – (Groveton, TX) Comments on public safety and education.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. REGULAR SESSION: JULY 7, 2025

Mayor Pro Tem Marsh made a motion to approve the minutes of the July 7, 2025 regular session. Council member Ivey seconded the motion. Motion passes 5-0.

REPORTS

2. POLICE DEPARTMENT MANPOWER & CRIMINAL INCIDENT REPORT FOR JUNE 2025

Chief Smith reported for the month of June 2025: 16 total manpower, 2,527 total manpower hours, 424 total calls and 6 total accidents. A breakdown of the criminal report is included in the packet.

3. FIRE DEPARTMENT MONTHLY ACTIVITY & STATUS REPORT FOR JUNE 2025

Chief Frizzell reported for the month of June 2025 the following: 40 calls. A breakdown is included in the packet.

BUSINESS

4. CONSIDER AND APPROVE REAPPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD

Council member Ivey made a motion to approve the reappointment of the following members to Parks and Recreation Board: David Tyer, Spencer Burke, Larry Robbins, Lindsey Rice, Jo Denman and Kimberley Marrs. Mayor Pro Tem Marsh seconded the motion. Motion passes 5-0.

5. CONSIDER AND APPROVE REAPPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO BOARD OF ADJUSTMENTS COMMISSION

Council member Hicks made a motion to approve the reappointment of the following members to Board of Adjustments Commission: Michael Brenner, Jo Denman, David Tyer, Samantha Wiley and Lois Ball. Mayor Pro Tem Marsh seconded the motion. Motion passes 5-0.

6. CONSIDER AND APPROVE APPOINTMENT/REAPPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD

Council member Hicks made a motion to approve the appointment of Alicia Bailey and the reappointments of Jessica James and Paula Hackett to the Library Advisory Board. Council member Price seconded the motion. Motion passes 5-0.

7. PUBLIC HEARING ON THE PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION'S FINAL REPORT FOR RECOMMENDED ZONING MAP AMENDMENTS TO CHANGE THE ZONING DISTRICT FROM M-MANUFACTURING, WAREHOUSING AND WHOLESALING DISTRICT TO R2-TWO FAMILY RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT OR TO R3- MULTIPLE-FAMILY RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT FOR SEVERAL PARCELS OF LAND WITHIN A STRIP OF PROPERTIES GENERALLY LOCATED BETWEEN MARTIN LUTHER KING (MLK), JR. BLVD. ON THE EAST, SYCAMORE STREET OR SYCAMORE STREET RIGHT-OF-WAY ON THE WEST, WEST GOLIAD AVENUE ON THE NORTH, AND BURLESON AVENUE ON THE SOUTH

Mayor Fisher opened the public hearing and Mr. Angerstein explained that the area in question was zoned for manufacturing use, but most of the properties were residential. Amending the zoning map for this area would protect residents from having potentially disruptive businesses from moving in next door to their homes. Council member Hicks expressed concern about possible conflict of interest with the City Administrator. Mayor Fisher declared there was no such conflict. With no further comments from council or the audience, Mayor Fisher closed the public hearing.

8. CONSIDER AND APPROVE PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION'S RECOMMENDED ZONING MAP AMENDMENTS IDENTIFIED IN THE COMMISSION'S FINAL REPORT

Council member Hicks made a motion to approve the Planning & Zoning Commission's recommended zoning map amendments identified in the Commission's final report. Council member Johnson seconded the motion. Motion passes 5-0.

9. CONSIDER AND APPROVE LEASE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF CROCKET, TEXAS AND WATCH BROADBAND TEXAS, LLC

Mr. Angerstein explained that Watch Broadband had approached the City with an offer to provide free broadband internet service to the City of Crockett in exchange for allowing them to mount a cellular transceiver/repeater on the southwest elevated water storage tank. This would improve wireless internet service in the Davy Crockett Memorial Park and Porth Ag Arena during public events. After some discussion, council member Ivey made a motion to approve a lease agreement between the City of Crockett, Texas and Watch Broadband Texas, LLC. Council member Price seconded the motion. Motion passes 5-0.

10. FISCAL YEAR 2026 BUDGET WORKSHOP

Mr. Angerstein informed council that the Houston County Appraisal District had yet to provide certified property values and the budget discussions would be using estimated values. The 2024 estimated values were \$392,938,479 and the 2025 estimated values are \$421,785,359. The increase in values were due to a significant amount of new construction. He informed council that while our worker's compensation insurance rates dropped 1.6%, all other insurance rates increased. Lawsuits increased our general liability and errors/omissions rate by 48% and 41% respectively. Property insurance went up 14.6%. We also have a state mandate for a cybersecurity policy. Total insurance premium increase is approximately \$23,000 for the coming fiscal year.

Mr. Angerstein explained that we had \$252,000 in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds available. \$61,500 of those funds have been allocated to our gateway signs and \$86,500 for fire station bay floor repairs, leaving \$104,000 in unallocated ARPA funds.

Regarding large capital requests, including police station upgrades, new police department radios and new fire department radios, Mr. Angerstein noted these expenses would likely require issuance of debt and would be discussed at a later date.

Regarding multi-year appropriations, Mr. Angerstein urged council to consider a Cost-of-Living Adjustment (COLA) for all city employees. A 3% COLA would cost approximately \$130,000 and a 5% COLA would cost approximately \$190,000. Even raising the ad-valorem tax rate to the Voter Approval Rate wouldn't provide enough revenue to cover a COLA for all employees. The same is true for police department certificate pay and increasing the number of police officers and firefighters. However, some funds may be found by re-prioritizing various programs and projects within the budget.

City Hall repairs and renovations are not a pressing need, but some aspects of the project could be performed in-house without requiring the use of contractors. However, Civic Center repairs need to be addressed to prevent more extensive damage from water ingress around the foundation. The doors of the Civic Center also need attention due to wear and tear and lack of ADA compliance. Public Works has an urgent need for a padfoot roller, and our Operations Superintendent is looking at options to present to council for consideration.

Mr. Angerstein asked council for direction on how to distribute our debt costs between our general fund and our utility fund. Adding it all to our general fund would cost the average homeowner \$79 per year in property taxes. Adding it all to our utility fund would cost the average water customer \$156 year in utility fees. The costs could also be split between the funds at council's discretion. Council also discussed the cost of water from the Houston County Water Control & Improvement District #1 (WCID) and instructed the City Administrator to look at options to secure our access to groundwater sources.

Council member Hicks made a motion to have debt service for police and fire vehicles to be paid from ad-valorem tax revenue and debt service for water/sewer infrastructure improvements to come from water consumption revenue. Council member Johnson seconded the motion. Motion passes 5-0.

## EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mayor Fisher stated Council would convene into Executive Session per Gov. Code 551.074: Personnel Matters. Consider Annual Performance Evaluation of Police Chief, Fire Chief and City Administrator and Consider Personnel Matters Related to City Administrator and Assistant City Administrator. Time was 7:35 P.M.

### 11. GOV. CODE 551.074 – PERSONNEL MATTERS. CONSIDER ANNUAL PERFORMANCE EVALUATION OF POLICE CHIEF, FIRE CHIEF AND CITY ADMINISTRATOR

Mayor Fisher reconvened the meeting into open session. Time was 9:43 P.M.

Mayor Pro Tem Marsh made a motion to approve the annual performance evaluations of Police Chief, Fire Chief and City Administrator as favorable. Council member Hicks seconded the motion. Motion passes 5-0.

### 12. GOV. CODE 551.074 – CONSIDER PERSONNEL MATTERS RELATED TO CITY ADMINISTRATOR AND ASSISTANT CITY ADMINISTRATOR

No action taken.

## ADJOURNMENT

Without objection, Mayor Fisher adjourned the meeting at 9:45 P.M.

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Dr. Ianthia Fisher, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Mitzi Stefka, City Secretary