

**Flatonia City Council  
Regular Meeting Minutes  
November 12, 2024, at 6:00 p.m.**

**Present:**

Mayor	Travis Seale
Mayor Pro Tem	Joanye Eversole
Councilmembers	Ginny Sears Allen Kocian Josh Homan Donna Cockrell
City Manager	Sonya Bishop
City Secretary	Jacqueline Ott
Fire Chief	Chris Swenning
Utility Director	Jack Pavlas
Utility Supervisor	Steve Cobler
Police Chief	Lee Dick
Police Sergeant	Trey Tunis
Police Investigator	Geneva Titus
Police Officer	Taylor Amos

**Opening Agenda**

*Call to Order* Mayor Seale called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.  
*Invocation & Pledge* Councilman Kocian led the invocation and pledges.  
*Citizen Participation* Cathy Horn asked the council for permission to plant a memorial tree in 7 Acre Park to honor former mayor and councilman Jeff Hairgrove. She plans to donate a Bur Oak tree this fall and would like to hold a dedication ceremony in the spring.

**Presentations**

- P1.** Larry Haas with the Flatonia Food Pantry gave an update on the progress of the organization since Council approved their lease at the Civic Center. He invited the council to attend an Open House on November 13<sup>th</sup>.
- P2.** Jamie Notz with Goldman, Hunt, & Notz, LLP presented the audit for Fiscal Year 2022. She noted that she sees an improvement each year and has high expectations for the upcoming audits.

**Staff Reports**

*Fire Chief* September Report  
*Police Chief* September Report  
*Utility Director* Council asked for the list to be prioritized.  
*Code Enforcement* Mayor Seale asked for better follow-up and follow-through on fines.  
*City Manager* Mayor Seale asked for a representative from Befco to attend the next meeting to discuss sludge removal. He also asked for a TxDOT update on

the sidewalks on Highway 90. Councilwoman Cockrell asked about the City's responsibility to Czhlispiel. It was discussed that a formal agreement in conjunction with the special event permit be developed. City Manager Bishop also updated the council on the transfer of the softball field to Fisd. She informed the council that the construction of the park was due to a Texas Parks and Wildlife grant. She is working with them to determine if transferring the softball field will in any way affect the terms of the grant.

### **Consent Agenda**

- C1.** Councilwoman Cockrell motioned to approve the meeting minutes for October 8, 2024. Councilman Kocian seconded the motion. None opposed. Motion carried unanimously.
- C2.** Councilman Homan verified that the debt for the police department vehicles had been paid in full. Councilwoman Sears motioned to approve the October 2024 financials. Mayor Pro Tem Eversole seconded the motion. None opposed. Motion carried unanimously.

### **Discussion Agenda**

- D1.** City Secretary Ott gave an update on the overdue 941 taxes. She confirmed with the city's designated IRS representative that the existing funds were realigned properly, and the check for the remaining balance was received, so the issue has been resolved.
- D2.** Mayor Seale gave an update on a meeting between the Flatonía Police Department, Fayette County Sheriff's Office, and city management. He felt the meeting helped reestablish lines of communication and convey the goals and expectations of each entity.

### **Deliberation Agenda**

- DA11.1.2024.1** Mayor Pro Tem Eversole motioned to approve the Fiscal Year 2022 audit from Goldman, Hunt, & Notz, LLP. Councilman Kocian seconded the motion. None opposed. Motion carried unanimously.
- DA11.1.2024.2** Councilwoman Sears motioned to approve the engagement letter for Fiscal Year 2023 audit from Goldman, Hunt, & Notz, LLP. Mayor Pro Tem Eversole seconded the motion. None opposed. Motion carried unanimously.
- DA11.1.2024.3** No action was taken. The council would like Ordinance 2024.11.1, the ordinance regulating disposed tires, to clearly state an effective date and revise the distance in Sec. 6(b). City Manager Bishop will make the adjustments and present the revised version at the next regular meeting.
- DA11.1.2024.4** The council thoroughly discussed implementing a regular program for the disposal of tires to potentially run with the Citywide Spring/Fall Clean Up Day. Councilman Homan would like more information regarding dates,

rules, and fees. Mayor Pro Tem Eversole motioned to approve a tire amnesty clean-up day, with more information to be provided at the next regular meeting. Councilwoman Cockrell seconded the motion. Councilman Homan opposed the motion. All others voted for the motion. Motion carried.

- DA11.1.2024.5** Councilman Homan confirmed that no employee receives reimbursement for business use of their personal device. Mayor Pro Tem Eversole motioned to approve Resolution 2024.11.1, a resolution setting the City of Flatonia's policy on state-restricted social media. Councilman Homan seconded the motion. None opposed. Motion carried unanimously.
- DA11.1.2024.6** No action was taken. City Secretary Ott will work with Police Chief Dick to change the resolution to better suit the intended use of the policy manual. The revised resolution will be presented at the next regular meeting.
- DA11.1.2024.7** Mayor Pro Tem Eversole motioned to approve reappointing Dennis Geesaman and Randy Johnson to the EDC Board of Directors. Councilman Kocian seconded the motion. None opposed. Motion carried unanimously.
- DA11.1.2024.8** Councilwoman Sears motioned to approve appointing Joanye Eversole as a City Council representative on the EDC Board of Directors. Councilman Kocian seconded the motion. None opposed. Motion carried unanimously.
- DA11.1.2024.9** Mayor Pro Tem Eversole motioned to approve Resolution 2024.11.3, a resolution for the submission of the 2025 Recreational Trail Grant Program Application to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. Councilwoman Sears seconded the motion. None opposed. Motion carried.
- DA11.1.2024.10** Mayor Pro Tem Eversole motioned to approve awarding the administrative services contract for the preparation of the City's 2025-2026 Texas Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) CD application and subsequent administrative services contract, if funded. Councilwoman Sears seconded the motion. None opposed. Motion carried unanimously.
- DA11.1.2024.11** Councilwoman Sears motioned to approve Resolution 2024.11.4, a resolution for the submission of the 2025-2026 Texas Community Development Grant Fund Program Application to the Texas Department of Agriculture. Mayor Pro Tem Eversole seconded the motion. None opposed. Motion carried unanimously.
- DA11.1.2024.12** Councilwoman Sears motioned to approve Resolution 2024.11.5, a resolution for the submission of the FEMA Hazard Mitigation Assistance Grant Project Application. Mayor Pro Tem Eversole seconded the motion. None opposed. Motion carried unanimously.

**DA11.1.2024.13** Councilman Homan motioned to allow the contract to expire and provide Sign Ad with written notification of such. Councilman Kocian seconded the motion. None opposed. Motion carried unanimously.

**DA11.1.2024.14** No action was taken. Mayor Seale advised City Secretary Ott to contact the other committees and run a public notice in the newspaper for volunteers. He would like to see a list of subcommittee volunteers at the next regular meeting.

**DA11.1.2024.15** Mayor Pro Tem Eversole motioned to renew the agreement with Combined Community Action for two years. Councilwoman Cockrell seconded the motion. None opposed. Motion carried unanimously.

**Executive Session**

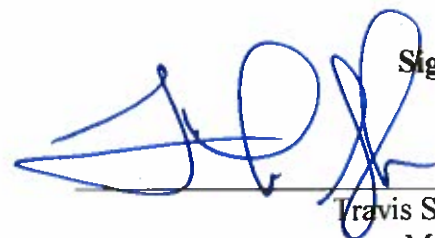
**ES11.1.2024.1** Executive Session was called at 8:55 p.m. as authorized by Texas Government Code 551.074 Deliberation on Personnel Matters regarding City Manager Bishop's expiring employment contract. Executive Session ended at 9:33 p.m.

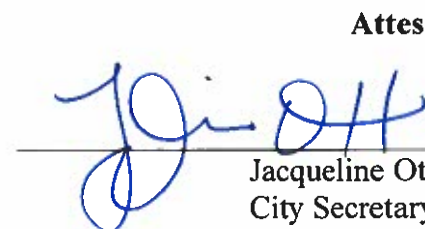
**Deliberation Agenda *continued***

**DA11.1.2024.16** Councilwoman Sears motioned to approve extending the employment contract for City Manager Sonya Bishop for three years with an edit to remove Section 15.03 regarding reimbursement for relocation. Mayor Pro Tem Eversole seconded the motion. None opposed. Motion carried unanimously.

**Adjournment**

Mayor Pro Tem Eversole motioned to end the meeting. Councilman Kocian seconded the motion. None opposed. Motion carried unanimously. Mayor Seale adjourned the meeting at 9:36 p.m.

  
Signed  
Travis Seale  
Mayor

  
Attest  
Jacqueline Ott  
City Secretary

