

**Minutes  
Flatonia City Council  
April 9, 2024**

**Public Hearing at 5:30 p.m.**

**Present:**

Mayor	Dennis Geesaman
Mayor Pro Tem	Joanye Eversole
Councilmembers	Ginny Sears
	Allen Kocian
	Donna Cockrell
	Travis Seale
City Manager	Sonya Bishop
City Secretary	Jacqueline Ott
Permit Clerk	Jennifer Schaffner

**Public Hearing**

Mayor Geesaman opened the Public Hearing for a variance request from Emma Gutierrez and Guillermo Manzano for PID #54931, the property at 628 W. US Hwy 90, Flatonia, Texas 78941. The variance request is to eliminate the building setback requirements. The property owner spoke and explained they would like to obtain the variance request prior to selling the property so that potential buyers know the land will be usable upon purchase. No citizens requested to speak. Mayor Geesaman closed the Public Hearing at 5:32 p.m.

**Regular Meeting at 6:00 p.m.**

**Present:**

Mayor	Dennis Geesaman
Mayor Pro Tem	Joanye Eversole
Councilmembers	Ginny Sears
	Allen Kocian
	Donna Cockrell
	Travis Seale
City Manager	Sonya Bishop
City Secretary	Jacqueline Ott
Police Chief	Lee Dick
Fire Chief	Chris Swenning

**Absent:**

Utility Director	Jack Pavlas
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**Opening Agenda**

Call to Order	Mayor Geesaman called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.
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Invocation & Pledge	Councilman Kocian led the invocation and pledges.
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Citizen Participation	None
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## **Presentation**

Jamie Notz, CPA of Goldman, Hunt, and Notz, LLC, presented the Fiscal Year 2020-2021 audit report. They issued a qualified opinion for most of the categories, except the smaller funds. The main issues were a lack of backup paperwork and personnel training on software, both of which have been addressed and repaired since the timeframe in question. CPA Notz believes the audits are improving, and she expects them to continue in the same direction.

## **Reports**

### **Police Chief**

#### **March Report**

Councilman Seale asked about the upcoming Police Department fundraiser. Chief Dick stated the funds raised will go into the Police Department Donations account and will be used to purchase vehicle equipment. Councilwoman Sears questioned the School Patrol/Security line in the calls report list. Chief Dick explained those are calls to the school for traffic control, sporting events, etc. Councilman Seale asked about the former SRO vehicle and usable equipment, and Chief Dick said the vehicle is going to auction, but the equipment is outdated.

### **Utility Director**

#### **March Report**

City Manager Bishop stated that the work on the water and sewer for the Arnim Building has been completed. The utility crew has started working on adding stop signs when they are able to, but it will be an ongoing project.

### **Code Enforcement**

#### **March Report**

### **City Manager**

#### **March Report**

### **Fire Chief**

#### **March Report**

Membership is growing. However, the number of members available for daytime callouts is down. Councilwoman Cockrell suggested he speak to the employers of the members who are having difficulty getting away from their day jobs to help, and Chief Swenning said that was previously suggested, so he is planning to do so. He has implemented a new training system to cut down on the amount of weekend training needed.

## **Consent Agenda**

### **C1.**

Councilman Seale motioned to approve the March 12, 2024, meeting minutes. Councilwoman Sears seconded the motion. None opposed. Motion carried unanimously.

### **C2.**

Councilman Seale motioned to approve the March 26, 2024, meeting minutes. Councilwoman Sears seconded the motion. None opposed. Motion carried unanimously.

### **C3.**

Councilman Seale raised questions about the fuel budget for the Parks Department, the TESRS budget for the Fire Department, and the computer software budget for the Water Department. City Manager Bishop stated she would review these items and report her findings to all council members. Councilwoman Sears commented on the amount of the invoice from The Knight Law Firm. Councilman Seale asked about the difference in the Electric revenue versus expenses. City Manager Bishop stated our revenue is less because the City stopped receiving the emergency funds from the winter storm in 2021, and this was not factored into the budget. Councilman Seale suggested we review our fee table for equipment and services in order to bring in enough revenue to cover the expenditures. Councilman Seale motioned to approve the financial statements for March 2024. Mayor Pro Tem Eversole seconded the motion. None opposed. Motion carried unanimously.

**Deliberation Agenda**

**DA4.1.2024.1**

A variance request from Emma Gutierrez and Guillermo Manzano for PID #54931, the property at 628 W. US Hwy 90, Flatonia, Texas 78941. The variance request is to remove building setback requirements. Councilwoman Sears pointed out there is a large right-of-way from TxDOT and a large easement from the City on either side of this property. Mayor Geesaman mentioned there was previously a variance granted allowing the owner to construct a driveway and carport on the utility easement; however, this request would not be grandfathered in on the same request. Permit Clerk Schaffner explained that allowing the owner to build up to the surveyed property boundaries would not negatively impact the surrounding properties. The owner mentioned whoever purchases the property will remove the existing mobile home. Councilwoman Sears motioned to approve the variance request. Mayor Pro Tem Eversole seconded the motion. None opposed. Motion carried unanimously.

**DA4.1.2024.2**

Mayor Pro Tem Eversole motioned to approve Resolution #2024.4.1, a resolution to designate City holidays for Fiscal Year 2024-2025. Councilman Kocian seconded the motion. None opposed. Motion carried unanimously.

**DA4.1.2024.3**

Councilman Seale motioned to accept the audit for Fiscal Year 2020-2021 as presented by Jamie Notz of Goldman, Hunt, and Notz, LLC. Mayor Pro Tem Eversole seconded the motion. None opposed. Motion carried unanimously.


**DA4.1.2024.4**

Councilman Seale motioned to approve the Hotel Occupancy Tax Expenditure Reports for Quarters 1 and 3 of 2023 and Quarter 1 of 2024 from Flatonia Chamber of Commerce, Special Projects, and EA Arnim Archives and Museum. City Secretary Ott clarified the funds were released correctly, but the reports were never approved on the agenda. Councilman Kocian seconded the motion. None opposed. Motion carried unanimously.

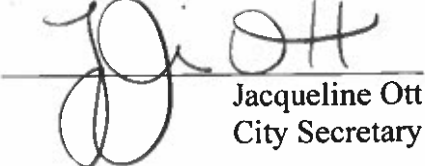
**Adjournment**

Councilman Kocian moved to end the meeting. Mayor Pro Tem seconded the motion. None opposed. Motion carried unanimously. Mayor Geesaman adjourned the meeting at 6:55 p.m.

**Signed**

  
Dennis Geesaman  
Mayor

**Attest**

  
Jacqueline Ott  
City Secretary

