

## MINUTES OF CITY COUNCIL MEETING MARCH 2, 2021

1. **Call to order:** Meeting was called to order at 6:01 P.M. by Mayor Bert Echterling.
2. **Invocation:** Pastor David Tenberg, Point of Truth Church, provided the invocation.
3. **Pledge of Allegiance**
4. **Roll Call:** Councilmembers present: Jeremy Holland, Mayor Bert Echterling, Mayor Pro Tem Jeremy Stivener, Matthew Birkes and Steve Janics. Councilmembers absent: Jimmy Rogers and Jana Follender.
5. **Citizen Comments:**

Linda Vaughn, President of Robinson Chamber of Commerce, invited Mayor and Council to attend: HOT Shooting ribbon cutting, a date is to come, and the next membership networking luncheon, April 22, 2021 at noon, at the Tajun Cajun restaurant. Every quarter these luncheons are held. There will be networking and a speaker, Karen Brown. She also reminded the council of the Annual Membership Banquet on July 22, 2021 at the Texas Sports Hall of Fame. Tickets will be available soon and the chamber is taking and accepting sponsorships. There will be a speaker, meal, music and a silent auction.

Michael Baker, 645 Kristi Street, Robinson, Texas, addressed the council regarding Item 8 on the agenda and his residential trash pickup during the winter storm. Mr. Baker stated his residence trash had not been picked up for two weeks and asked if the city was going to be prorating or discounting those bills.

### PRESENTATIONS

- a. **Proclamations for the Snow & Ice Storm Recognition from Mayor Echterling:**

Mayor Echterling read and presented proclamations for recognition to the City of Robinson employees who worked through the February weather event as well as the Robinson Volunteer Fire Department, Robinson ISD, Meadowbrook Baptist Church, First Baptist Church-Robinson, and the Shepherds Heart Food Pantry for their contributions of opening warming centers and providing food for those in need. Mayor Echterling and the Councilmembers expressed their individual gratitude.
- b. **Presentation of Police Service Award from Police Chief Andreucci:**

Chief Andreucci presented Sergeant Vincent Otting with a Community Service Award plaque for his outstanding service for helping out a disabled veteran and citizen of Robinson in need. Sergeant Otting went above and beyond. Sergeant Otting volunteered his time, and personal vehicle, and assisted in improving the issues at the home where the citizen lived, which enabled him to remain in the home.

**Mayor and Council pulled Consent Agenda Item 7 for discussion.**

**CONSENT AGENDA**

**6. Approve Minutes: February 2, 2021.**

Mayor Pro Tem Jeremy Stivener motioned to approve minutes from February 2, 2021 City Council Meeting as presented. Mayor Bert Echterling seconded this motion. Voting in favor: Holland, Echterling, Stivener, Birkes and Janics. There were no opposing votes and the motion carried 5-0. Councilmembers Rogers and Follender were absent.

**REGULAR AGENDA**

**7. Consider and possible action accepting the City of Robinson, Texas Annual Financial Report presented by Belt Harris Pechacek, LLP for Fiscal Year ending September 30, 2020.**

Mike Brotherton, CPA with Belt Haris Pechacek, LLP presented the City of Robinson Annual Financial Report for the Fiscal Year ending September 30, 2020.

Mayor Pro Tem Jeremy Stivener motioned to accept the City of Robinson, Texas Annual Financial Report presented by Belt Harris Pechacek, LLP for Fiscal Year ending September 30, 2020. Councilmember Steve Janics seconded this motion. Voting in favor: Holland, Echterling, Stivener, Birkes and Janics. There were no opposing votes and the motion carried 5-0. Councilmembers Rogers and Follender were absent.

**8. Consider and possible action on Ordinance 2021-004 providing for forgiveness of portions of water bills attributable to broken service lines or internal structural lines during February weather event.**

Mayor Echterling asked City Manager Craig Lemin to add this item to the agenda. There is already a policy in place for residences who deal with a leak and ask for forgiveness.

This would be a special circumstance during the winter storm time frame for those that can prove a water break within those storm dates with usages above the normal.

Mayor Bert Echterling asked City Manager Craig Lemin about trash proration and check on contract with waste management company. City Manager Craig Lemin stated the trash issue is not on the agenda but mentioned the trash ran extra after the storm and the company will not wave fees. The trucks ran late and not on designated days but they did run. They needed to wait until it was safe for the trucks to be on the road. Mr. Lemin restated there is a policy in place that once every twelve months a residence with a leak can submit documentation of a fixed leak and the city will wave fifty percent of the cost of that leak. This ordinance specifically takes this incident and says if you have a leak during February 11-20, 2021 the city will bill you on your monthly average use this time of year

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with documentation of a fixed leak. An application process will be required. Councilmember Janics suggested giving all residents across the board a break due to possible dripping water so pipes do not freeze. Mr. Lemin stated those that had leaks are able to file with the application process. Mayor Echterling asked Utility Director Greg Hobbs to expand on the water issues. Greg Hobbs, Utility Director, stated in 41 years, he has never seen residential leaks make this kind of demand on the system. Mayor Echterling asked how did it compare to summer time peaks? Mr. Hobbs stated three wells were out due to no power to the plant. There were only two ground water wells working. Double the normal usage this time of year. Mr. Lemin stated no FEMA funding is available yet for cities. The residences are in a better position to file a claim with FEMA.

Councilmember Steve Janics motioned to approve Ordinance 2021-004 providing for forgiveness of portions of water bills attributable to broken service lines or internal structural lines during February weather event. Mayor Pro Tem Jeremy Stivener seconded this motion. Voting in favor: Holland, Echterling, Stivener, Birkes and Janics. There were no opposing votes and the motion carried 5-0. Councilmembers Rogers and Follender were absent.

- 9. Consider and possible action approving an agreement with Insituform Technologies, LLC for the purchase of labor, materials, equipment and services to replace sewer lines in and around sections of the Fain Estates subdivision utilizing the Local Government Cooperative Contract #555-18 at a total cost of \$1,248,723.00 (Contract amount of \$1,189,260.00 along with 5% Contingency of \$59,463.00)**

City Manager Craig Lemin stated this item is in the budget. One hundred and eighty customers will benefit from the project. Insituform has a contract on the buy board and a benefit is the engineering is built into the project cost.

Utility Director, Greg Hobbs, stated these projects started three years ago. Ninety percent of right of entry forms are complete. Fain Estates subdivision mostly has clay pipes with brick man holes and the elevation of some homes is too low and causes backups to happen. Several main lines will be replaced. This should wrap up Fain Estates subdivision. Mr. Hobbs explained the five percent contingency is for items that come up during the middle of the project that we are not aware of. Mr. Hobbs will manage any changes.

Mayor Pro Tem Jeremy Stivener motioned to approve an agreement with Insituform Technologies, LLC for the purchase of labor, materials, equipment and services to replace sewer lines in and around sections of the Fain Estates subdivision utilizing the Local Government Cooperative Contract #555-18 at a total cost of \$1,248,723.00 (Contract amount of \$1,189,260.00 along with 5% Contingency of \$59,463.00). Councilmember Steve Janics seconded this motion. Voting in favor: Holland, Echterling, Stivener, Birkes and Janics. There were no opposing votes and the motion carried 5-0. Councilmembers Rogers and Follender were absent.

**10. Consider and possible action awarding the contract for the Hillview Ground Storage Tank Rehabilitation Project to Mr. Tank LLC, at a total cost of \$152,501.20.**

Mr. Hobbs stated this project started last year. Hillview is next in line. Mr. Hobbs explained, this requires taking the tanks out of service and having them sandblasted and repainted. Next few years this will come back around to council for approval to get them all done. Outside visual inspection is done on the tank and the inside cannot be done until drained and sandblasting started. Walker Partners reviews and makes recommendations on bids submitted.

Councilmember Jeremy Holland motioned to approve awarding the contract for the Hillview Ground Storage Tank Rehabilitation Project to Mr. Tank LLC, at a total cost of \$152,501.20. Councilmember Matthew Birkes seconded this motion. Voting in favor: Holland, Echterling, Stivener, Birkes and Janics. There were no opposing votes and the motion carried 5-0. Councilmembers Rogers and Follender were absent.

**11. Council briefing regarding the recent weather event**

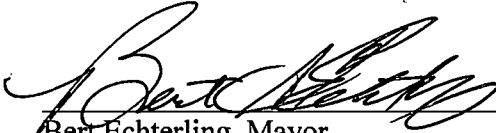
City Manager, Craig Lemin stated there are several areas to cover. Weather was not the issue the power outage was the issue. Most of the challenge was the power outages. Not typical central Texas weather. We learned some things from it. City Hall has no generator. City Hall was closed due to no power or water. Police Department has one generator. Police Department filtered all phone calls from two landline phones that they have. Mr. Lemin came to City Hall every day to check on things. City Hall was fortunate with no water breaks. Staff and Communications Department used cell phones to communicate and post on social media for updates for citizens. Fire Department does not have a generator. A pad and transfer switch are there for one. Police Department handled emergency calls only. Police Department was not actively patrolling only responding to emergency needs. Police Department has four vehicles that are all wheel drive. Police Department worked with the school district about a warming center, and MeadowBrook Church. The food pantry also assisted in getting food out to those in need. Street Department cleared out streets with trees down. Some chip rock was spread out as sand was not available. Streets are not in good shape and will get worse. David Kauffman, Public Services Director stated Greig Drive and Hillside Drive are the worse streets right now. He stated we are working on getting loose rock picked up before the base deteriorates. Other issue is potholes. Contracted with Road Doctor to assist with potholes. Average of \$6500 a month for pothole repairs expect to double that the next few months. Mr. Kauffman stated having seven guys to work with, will be a challenge. Mr. Lemin stated, Communications; Destiny and Rachel, did a great job. Some frustration with rumors of water being shut off. With the numbers going down, we had to ask for residences to notify us of leaks and then ask for conservation of water. Challenge of staying ahead and not to send mixed messages out. Assistant to the City Manager, Destiny DeLillo, commented there is a link on our website to sign up for the emergency alert message through the county. Destiny stated keeping up with comments

was challenging trying to make sure to get answers to questions. Mr. Lemin touched on trash service. Trash service ran normal until Thursday and Friday the first week of the storm. The rest of trash collection the following week was canceled until Monday after the ice melted. Commercial trash was first to get caught up. Normal route Monday and Tuesday and then Thursday and Friday normal pick up and extra bags outside of the container. Trash ran half day Saturday also to finish up. Mr. Lemin stated, the Utility Department, worked early morning and late into the night. A lot of challenges without power. Mr. Hobbs showed council a picture of the top of Clear Well an 8" frozen pipe. Only two ground wells were working. Mr. Lemin stated we knew going into the weather challenges were expected, not the power loss and for the duration the power was off. We will take a look at some of these things and see what we can do about getting some generators and keeping things in stock. Also looking into automated meters.

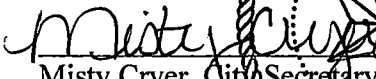
Mayor Echterling thanked City Manager and Staff for all of their hard work.

**12. Councilmember requests for items to be placed on future agendas:** None mentioned

**13. Adjourn.** Meeting adjourned at 7:47 PM.

  
Bert Echterling, Mayor

ATTEST:

  
Misty Cryer, City Secretary

