

Town of Cottonwood

Workshop

February 20, 2024

Members Present: Mayor James Coachman, Michael Capehart, Angela Hackney, George Stringer, Van Granger, and Kellie Free

Mayor Coachman opened the meeting at 6:00 P. M. leading the prayer followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval to accept the minutes from Council meeting for January 16, 2024, and workshop February 6, 2024, and accept the minutes as presented. Council Member Hackney made a motion to except minutes from the Council meeting for January 16, 2024, and workshop February 6, 2024, and accept the minutes as presented. There was a second by Council Member Capehart.

Approval for the January financial reports were presented to the Council by the Town Clerk, Samantha G. Strength. Council Member Granger made a motion to approve the reports as presented. A second by Council Member Stringer.

Circle City Corvette Club presented a check to the Senior Center and the Volunteer Fire Department in the amount of \$500.00.

Fire Chief Randy Hall and Senior Director Kasey Morris presented to the Mayor and council to separate the Senior Center and Fire Department. The council unanimously voted yes. Fire Chief Randy Hall presented to the Mayor and Council to approve that the Fire Department to start applying for grants. The council unanimously voted yes. Senior Director Kasey Morris presented to the Mayor and Council to utilize the insurance funds that are allocated for the Old Town Hall/ Community Room along with the insurance funds allocated for the Senior Center/ Fire Department for the rebuilding of the Senior Center. Council members voted unanimously yes. Senior Director Kasey Morris presented the Mayor and Council for approval to hire Gosselin Architecture and Thoma Engineering for an estimate cost of \$6,000.00 to \$6,500.00 for architectural reports, structural engineering reports, and legitimate estimates from a commercial general contractor for both buildings. Council members voted unanimously yes. Fire Chief Randy Hall and Senior Director Kasey Morris presented the Mayor and Council to adopt a resolution of commitment to help provide funding and support both projects until both projects are completed. The motion was tabled and will be revisited later.

Mayor Coachman gave the floor to Town Clerk Samantha G. Strength to read the insurance quotes that have been given so far. The quotes are as stated: 2008 Chevrolet Tahoe, \$2,701.68; 2021 Chevrolet 1500 Silverado, \$22,398.54; 2021 Ford F-150XL, \$11,444.99; 2021 Chevrolet Silverado, \$1,694.18; 2004 Honda Pilot, \$5,784.95, with 20% going to the District Attorney; The

Town Hall, \$68,732.29; New Water Department, \$14,432.89; Senior Building/ Fire Department, \$132,671.66; Old Town Hall, \$174,910.23; Senior Center Shed, \$6,440.38. Council Members approved unanimously to accept the estimates.

Motion for discussion to be taken off the table and presented to the council on Chief Money's Truck. Council members voted unanimously yes. Chief Money spoke to the Mayor and Council about the vehicle. Nothing has changed with it since last meeting.

Motion for easement discussion to be taken off the table and Town Attorney Preston Register, Attorney Morgan Hoggle, and Attorney Wes Bell presenting to the council. Council Members unanimously voted yes. The Town Attorney Preston Register presented to the council a petition from the Crunks to probate court, to get an easement on private road Peachtree Lane. Attorney Morgan Hoggle, who represents the Crunks, presented to the Mayor and Council that they would like the easement to be on PeachTree Lane, but have not exhausted all avenues. Attorney Wes Bell, who represents Mr. Granger, stated there is another way than using Peach Tree Lane. The council voted in a 4-1 vote, with Council member Hackney being the opposed, that there is no health or safety violations with the easement being on Peach Tree Lane.

Houston County Commissioner Tracey Adams spoke about the cleanup process from the tornado damage. Clean up should be ending inside the city limits by February 26, 2024. He also stated that he spoke with HEDA about the upcoming Care for Cottonwood Fundraiser at Country Crossing. HEDA will be matching all donations that are provided to them in lieu of the fundraiser.

Town Clerk Samantha G. Strength spoke about the moving of Voting poll to Calvary Baptist Church for the March 5th election.

There being no further business to come before this meeting, there was a motion by Council Member Granger to adjourn the meeting. A second by Council Member Capehart and meeting was adjourned at 6:39 P.M.

James Coachman, Mayor

Samantha Strength, Town Clerk