

CITY OF TATUM
REGULAR SCHEDULED MEETING
August 9, 2021

The City Council of the City of Tatum met in regular session on **August 9, 2021**, at **5:30 p.m.** in the City Hall Meeting Room with the following members present:

Mayor - Clay Lassen

City Secretary – Kay Dyer

City Council

Jeff Keller

Kim R. Smith

Tate R. Smith

Jack York

Dana Buddecke – Mayor Pro-Tem - Absent

CITIZEN'S COMMENTS:

Eagle Ridge Residents, Mrs. Amber Blalock and Mrs. Carolyn McIlhenney addressed the council in regards to the zoning in their neighborhood. Part of the Eagle Ridge edition is zoned as a R2 – single family but there is one section that is zoned as R3 – single family, two family and manufacture home. Mrs. Blalock also noted there was a business that recently closed down there as well. Mrs. Blalock and Mrs. McIlhenney would like for the zoning to be changed to R2 – single family home to prevent businesses and manufactured homes from being brought into the Eagle Ridge edition. The neighborhood residents are concerned that their property values will decrease under the current zoning.

REGULAR BUSINESS:

1. **Last month's minutes and checks written** – Mr. Jack York asked Public Works Supervisor, Mr. Michael Morton if we could get shipping for filters from Dynamic Equipment at a cheaper rate. Mr. Morton will contact Dynamic Equipment to find out if there is a way to reduce the shipping cost. Kim Smith made a motion to approve the last month's minutes and checks written. Mr. Jack York seconded the motion and the motion passed with none opposed.
2. **John & Felicia Miller's home repairs at 135 Stonecrest** – During the July 12, 2021 council meeting, Mr. Kim Smith made a motion the City of Tatum would offer one thousand and five hundred (\$1500.00) dollars to help towards the damages to Mr. and Mrs. Miller's home. Mr. Miller counter offered two thousand and five hundred (\$2500.00) dollars at the August 9, 2021 meeting. He said the total damages to their home were approximately twenty thousand (\$20,000.00) dollars. Mr. Tate Smith said the city can't prevent this from happening. Mr. Miller would need to install a clean out to prevent this from happening. Mr. Tate Smith said city should meet in the middle on the amount at two thousand (\$2000.00) dollars. Also, a non-liability form from City Attorney Joe Shumate will need to be signed by John and Felicia Miller. Mr. Jeff Keller a motion that the Miller's should use the two thousand (\$2,000.00) dollars to have a clean out installed. Also, a letter will be sent letter to all Tatum Water Works customers letting them know that they need to have a clean out installed to prevent accidents like this from happening. Mr. Kim Smith seconded the motion and the motion passed with none opposed.
3. **Trimming limbs and cleaning around city signs** – Citizen Donna Craig addressed the council and provided pictures of different locations within the city that need limbs trimmed and also needs to be cleaned around stop signs. Ms. Craig stated there are numerous stop signs in the city that are covered with limbs and bushes that prevent drivers from even seeing the stop signs. On one occasion, Ms. Craig was at the car wash and watched a car pull out in the road to try to view the oncoming traffic. Ms. Craig wanted the city to provide her with a permit allowing her to

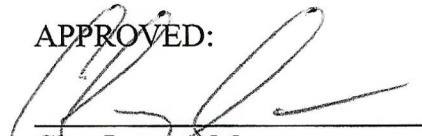
clean and trim around the signs. Public Works Supervisor, Mr. Michael Morton stated that the Beautification Organization use to keep it cleaned around the signs. The members of the organization members actually planted crepe myrtles around the stop signs. The organization is no longer active within the city. Mr. Jeff Keller stated that he and Mr. Joe Kelley cut the one by the car wash completely down and it came back. The council appreciates all that Ms. Craig is doing for the city. There is no permit that the city offers to give to Ms. Craig. Mr. J R Smith said that most people do not realize where their property lines are. No motions made.

4. **City of Tatum new website <https://www.tatum.texas.gov/>** - Mayor Clay Lassen asked the council for approval for the new website to go active. Mr. Jeff Keller said it had already been approved in a previous meeting. No motions need.
5. **Road repairs and Grab-N-Go Food Mart Owner** – Mayor Clay Lassen said the owner of the Grab-N-Go has not responded back to him. He has left several messages. Commissioner Robert Kuykendall advised council he can repair the road with hot mix/asphalt for fifteen hundred (\$1500.00) dollars. Mr. Kim Smith said the mayor needs to talk to the owner of Grab-N-Go and either he will share the cost for repairs or the city will issue an ordinance that will put a weight restriction on the city roads. Mayor Lassen said East Texas Council of Governments (ETCOG) advised him there will be grants available by the end of the year for road repairs. Before grant, the city would need to do an audit on the roads to see how they would be prioritized. ETCOG would be the grant writer. Mr. Jeff Keller stated that former owner of the Grab-N-Go, Penny Sidhu was going to put in a truck stop, but he did an audit and said truck drivers were not spending enough money in his store so he decided against it. Mayor Lassen said the city will try the hot mix. Mr. J R Smith said the owner of Grab-N-Go needs to step up and help cover the cost of repairs. The truck drivers are just parking there and having someone pick them up so they can go home or they are just sleeping there. No vote was taken, the city will use the money in the budget to fix the road.
6. **Yearly vendor permit** – Mayor Clay Lassen went over the yearly vendor permit that was in the council packet. He stated the fee would be two hundred (\$200.00) dollars per year, with the renewal date of December 31st each year. The applicant would need to contact Rusk County Health Inspector, Tammy Honea and get a Rusk County food permit and/or Panola County Health Inspector to get a Panola County food permit. Once the applicant has completed this, he/she will need to bring the county permit it to Tatum City Hall and apply for the yearly vendor permit. The city will make a copy of the County’s permit and keep it on file with the city’s permit. Mr. Jeff Keller made a motion to accept the new yearly vendor permit and Mr. Kim Smith seconded the motion. The motion passed with none opposed.
7. **City council members having access to city benefit plan** – Mr. Jeff Keller said he will be out of town during open enrollment. He said he knows the benefits would help out Council member Mr. Tate Smith. Mr. Jack York made a motion to allow council members to have the option to purchase the city benefits at full cost to the council member. Mr. Tate Smith seconded the motion and the motions passed with none opposed.
8. **Mayor Clay Lassen called for executive session at 6:12 p.m.** – Council Members, along with the mayor and police chief April Rains, went into executive session. Executive session ended at 7:21 p.m. Mr. Tate Smith made a motion to increase the Tatum Police Departments pay during the pandemic as discussed in executive session. Mr. Jeff Keller seconded the motion and the motion passed with none opposed.
9. **Drilling within the city limits of Tatum** – Mayor Clay Lassen presented the council with an ordinance the prohibits oil and gas activities within 750 feet of protected uses, such as residences, commercial structures and school buildings. Mr. Jack York made a motion to

approve the ordinance. Mr. Tate Smith seconded the motion and the motion passed with none opposed.

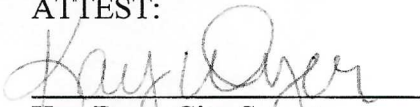
10. **Replacement value on city's properties insured by TMLIRP** – Public Works Supervisor Michael Morton will get an estimate on the cost of re-drilling a water well. Item tabled until September Council meeting.
11. **Rusk County Appraisal District Board candidate nominations** – Mr. Jeff Keller made a motion to nominate the current board members. Mr. Tate Smith seconded the motion and the motion passed with none opposed.
12. **Truth in Taxation Proposal** – Mr. Jeff Keller made a motion to propose the voter approval rate of \$.299781/\$100 for the 2021 tax year. The proposed tax rate would increase total taxes in the City of Tatum by 4 %. Mr. Kim Smith seconded the motion and the motion passed with none opposed.
13. **Rusk County Library Water Bill** – Commissioner Robert Kuykendall address the council about the Rusk County Library water bill. The library had a large leak which was detected by Mr. Cody Jones, Tatum's public works employee. Mr. Jones contacted Rusk County maintenance crew about the leak. Mr. Jones turned the water off until the county maintenance crew got the leak fixed. Due to the leak the water bill was \$3032.91. Mr. Kim Smith made a motion to waive the charges from the leak. Mr. Jack York seconded the motion and the motion passed with none opposed.
14. **CenterPoint Energy – Compliance file, rate schedule No. TCJA-BETW and Customer rate relief & regulatory asset determination filing** – Information Only – No action taken
15. **Adjourn** - Mr. Jeff Keller made a motion to adjourn @ 7:35 p.m. p.m. Mr. Kim Smith seconded the motion and the motion passed, all in favor.

APPROVED:



Clay Lassen, Mayor

ATTEST:



Kay Dyer, City Secretary

