

THRALL CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
July 25, 2018 at 7:00 p.m.

Present were: Mayor Troy Marx, Commissioner Scooter Dubec, Commissioner Nicole Walla, Chief Whitney Whitworth, Attorney Mark Schroeder, Court Clerk Jill Graybill, City Secretary Ginger Gross and guest Dan Hejl.

Mayor Marx called the meeting to order.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited at 7:00 pm.

The Thrall City Council heard a report from Dan Hejl on the final change order for the Roadway Project. Bounds St., including the entrance to the High School at Bounds and Eckhart, was discussed in detail. Pothole repair for Bounds St. was also discussed as some of the previous repairs did not hold up. The new change order asks for \$50,441.40. That will leave sufficient funding for clearing out the Barker St. channel. Commissioner Dubec expressed concern, because of its high usage, that Bounds St. was not repaved with the same quality as Main St. Mayor Marx reminded the group that when the Bond Project was being planned, the company building the new high school had agreed to repair Bounds if their big trucks tore it up. When they didn't follow through on that commitment, the city was forced to find a way to help, using its street tax budget of about \$34,000, along with \$15,000 from the school to put down the best street topping the city and school could afford. That leaves about \$30,000 in Bond monies to use to finish cleaning out the Barker St. channel and deciding what to put down in order to prevent future flooding. Mayor Marx stressed that it was close to the start of school and the council needed to make decisions to address the problems quickly. Angel Brothers requested payment for Invoice 4 & 5 and the rest of #3 before they complete work on Bounds St. Mr. Hejl met with the company Fuquay, who does a lot of work with erosion control, water quality ponds and retention ponds. The contractor actually walked into the Barker St. channel and gave a price estimate of about \$8,000. The city owns a 10 ft easement between N and S Barker Streets which probably doesn't run straight through the neighborhood, so residents will be sent a letter notifying them of the city's intent to possibly clean out some of their property in the drainage area. Mr. Hejl requested the Mayor meet him for a walk through the channel. Mayor Marx requested that the channel work be done quickly also, to minimize the chance of flooding, and because now is a good time since it is so dry. Mr. Hejl also discussed contacting the Bond Council requesting an amendment to purchase equipment with bond monies to keep the Barker St. channel cleaned out. Commissioner Walla made a motion to approve the \$8,000 to clean the drainage channel on Barker Streets and to approve the \$50,441.40 to finish up Bounds St.; Commissioner Dubec seconded; motion carried. The majority of the Road Project is finished other than sweeping Lydia and fixing a few spots around town. Mayor Marx agreed to contact someone in the county to see about spraying weeds on the edge of our roads to keep the grass from tearing up the new pavement.

Dan Hejl then presented the two companies that bid on the TxCDBG Water Line Improvement Project. They were Travis Hobbs Construction and Herschap Backhoe & Ditching. Both bids were over the amount of the grant, so Mr. Hejl recommended the City of Thrall award to Travis Hobbs Construction, the lowest bidder, and he presented a draft of the change order. He suggested the city leave off the gate valve and the line proposed on the north side of Hwy 79 because the modular homes that line would have helped are no longer there. The two lines left in the project are more important and affect more homes. Mr. Hejl recommended the Council make the award and give the mayor the authorization to sign the contract. Mr. Hejl proposed to prepare the contract and change order and then sign them in that order at the same time to keep the project in budget. The work is projected to begin in September. Commissioner Walla made a motion to award the TxCDBG waterline improvement contract to Travis Hobbs Construction in the amount of \$292,463.00, giving the mayor authorization to sign the contract documents and at that time present the change order; Commissioner Dubec seconded; motion carried.

The Thrall City Council heard a presentation about online payment options for water payments. The favored company was The Payment Group whose fees seemed the most reasonable.

Residents would have to input their name, account number and payment amount. A fee of 3.5% would be added for this convenience by The Payment Group. It would be available 24 hours a day, every day. Mayor Marx suggested that a separate account be set up for the online payment account for security purposes. There is no contract with The Payment Group. All that is required is 30 days' notice to end the service. Mayor Marx wondered if we could have the website and payment link set up for September payments. Mayor Marx made a motion to have the City go with the The Payment Group to offer online payments for utility bills and authorized Jill and himself to put it on the website when it launches and that it isn't a contract and can be cancelled with 30 days' notice; Commissioner Walla seconded; motion carried.

The Thrall City Council then discussed the "Truth in Taxation" Planning Calendar for the 2018-2019 tax levy. Mayor Marx asked the council to mark the dates on their calendars. The public hearings will be August 29 and September 05, 2018. The meeting to adopt the tax rate will be September 12, which will also be the regular council meeting.

The Thrall City Council reviewed financials, minutes, and department reports. Mayor Marx approved the minutes, financials and department reports as written.

Council adjourned into closed session with the Attorney to discuss: Thrall City Council will review, take consideration and possible action of water contract with Taylor and settlement agreement in lawsuit styled City of Thrall v. Noack Water Supply Corp. v. City of Taylor, Cause No. 12-0200-C26.

Council reconvened into open session at 8:14pm to conclude the meeting. No action or votes were taken during closed session. The next Thrall City Council meeting is scheduled for August 15, 2018 at 7:00 pm. Meeting was adjourned.

Troy Marx, Mayor

Ginger Gross, City Secretary