

**MINUTES FROM
A MEETING OF THE HINES COMMON COUNCIL
September 8, 2020**

Present:

Mayor:

Nikki Morgan

Council:

Councilors Raymond Breshears, Robert Beers, Gary Miller, Marsallai Quick, and Misty Shepherd

City Staff:

City Administrator Letham, Chief DeLange, Chief Spence, and Acting Superintendent Lewellen

Public Audience:

None

***Mayor Nikki Morgan called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm and led the flag salute.**

Swearing-In Appointed Councilors

Councilors Marsallai Quick and Misty Shepherd were sworn in as City Council members.

Approval of the September 8, 2020 Agenda

The agenda for September 8, 2020 was reviewed by the Council. Councilor Beers made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Councilor Breshears seconded the motion. *All ayes, the motion carried.*

Approval of the August 11, 2020 Meeting Minutes

Councilor Beers made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from August 11, 2020. Councilor Breshears seconded the motion. *All ayes, the motion carried.*

Accounts Payable for August 25, 2020 and September 8, 2020

Councilor Beers made a motion to approve the accounts payable from August 25, 2020 in the amount of \$3,837.87 and September 8, 2020 in the amount of \$499,207.32. Councilor Breshears seconded the motion. *All ayes, the motion carried.*

Department Reports

Chief Spence (Fire Department) – Since the last meeting there have been 5 false alarms and one call as backup for a motor vehicle accident. Currently have 11 volunteers, would like to have 15.

Superintendent Lewellen (Public Works) – Pumping approximately 1.2M gallons of water/day. Lagoon is about 145K per day. There was a plugged sewer on the 300 block of N. Saginaw last week that was taken care of. He said this year the public has been good about keeping the restrooms clean. Said we have had a lot of traffic through town that stops at the park. He said they are dumping garbage cans at least twice a week. They are doing locates for the Contractor every day. Councilor Shepherd asked how often the sprinklers run in the main park. Mr. Lewellen responded every Mon-Wed-Fri night. More efficient and the park looks better than it did in the past.

Chief DeLange (Police Department) – 207 calls for service. 2 rape cases that are being investigated. 2 shootings, both domestic cases, nobody was injured. Drug stops for Meth are on the increase. They have responded to a lot of mental health cases in the last week or two. Domestic calls are up. A lot of traffic, with traffic calls on the rise. A lot of scam calls are being made to the elderly increasing. Several car accidents, both in and out of town. There has been a lot of turnover within other police agencies in the area.

City Administrator Letham – He advised the City Council that City Hall has received a lot of requests for information regarding home building. The audit is moving forward. Should be on schedule for October/November delivery, currently working on some edits. September is National Preparedness Month. Great time to do a home inventory. Also, working on a way to communicate to everyone. We currently use the City website, the radio and Facebook, and he and Public Works have even knocked on doors when needed. Asked the Council to use word of mouth to help spread the notice regarding water shutoffs. The Mayor mentioned that the City had a phone tree that was used in the past. Administrator Letham agreed but stated that it is out of date and needs to be updated. He also mentioned reaching out to US Cellular to see if there would be a method of sending a group text if people wanted to sign up for it. We received some new air quality flags from DEQ. Public Works has been putting out the appropriate flags each day. There is a website www.airnow.gov that monitors air quality and fire locations.

Public Comment Non-Agenda Items Only (Speaking time limits may apply):

None

Old Business:

West Hanley Paving Project – Administrator Letham has the preliminary drawings and the final drawing should be available tomorrow. Request for Bids will go out this week and due by September 18th. The plan is to have the paving project completed this fall.

Water Project – Rates, Progress and Looking Ahead – City Hall has received numerous inquiries as to why water rates increased. Residents are seeing the increase now more than previously, as the summer months are when people use more water. During the winter months the rate increase was not as visible. Administrator Letham has created a worksheet that shows the how water bills are calculated. Mayor Morgan suggested that the City includes that in the next water bill. The water project seems to be progressing nicely. Public Works has been kept busy assisting the Contractors. The City

has tried to make sure outages are communicated to residents, however, there have been a couple of unanticipated shutoffs due to old valves that do not work or areas of the system where someone bypassed a valve so that more of a line needs to be brought down when the line is being worked on. With the new system the Contractor will use GPS to map out all the valves, fire hydrants and water lines so there is a complete map of the system. It was asked about when the new tank above the school will be installed. Plans are to have it in place by December 1st and should be brought online in the Spring.

Skate Park Discussion – Just a reminder that some of the equipment has been removed. There have been some offers of financial assistance when the City gets to that point. New Sun Energy and the Kiwanis have both pledged donations. Plans are in the works to purchase a couple of pieces to be added to the Park this fall that will work with plans for future expansion.

New Business

The Soda District (Business License)

Councilor Quick made a motion to grant a business license to The Soda District. Councilor Beers seconded the motion. *All ayes, the motion carried.*

Donation Request – Red Ribbon Week (Harney Partners for Kids and Families)

Red Ribbon Week has been an effective event to raise awareness for a drug and alcohol-free community. Councilor Quick made a motion to donate \$150 to the Red Ribbon Week event. Councilor Breshears seconded the motion. *All ayes, the motion carried.*

DEQ Home Hazardous Waste Collection Day – Saturday October 31, 2020

The County is taking the lead on this event in conjunction with the Cities of Hines and Burns, however they are looking for 3 volunteers from the City of Hines to participate. The Mayor asked if there would be a method that people could use to transport items to the event if they do not have a way to do so themselves. Administrator Letham said he will speak to the County about this.

Resolution No. 2295 – 1 Year Suspension of Water and Sewer Connection Fees (Draft) A resolution of the City of Hines to temporarily suspend the fees charged to property owners desiring to connect to City water and sewer services. A draft of the resolution was presented to the City Council for review. Discussion ensued amongst the Council how this would benefit the City in the short term and/or the long term.

Public Comment Period (Speaking time limits may apply):

None

Mayor and Council Comments

Councilor Beers – He was contacted by the RV Park about the mosquito population they have. Councilor Beers advised that the City is working on trying to get something set up before next years' mosquito season. He has spoken to a Vector Control person and they

have advised that to trap them for testing you must use a CO₂ trap. He is working on trying to acquire some of these traps. Councilor Beers asked if mosquito control would have to be put out to bid and was advised that this is so. Thanks to the department heads, keep up the good work. A note to Chief DeLange, he has noticed vehicles passing in the middle strip out by the truck stop that is a no passing zone.

Councilor Breshears – Would like to thank the department heads for the wonderful jobs that they are doing and to keep up the good work.

City Administrator Letham – Wanted to let the Council know that he received a card from the Country Washboard thanking the Council for the Economic Development Grant they had received for their business.

Chief Spence – Wanted to add that the fire department has been watering the community flower pots from Bennett's Muffler on South. Chief DeLange stated that he receives a lot of comments about the planters. Mayor Morgan said that she has also received a lot of compliments about the planters and how nice they look.

Adjournment:

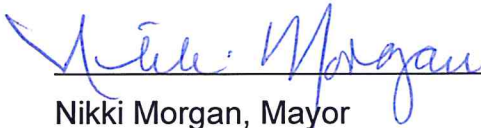
There being no further business, Councilor Beers made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:50pm. Councilor Breshears seconded the motion. *All ayes, the motion carried.*

Respectfully Submitted:

Kirby Letham

City Administrator

ACCEPTED AND APPROVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL ON September 22, 2020


Nikki Morgan, Mayor