

Interim City Manager
Shirley Holm

City Secretary
D'Ann Lane

City Attorney
Epi Ysassi

City of George West



Mayor
Andrew J. Garza

Mayor Pro-Tem
Jearl Rannefeld

Council
Nathan Stroleny
Patricia Clifton
John Walker

406 Nueces Street • George West, Texas 78022
Phone 361-449-1556 • Fax 361-449-3030

REGULAR SESSION CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES 12/15/2022

- I. Call Meeting to Order-Mayor Garza called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.
- II. Roll Call- All council was present with Patricia Clifton present via phone.
- III. Invocation-Mayor Andrew Garza gave the invocation.
- IV. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States-The Pledge to the United States Flag was led by D'Ann Lane.
- V. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of Texas- The Pledge to the Texas Flag was led by D'Ann Lane
- VI. Public Comments

Grace Wilson was present for a Public Comment. She gave an update on the First Annual Christmas Story Stroll. She stated that it was wonderful to see the community come together to put this event together. She also thanked the City Staff for all their involvement in blocking the streets, using the light plant and having an officer patrol. There was over 400 people who attended this event.

Leslie Walker was present for a Public Comment. She thanked the Mayor and Council and stated she was here on behalf of the Cactus Park Board of Trustees. She reported their expenditures for the year. The 2014 HOT Funds, which the Trustees transferred were used to restore the Military Memorabilia Building at the Grace Armantrout Museum. They are still wanting to do more work in 2023 to make all doors operational, repaint, and add one more door to be in compliance with the Fire codes. They are wanting to landscape the property. She thanked the city for mowing the grounds and paying the electricity bill.

VII. Announcements and Correspondence

- a) Dance By Jeannie will be performing Christmas Dances at City Park Pavilion December 14, 2022, 6:30 PM.
- b) City Hall will be closed December 23-26, 2022, for Christmas.
- c) City Hall will be closed January 2, 2022, for New Years.

Mayor Garza went over the Announcements. Shirley Holm added that they used our City Light

Plant at the Christmas Story Stroll.

CONSENT AGENDA:

1. **Consideration and Action** to change the time of the January City Council Regular Session Meeting to 5:00 p.m.
2. **Consideration and Action** to approve the following minutes:
 - a) **Regular Session City Council Meeting Minutes November 16, 2022**
 - b) **Special Session City Council Meeting Minutes November 30, 2022**
3. **Consideration and Action** to approve Accounts Payable for November 2022.

Mayor Garza asked if anything needed to be pulled. Nothing was pulled. Mayor Garza called for a vote. Consent agenda passed unanimously.

PRESENTATION:

4. Presentation by Kevin Mackey, President and Nancy Coquat, Treasurer of the Grace Armantrout Museum Association regarding status of HOT Funds approved November 18, 2013, and received in the year 2014 in the amount of \$ 18,000.

Kevin Mackey gave a presentation about the Grace Armantrout Museum. On November 30, 2022, Leslie Walker and John Ed Holland withdrew the 2014 HOT Funds. The Cactus Park Board of Trustees voted to take those funds. Kevin Mackey submitted a letter of resignation from all members of the Grace Armantrout Museum Association at this meeting. He turned in all the keys that they had in their possession. Mayor Garza thanked them for their service and volunteering their time to this endeavor. . Mayor Garza stated that this is the first he's heard of this. Kevin Mackey said he reported it as soon as he found out. John Walker stated that in the agenda packets was the original application for 2014 HOT Funds. The Cactus Park Museum Fund was responsible for all funds relating to the Grace Armantrout/Cactus Park Museum. The bank account that you're calling attention to says cactus park museum fund. How did someone take money out of that? Mr. Mackey said he added a signature many years ago. Two signatures were required for a check. Mr. Ysassi City Attorney read over the document and explained what it said. Mr. Ysassi stated that he's not sure how this got to this point when they both have the same goal as far as the museum.

Shirley Holm stated for the record that she became aware of the status of 2014 HOT Funds on September 16, 2022. She got a call from Leslie Walker informing her that they were doing work at the Museum and asked about using the 2014 HOT Funds. Mrs. Walker told her exactly what they were doing with the Funds and Ms. Holm confirmed that it was an

appropriate use of funds. She stated that is the first time she was aware that there was a balance of 2014 HOT Funds at the museum. Normally when you have HOT Funds you have to report status every month that you still have a balance of funds and provide bank statements. She has been in her position since 2017 and has never seen status reports for the Grace Armantrout Museum for having HOT Funds. In order to get HOT Funds it is an agreement with the City and recipient to report status.

Ms. Holm also reported Mr. Mackey called the same day as Ms. Walker at 1:00 p.m. and she confirmed that funds could be used for what Mr. Mackey was inquiring about. She confirmed with him that yes you can use HOT Funds for those projects. She also stated that she told them she was confused because from what she understood was both entities have the same mission. Mr. Mackey stated that he would want to come back and return the 2014 HOT Funds to the City rather than transfer to the Cactus Park Board of Trustees. Ms. Holm agreed that he would have the right to do that.

Mayor Garza asked Epi Ysassi to research legal documents to see who ultimately is responsible. The trustees are ultimately responsible, but they report to the City Council Annually. He stated that the Trustees have the ultimate right of financial responsibility. John Walker stated that the Trustees were originally appointed by Grace Armantrout. Mr. Ysassi stated that the City should have oversight over the board to avoid these things in the future.

Mayor Garza stated that he would accept Mr. Mackey's resignation and will assist in an agreeable resolution of all parties involved in the matter. He would like them to all work together and more research will be completed regarding the legal documents.

After several audience exchanges, Patricia Clifton called for a Point of Order, and the discussion was ended.

Mayor Garza entertained a motion to suspend the rules. Move as read by Jearl Rannefeld. Seconded by Patricia Clifton. All in favor. Motion carried. The rules were suspended at 5:52 p.m. to skip order of business and let Shirley Holm give her briefings.

BUSINESS

5. Consideration and Action to convene into EXECUTIVE SESSION. In accordance

with Section 551.072 of the Texas Government Code (Deliberations about Real Property), the City Council may go into executive session to discuss the following:

- a) Discussion on the Wastewater Sewer Treatment Plant.

Move as read by Patricia Clifton. Seconded by Jearl Rannefeld. All in favor. Council entered Executive Session at 6:10 p.m.

6. Reconvene

ZOOM ID: 816 8185 3722

ZOOM PW: 447805

Mayor Garza entertained a motion to reconvene. Move as read by Jearl Rannefeld. Seconded by Nathan Stroleny. All in favor. Council reconvened at 6:46 p.m. There was no action in Executive Session.

BRIEFINGS:

7. Interim City Manager's Report:

- a) Revenue and Expense Report for November 2022.
- b) City and Project Updates

8. Questions or Briefings at the City Council's Request:

- a) Code Enforcement
- b) Municipal Court Report
- c) Public Works
- d) Police Chief Report
- e) Animal Control

Shirley Holm gave her briefings for November 2022. In the General Fund we are at 22% budget for Revenue, and 17% of Expenditures. Typically, at this time we are normally at 8% of budget, however in November about 50% of taxes are collected so that citizens can take a discount so that automatically increases our revenue. Our expenses were high due to us paying our TML Liability Insurance for auto and property. We are sitting at a positive balance of \$ 99,630.00. In the Utility Fund we are sitting at 18% percent of budget for revenue, and 10% of budget for expenditures. The Utility fund is sitting at a positive amount of \$ 155,217.00 In both funds we are at a positive of \$ 254,847. Bank account balances as of December 13, 2022, are \$ 2,862,291.

- Nueces River Authority will begin January 1, 2023.
- WWTP appraisal was completed by Matt Deal on December 9, 2022.

- HOME Program has approved 5 new homes in the city.
- Audit of City of GW will be December 20, 2022.

Mayor Garza entertained a motion to reinstate the rules. Move as read by Patricia Clifton. Seconded by Jearl Rannefeld. All in favor. Rules were reinstated, and we moved back to agenda item #5.

9. Adjournment.

Mayor Garza entertained a motion adjourn. Move as read by Jearl Rannefeld. Seconded by Nathan Stroleny. All in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 6:47 p.m.

ATTEST: _____
D'Ann Lane, City Secretary

SIGNED: _____
Andrew Garza, Mayor