



MINUTES
Mayor & Council
Work Session
April 1, 2025 • 6:00 PM



ELECTED OFFICIALS:

Mayor, Amy Williford
Councilmember, Lucy Gamble
Councilmember, Donna Whitley
Councilmember, Kim Arnell

CITY STAFF:

Clerk, April Fordham
Water Superintendent, Tim Robison
Police Chief, Keith Creel

The Mayor and City Council met for a Work Session on April 1, 2025. The meeting was called to order by Mayor Amy Williford at 6:15pm.

I. The invocation was led by Councilmember Arnell, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Councilmember Gamble.

II. Citizen Comments & Discussion on Agenda Items:

III. Business Session:

Councilmember Whitley:

- **Push bumpers for police vehicles:**

This will be tabled while we look in to getting rid of the Chargers and getting new vehicles. The Chargers are gas-guzzlers.

Councilmember Gamble: Maybe we could sell them at auction.

Chief Creel: We are looking at trading them but are only getting quotes of \$14K. New vehicles would cost an additional \$23K plus the equipment needed. We'd like to get pickups that could be used in bad weather. The Hummer needs a lot of work and may be able to be sold.

Chief Creel:

- Introduced new part-time night shift officer, Thomas Samples.
- Officer Purcell is being promoted to Lieutenant (with no pay increase). He must have the higher title so that he can attend trainings to be cross trained with Chief Creel.

Councilmember Whitley:

- **City Hall Phase II:**

We have quotes from Marietta Drywall and Chris Bell for Phase II of the new city hall. The permit for the project was put in Chris Bell's name instead of the City and will need to be changed if we change builder. The quotes are difficult to compare because they are not for exactly the same work.

Councilmember Arnell: John Schwartz at Marietta Drywall may be able to break down the quote better.

Chief Creel: He'd like to make a couple of changes to the plans if possible.

Because the police vehicles must be running, if they are parked in the existing sallyport they could be a fire hazard. Also, the courtroom is really small (approximately 28' x 30') which is about 1/3 the size of the recreation building lobby that is used for court now.



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Councilmember Gamble:

- **Lease of recreation facilities:**

Juan Nieves, director of Bases Loaded baseball league, presented a proposal for the lease of the baseball fields for his league to use for practices and the gym for indoor practices. The proposal includes work that he is willing to do to help improve and maintain the fields. He did ask about lighting for the fields.

Superintendent Robison: Some of the light poles will need to be replaced if the lights are fixed as they are old and a potential hazard.

Councilmember Gamble: The City has annual events that it uses the recreation lobby for in July and November and those would take precedence over practices.

Superintendent Robison: If the lobby is rented and Bases Loaded is using the gym, they would be sharing the entrance and the bathrooms.

Councilmember Arnell:

- **Uniforms for the water department:**

We have 2 quotes for rental of uniforms and one for purchase. Rick Hartley, CPA, says there is money in the budget for uniforms.

- **Tank inspections:**

We only have one quote. We'll hold until we are able to get another quote.

- **Pump for water park:**

The pump could be bought on Amazon for around \$500. He'll have a price for the council meeting.

IV. CITIZEN COMMENTS

NONE

V. MAYOR, COUNCIL, AND CITY STAFF ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chief Creel:

- The school asked for \$2156 for inflatables for field day. We paid for this last year, and it can be paid with RedSpeed.
- We need to raise all fine amounts by \$15 to reflect the increase in the price we pay per citation to Courtware.
- We will potentially be adding another court date per month. Since we are fully staffed the number of citations has increased to more than can be handled in one court session.
- Councilmember Gamble asked about writing citations for children not being in car seats.
- Chief Creel said that the fines for seatbelt charges are set by the state and cannot be changed. The fee we pay per ticket applies to these citations and negates the fine we receive. But tickets are written when necessary.
- The new Flock cameras will be set up by mid-May. The cost is \$15,000 now and \$15,000 once they have been in place for one year.

Superintendent Robison:

- New taps have been set for the new city hall and on Pittman Rd.
- We need new signs for Wellington Mill Rd. and Depot St. We can use grant money to pay for them.



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- Could all streets other than the highway have the same speed? It would make keeping up with the signage easier.

Councilmember Arnell:

- Why do patrol cars have to run all the time?
 - Chief Creel: When the cars are turned off all of the computer systems in the cars go down.

Councilmember Whitley:

- A new assistant city clerk has been hired. We are waiting for her drug test to come back before she starts.
- Thank you to April for filling in during the interim.
- Working on several grants for the playground at city hall, the senior citizens building, and other things.
- The water grant from Three Rivers would require a 50% match.

Mayor Williford:

- Would the city allow the billboard near the lawnmower shop to be replaced with a digital sign of the same size? This will be placed on the May agenda.

The April 1, 2025, Work Session ended at 7:36 pm.

Amy R. Williford, Mayor

ATTEST: Clerk
