

MINUTES
Of
MART CITY COUNCIL
MARCH 13, 2023

Mayor Len Williams called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm. All Councilmembers, except LaToya Beavers, were present.

The Pledge of Allegiance and the Pledge to the Texas Flag were recited.

Odell Nevills led the group in prayer.

Two citizens spoke at Public Comments. Rebecca Moore identified herself as a coordinator of the Mart Market Days, and mentioned that the next Market Days would occur on April 01. Additionally, Moore invited Councilmembers to a dog show in Rucker Park on April 22. Next, Carolyn Range commended Secretary Little for professional look and demeanor.

The Consent Agenda was unanimously approved with little discussion. Mayor ProTem Baize moved for approval as presented; Councilmember Miller seconded; unanimous vote.

Item 8, Discussion and possible action on approving a rate increase of 14.41% from Waste Connections Lone Star, Inc., for solid waste disposal, was discussed. City Secretary Little introduced Jimmy Esparza, District Manager of Waste Connections, and Mr. Esparza addressed the Council. He explained the rising costs associated with trash hauling that necessitated the increase. The trash truck working in Mart is new, and the driver is experienced and popular. Councilmember Nevills moved to approve the 14.41% increase, to become effective April 01, as requested. Councilmember Miller seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Item 9, Discussion and possible action on approving a 14.4% rate increase on garbage rates charged to customers by the City of Mart, to become effective on April 01, 2023, was discussed. Secretary Little pointed out that the increase must be done by resolution; Attorney Buenger suggested that the increase be approved now, with an associated resolution to be ratified at the next meeting. Mayor ProTem Baize moved for approval by resolution; Councilmember Miller seconded; unanimous vote.

Item 10, Discussion and possible action on approving a resolution suspending for 45 days the effective date proposed by Atmos Energy-Mid-Texas Division (Atmos-MidTex) in its application filed on or about February 24, 2023, pursuant to section 104.301 of the Gas Utility Regulatory Act. The proposed rate increase, and Mart's membership in the Atmos Texas Municipalities organization, was discussed. Following short discussion, Mayor ProTem Baize moved to adopt Resolution 230301 as presented. Councilmember Garrett seconded. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

Item 11, Discussion and possible action to approve the widening of Waco Street, and the provision or relocation of utilities for Kim's Truck Stop, was discussed. Secretary Little introduced Mr. Evan Landrum, of Oxbow Development, who described in detail the planned development of a Kim's Convenience Store. Mr. Landrum explained that Waco Street would need to be widened for a few hundred feet to accommodate trucks with trailers, and suggested that some utility lines would require relocation. Councilmember Miller moved to approve widening of Waco Street and to authorize Secretary Little to investigate the utilities and report back. Mayor ProTem Baize seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Item 12, Discussion and possible action on issuing a Request for Proposals to conduct a rate study for water and wastewater utilities, was discussed. Secretary Little said a rate study, at least for water, was important because of changes in the system—specifically the new water treatment plant. Mayor Williams pointed out that some studies


had recently been completed. MRB Engineers Representative Gil Gregory confirmed that some studies had been conducted some time ago. Mayor ProTem Baize confirmed that this item was only for soliciting proposal, and that the proposals would come before Council. Councilmember Nevills moved, and Councilmember Miller seconded, to approve issuing an RFP for a water rate study. The vote was unanimous.

Item 13, Discussion and possible action on approving Steve Jordan as Mart Public Works Director, was discussed. Jordan addressed the Council and shared his vision for building a team in Mart. Mayor ProTem Baize moved, and Councilmember Nevills seconded, to approve Steve Jordan as Mart Public Works Director. The vote was unanimous.

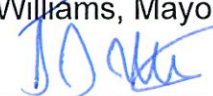
Item 14, Discussion and possible action on approving Vikki Grimes as Mart Finance Director, was discussed. Secretary Little introduced Ms. Grimes, and shared her credentials. Ms. Grimes addressed the Council. Mayor Williams pointed out that there was neither a job description nor a specific position for Finance Director budgeted for. City Attorney Buenger said that the way the agenda item was written, Council could create the position by hiring Ms. Grimes. Mayor ProTem Baize moved to hire Vikki Grimes as Mart Finance Director. Councilmember Miller seconded. The vote was unanimous.

Following short reports from MRB Engineers and Mart Police Department, the meeting was adjourned at 7:38 pm.

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 Len Williams, Mayor



 Lambert Little, City Secretary