



CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

December 8, 2020 – 6:00 p.m.
Whitehouse City Council Chambers
311 East Main Street
Whitehouse, Texas 75791

Members of the public may address the Council regarding any posted agenda item by filling out a speakers' card prior to the item being called. These presentations shall be limited to three minutes. The Mayor, at his discretion, may reasonably extend the time limit.

A. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

[06:00:08 PM \(00:00:56\)](#)

[Mayor – James Wansley: Present](#)

[Council Place 1 - Vacant: N/A](#)

[Council Place 2 - Ginger Cardwell: Present](#)

[Council Place 3 - Paul Hickey: Present](#)

[Council Place 4 – Michael Lowe: Present](#)

[Council Place 5 - Dick Jackson: Present](#)

A quorum was present.

B. PRAYER – Mayor Wansley

C. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG OF THE UNITED STATES AND TO THE TEXAS FLAG.

“Honor the Texas Flag; I pledge allegiance to thee, Texas, one state under God, one and indivisible”

[06:01:04 PM \(00:01:52\)](#)

Mayor Wansley led the Pledges.

D. PRESENTATIONS

1. Recognition of Nipper’s Quality Auto Works for Donation of Painting Police Vehicles

[06:01:39 PM \(00:02:28\)](#)

Chief Robeson recognized Nippers’ Quality Auto works for their donation of time and work on our police vehicles.

2. New Employee Introduction: Building Inspector / Code Enforcement – Jody Watson

[06:02:52 PM \(00:03:40\)](#)

Leslie Black introduced Jody Watson as our new building inspector and code enforcement officer.

2. Union Pacific Rail 8 Mile Abandoned Corridor Presentation

[06:03:56 PM \(00:04:44\)](#)

Glen Green, Executive Director NETMA, Collen Colby, Gary Halbrooks with NETRMA were also present. Mr. Green presented information to the Council regarding a corridor that has been partially abandoned UP railway.

E. COMMUNITY INTEREST

This section of the agenda shall allow any member of the City Council, the Mayor, or the City Manager the opportunity to discuss minor, non-action items such as recognitions, scheduling, and upcoming civic events that are not listed on this agenda and which require no action by the Council.

[06:09:53 PM \(00:10:41\)](#)

Mrs. Black praised the Whitehouse Chamber of Commerce Christmas in the Park that happened last Saturday.

Mayor Wansley gave a quick COVID-19 update.

F. PUBLIC FORUM

Pursuant to Texas Government Code section 551.007, members of the public may speak on an agenda item during the Public Forum section of the meeting or at the time the agenda item is called for discussion by the Mayor. Speakers shall be given three (3) minutes to speak. A speaker needing a translator and/or interpreter may be given six (6) minutes to speak. Criticism of city employees or staff is prohibited. Those wishing to address the Council regarding an item not on the agenda must be a citizen, property owner or business owner of Whitehouse. Comments on such non-agenda items shall be limited to three minutes. The Council will not comment on items not on the agenda; however, the Council may refer the item to city staff for research, resolution or referral of the matter to the Council as a future agenda item.

[06:12:34 PM \(00:13:22\)](#)

No one signed in to speak.

G. CONSENT AGENDA

This section shall provide for items that require action by the Council, but where no discussion is anticipated. By a single motion, second and affirmative majority vote, items under this section are approved without further discussion or action.

1. Withdraw items from the Consent Agenda

Any Council member may request the removal of any item from the Consent Agenda, in which case the item shall be discussed and voted upon separately.

2. Approval of minutes of the City Council meetings on November 10, 2020 and November 17, 2020  [Z](#)  [Z](#)

[06:13:12 PM \(00:14:00\)](#)

[Council Place 2 - Ginger Cardwell: Motion to approve the consent agenda](#)

[Council Place 3 - Paul Hickey: 2nd the motion](#)

[Mayor - James Wansley: N/A](#)

[Council Place 1 - Vacant: N/A](#)

[Council Place 2 - Ginger Cardwell: Approve](#)

[Council Place 3 - Paul Hickey: Approve](#)

[Council Place 4 - Michael Lowe: Approve](#)

[Council Place 5 - Dick Jackson: Approve](#)
[Motion approved](#)

H. OTHER ACTION ITEMS / ORDINANCES / RESOLUTIONS / PUBLIC HEARINGS

1. Discuss, consider and act upon Resolution 20-1208-01 entering into an Interlocal Agreement with NETRMA and other partners for the purposes of purchasing an abandoned Union Pacific ("UP") railway right-of-way corridor partially located within the City of Whitehouse.  [Z](#)

[06:13:36 PM \(00:14:25\)](#)

Council discussed and asked questions of Mr. Green. The City could be asked to participate with additional funding of any future project but for tonight the action is to only consider the purchase of the corridor. This would give Whitehouse a seat at the table for any future projects.

Gary Halbrooks with NETRMA addressed the question council posed about for-profit entities that could generate revenue saying the group would have to approve the projects.

Mr. Green expressed that time is of the essence to purchase this corridor. Federal guidelines must be followed with NETRMA involved.

[Council Place 2 - Ginger Cardwell: Motion to approved Resolution R20-1208-01 as presented](#)

[Council Place 4 - Michael Lowe: 2nd the motion](#)

[Mayor - James Wansley: N/A](#)

[Council Place 1 - Vacant: N/A](#)

[Council Place 2 - Ginger Cardwell: Approve](#)

[Council Place 3 - Paul Hickey: Approve](#)

[Council Place 4 - Michael Lowe: Approve](#)

[Council Place 5 - Dick Jackson: Approve](#)

[Motion approved](#)

2. Discuss, consider and act on Appointments

[06:31:30 PM \(00:32:18\)](#)

- a. Council Place 1

Mayor Wansley explained when he was sworn in as Mayor this place became vacant. One application was received from Zack Briscoe and Mr. Briscoe is present tonight.

[Council Place 5 - Dick Jackson: Motion to appoint Zack Briscoe to the open Council position Place 1](#)

[Council Place 2 - Ginger Cardwell: 2nd the motion](#)

[Mayor - James Wansley: N/A](#)

[Council Place 1 - Vacant: N/A](#)

[Council Place 2 - Ginger Cardwell: Approve](#)

[Council Place 3 - Paul Hickey: Approve](#)

[Council Place 4 - Michael Lowe: Approve](#)

[Council Place 5 - Dick Jackson: Approve](#)

[Motion approved](#)

b. Planning & Zoning Commission

[06:33:18 PM \(00:34:06\)](#)

Tony Harris has applied and is present tonight.

[Council Place 3 - Paul Hickey: Motion to appoint Mr. Harris to the Planning & Zoning Commission](#)

[Council Place 2 - Ginger Cardwell: 2nd the motion](#)

[Mayor - James Wansley: N/A](#)

[Council Place 1 - Vacant: N/A](#)

[Council Place 2 - Ginger Cardwell: Approve](#)

[Council Place 3 - Paul Hickey: Approve](#)

[Council Place 4 - Michael Lowe: Approve](#)

[Council Place 5 - Dick Jackson: Approve](#)

[Motion approved](#)

Mayor Wansley asked permission to ask James Wansley to be a member of P&Z

c. Economic Development Council

[06:35:47 PM \(00:36:35\)](#)

Nick Moss is stepping down leaving one vacancy.

Mr. Chambers has applied and is present tonight.

[Council Place 3 - Paul Hickey: Motion to accept Mr. Chambers to the EDC](#)

[Council Place 2 - Ginger Cardwell: 2nd the motion](#)

[Mayor - James Wansley: N/A](#)

[Council Place 1 - Vacant: N/A](#)

[Council Place 2 - Ginger Cardwell: Approve](#)

[Council Place 3 - Paul Hickey: Approve](#)

[Council Place 4 - Michael Lowe: Approve](#)

[Council Place 5 - Dick Jackson: Approve](#)

[Motion approved](#)

3. Discuss, consider and act on Approval of Funding for Radios from Smith County 911

District  Z

[06:37:14 PM \(00:38:02\)](#)

Smith County 911 has agreed to contribute \$10,900 which is approximately 50% of the total project; they do need an acknowledgement and acceptance by the Council.

[Council Place 2 - Ginger Cardwell: Motion to approved funding for radios from Smith County 911 as presented](#)

[Council Place 5 - Dick Jackson: 2nd the motion](#)

[Mayor - James Wansley: N/A](#)

[Council Place 1 - Vacant: N/A](#)

[Council Place 2 - Ginger Cardwell: Approve](#)

[Council Place 3 - Paul Hickey: Approve](#)

[Council Place 4 - Michael Lowe: Approve](#)

[Council Place 5 - Dick Jackson: Approve](#)

[Motion approved](#)

4. Consider future agenda items

Trash Can Ordinance

Zoom meeting next week to extend the Disaster Declaration

Planning and Zoning appointment
Swear in Place 1

I. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

1. Receive reports from Staff  Z
[06:41:36 PM \(00:42:24\)](#)

Reports were in the packet. Sales tax revenues are up.

J. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Pursuant to Chapter 551, Texas Government Code, the City Council reserves the right to convene into Executive Session(s) from time to time as deemed necessary during this meeting. The City Council may convene into Executive Session to discuss any or all of the following topics: Pending or contemplated litigation or to seek the advice of the City Attorney pursuant to Section 551.071; Possible, purchase, exchange, lease, or value of real estate pursuant to Section 551.072; Personnel matters pursuant to Section 551.074; Economic development negotiations pursuant to Section 551.087

1.

K. RECONVENE INTO REGULAR SESSION AND CONSIDER ACTION ITEMS / ORDINANCES / RESOLUTIONS / PUBLIC HEARINGS

L. ADJOURN

[06:44:58 PM \(00:45:47\)](#)

[Council Place 5 - Dick Jackson: Motion to adjourn](#)

[Council Place 3 - Paul Hickey: 2nd the motion](#)

[Mayor - James Wansley: N/A](#)

[Council Place 1 - Vacant: N/A](#)

[Council Place 2 - Ginger Cardwell: Approve](#)

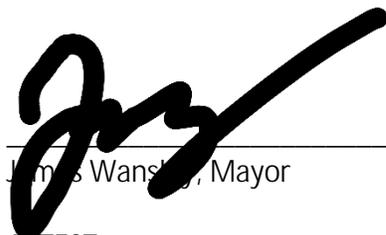
[Council Place 3 - Paul Hickey: Approve](#)

[Council Place 4 - Michael Lowe: Approve](#)

[Council Place 5 - Dick Jackson: Approve](#)

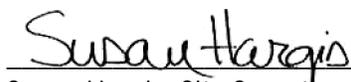
Motion approved

Meeting adjourned



James Wansley, Mayor

ATTEST:



Susan Hargis, City Secretary