Council Meeting

August 18, 2025

Members Present: Mayor Buddy Duke, members Terry McClain, Greg Paige, Walter Cowart, Celestine Hayes and Jody Greene.

Others Present: City Manager Mark Barber, City Clerk Rhonda Rowe, City Attorney Tim Tanner and members of staff and the public.

Invocation was given by Councilman McClain.

Pledge of Allegiance

Approval of Minutes: Councilman Paige made a motion to approve the minutes of August 4, 2025 as presented. Councilman McClain seconded with all in favor.

Sewer Main Emergency Repair: The sewer main located underneath Devane Street has created problems with the roadway for several years. City staff has been band-aiding the area until the road began sinking. We contacted an underground utility contractor to replace the sewer main and repair the problem permanently to prevent a partial collapse of the roadway. RPI assessed the condition of the pipe and were able to address the problem immediately. They provided a not to exceed estimate of $108,500. The project took approximately a month to complete and included replacing 425 feet of an 8” pipe, service connections to the new main, providing and installing approximately 162 square yards of pavement replacement. The final price of the repair is $102,410, which is $6,900 below the estimate. City staff requested approval for the payment to RPI in the amount of $102,410 for the necessary emergency repair. Councilman McClain made a motion to approve the emergency repair. Councilman Greene seconded. The decision was unanimous.

Transformer Purchase (Electric Dept): To replenish inventory, a pad mount transformer is needed as the transformer that was in inventory was used at the new Murphys store. Two quotes were received and are as follows:

Irby $13,630

Gresco $19,875

Councilman Greene made a motion to approve the low bid. Councilman Cowart seconded with all in favor.

Equipment Purchase (Gas Dept): The Gas Department has a need for a small backhoe as they often work in more restrictive spaces in which the city’s larger backhoe can’t be used. Funding is available in the capital account by foregoing the request for the pick-up truck and opting for the backhoe instead. Two quotes were received and are as follows:

Prime Power Equipment $29,400.00

Linder Turf and Tractor $35,226.32

Councilman Greene made a motion to approve the purchase with the low bid. Councilman McClain provided the second. All were in favor.

Public Comments:

Ron Tiveron – Expressed his concern about the upcoming meetings on the city’s ordinance on noise levels. He questioned who enforces the noise ordinance. He stated he and his wife are very concerned about the ordinance and knows the city has 10 on the books. He would like to participate if it is an open meeting. It was noted that the meeting is a public meeting, it is not a public hearing, but it is an open meeting.

Altheia Paige – Expressed her concern, as she did two years ago, about paving on the west side of town. She stated that 85% of the streets have pot holes that the city tries to patch, but it doesn’t work. She questioned applying for a Safe Street and Roads Grant and added that Mayor Duke had sent out an approved paving list but none on the west side are full streets; it’s portions of streets. She has asked the housing authority to move the trash cans off the right-of-way just to make it look better. She asked the council members to take a look and noted how everything looks good riding down 4th Street and Hwy 41 until you turn off and ride on the west side, people would note “what a dump we have”. Even a blind man can see the difference in the streets and you shouldn’t be able to see a difference. She stated we all pay taxes that own something; we should all be able to benefit; we have no officers to patrol; constantly have burglars and asked the council to take a look at the west side because they don’t have the traffic on the east side like is on the west side. People speed on the west side. She asked the council to please take a look and address the problem. She will be glad to show them anything and is asking to be treated fair in the paving and everything, nothing special, but let the west side be like the east side.

Staff Comments:

Mark Barber – Reminded about the work session tomorrow at 4:00.

There was no further business and the meeting was adjourned.

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Rhonda P. Rowe, City Clerk Luther L. Duke III, Mayor

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