

**BIG LAKE CITY COUNCIL
WORKSHOP MINUTES**

SEPTEMBER 28, 2022

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Knier called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

Council Members present: Ken Halverson, Sam Hanson, Paul Knier, Kim Noding, and Paul Seefeld. Also present: City Administrator Hanna Klimmek, City Clerk Gina Wolbeck, City Engineer Layne Otteson, Police Chief John Kaczmarek, Liquor Store Manager Greg Zurbey, Streets/Parks/Fleet Superintendent Norm Michels, and Water/Wastewater Superintendent Dan Childs.

3. PROPOSED AGENDA

Council Member Seefeld motioned to adopt the proposed Agenda as presented. Seconded by Council Member Hanson, unanimous ayes, Agenda adopted.

4. BUSINESS

4A. ST2022-1 Project Update

Layne Otteson provided a status update on the 2022 Street and Utility Improvement Project No. ST2022-1. The project schedule started out strong but progression was significantly impacted by hail storms and utility relocation issues. The contractor's goal to complete all areas by November is no longer feasible; however, the contract allows for a completion date in summer 2023. Otteson reviewed that Area F (north of Highline Drive) has already been postponed until spring. Staff had hoped that Area A (stub streets along Hiawatha Avenue) would be able to commence this fall, but due to concrete product rationing and shortages, this is no longer an option. Otteson reviewed that notifications were delivered to affected residents, notifying them that this portion of the project will not start until spring 2023.

Council Member Noding asked what the reasons are for the concrete shortage. Otteson explained that there is a shortage of the concrete powder that is used to make the final product, noting that most of the powder comes from overseas, and discussed the labor shortage that the industry is experiencing. Otteson reviewed issues with utility locates being done properly, noting that the utility companies have expressed issues with hiring competent employees.

5. OTHER

Council Member Halverson discussed the vast amount of grant funds that are available, and asked for Council support in allowing staff to look into the possibility of hiring a Grant Writing Consultant. Council Member Noding discussed accessibility grant dollars that could be available as well. Grants can be obtained to design a project, and there are other grants for funding projects. Sam Hanson discussed that he would like to look at the feasibility of getting grants in all departments, including the Fire Department. Halverson responded that there are Fire Department grant writers that focus specifically on Fire Department needs. Mayor Knier cautioned about getting grants for things we might not particularly need, and noted that we have to be careful about future maintenance costs. Knier also reviewed that a hired grant writer would be paid regardless of the success of a grant application. The City Council was in favor of Halverson's request, and asked staff to begin the process of researching grant writing consultant options.

Council Member Noding discussed fiberglass shards being a concern on fire hydrant markers, noting that markers can deteriorate and they can become a concern. Norm Michels discussed that we received a call last week about a child who was playing with a weathered fiberglass rod that marked a fire hydrant. Michels noted that Public Works immediately responded and replaced the rod, noting that the City has been transitioning over to using steel rods instead of fiberglass.

6. ADJOURN

Council Member Seefeld motioned to adjourn at 5:22 p.m. Seconded by Council Member Hanson, unanimous ayes, motion carried.

Gina Wolbeck
City Clerk

10.12.22
Date Approved By Council