

**BIG LAKE CITY COUNCIL
WORKSHOP MINUTES**

JUNE 22, 2016

1. CALL TO ORDER

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

2. ROLL CALL

Council Members present: Raeanne Danielowski, Seth Hansen, Duane Langsdorf, Scott Marotz, and Mike Wallen. Council Member Seth Hansen arrived at 5:03 p.m. Also present: City Administrator Clay Wilfahrt, City Clerk Gina Wolbeck, Finance Director Deb Wegeleben, Public Works Director Mike Goebel, City Planner Michael Healy, Police Chief Joel Scharf, and Liquor Store Manager Jan Muehlbauer.

3. PROPOSED AGENDA

Council Member Wallen motioned to adopt the proposed Agenda as presented. Seconded by Council Member Marotz, unanimous ayes, agenda adopted.

4. BUSINESS

4A. Farmer's Market Committee Discussion

Hanna Klimmek reviewed the history of the Big Lake Farmer's Market that started in 2011. Klimmek discussed the option to allow staff to make decisions on the market or continue to designate this responsibility to the Farmer's Market committee members, and whether "artisan" food and product vendors should be allowed to sell at the market. Klimmek reviewed that the committee has relatively stayed the same since the inception of the Farmer's Market. Discussion was held on if we want this market to be a farmers market, or a flea market. Council stressed that they want to engage the community and provide opportunities to spend their dollars in the City.

Council clarified that staff does have authorization to make decisions on which vendors can be admitted to the market and that we should allow artisan food and product vendors. Council also stressed that the Farmer's Market Committee is an advisory Board to the City Council.

4B. Strategic Plan Draft Review

Clay Wilfahrt reviewed the draft Strategic Plan put together by Phil Barnes from WSB &

Associates based on feedback from the Strategic Planning Session on June 4, 2016.

4C. Chickens on City Lots Discussion

Michael Healy discussed the City's current code that regulates the keeping of poultry on residential parcels in the City limits. Healy noted that the last time this issue was brought to Council was in April 2013 and discussion at that time centered on potential problems with sanitation and waste removal. Staff was concerned with an increase in nuisance complaints and questioned if the City was properly equipped to service this type of complaint. The consensus in 2013 was that the restrictions in place benefit the City as a whole and that a change to the ordinance was not warranted at that time. Since that time, many peer communities have revised their ordinances to allow chickens. As the practice has become more commonplace, many Big Lake residents have become more vocal in advocating for chickens in the City. Healy also noted that the City has higher staffing levels today than it did a few years ago and the addition of a full-time in-house Planner may make it more feasible to adopt new regulations and be able to enforce them. Healy also reviewed the new administrative citation process that can be used to deal with code complaints. Healy reviewed pro's and con's of allowing backyard chickens and code language that can be used to control noise, waste, the number allowed, types of properties where chickens would be allowed, and construction of coop structures. Discussion was held that some communities have set up restrictions that deter having chickens. Council also discussed their concerns with code enforcement, consumption of staff time, and the possibility that allowing this type of animal in the City could cause issues between neighbors. Council also discussed that the upkeep is more than what people may realize and noted that they don't think we will lose potential residents if we prohibit. Council directed staff to track inquiries and report back when interest increases.

4D. Pet Potbellied Pigs Discussion

Michael Healy discussed the City code that regulates domesticated animals in the City limits. Healy reviewed differences between animals used in sustainable food production and urban potbellied pigs that that serve more as companion animals rather than farm animals. Council directed staff to proceed with drafting an ordinance for future Council consideration.

4E. RV Storage Standards Discussion

4F. Accessory Structure Design Standards Discussion

Due to lack of time, these items were tabled until a future workshop.

5. OTHER

Deb Wegeleben discussed a 2010A Negotiated Crossover Bond Refunding option that would save the City interest costs. Council directed staff to proceed with the bond refunding as discussed.

6. ADJOURN

Council Member Hansen motioned to adjourn at 5:50 p.m. Seconded by Council Member Langsdorf, unanimous ayes, motion carried.

Gina Wolbeck
City Clerk

07/13/16
Date Approved By Council