



MINUTES OF A CALLED PUBLIC MEETING
April 26, 2024

Council Approved on May 13, 2024

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** Mayor Grisham called meeting to order at 5:30pm
2. **ROLL CALL:** Members present for roll call were as follows: to wit: Mayor Grisham, Councilwoman Gonzales, Councilwoman Spears, Councilwoman Brown, Councilwoman Klepac and Councilwoman Amick.
3. **INVOCATION:** Mayor Grisham gave the invocation
4. **PUBLIC COMMENT:** N/A

a. CALLED AGENDA: (Discuss and consider the following items)

- A. **Discussion of Police Dept Budget and Attractions for PD Employees** – Chief Michael Cotton was asked by the Council what he thought would be attractive for attracting a peace officer to De Leon. His reply was more pay. Sheriff Chris Pounds was present who stated that De Leon had to improve their reputation in the police department. As the department stands, the City of De Leon is a liability for a lawsuit because of improper coverage. As was previously discussed one year ago, even though Sheriff Pounds does not want for the sheriff's department to take over Police enforcement, but would rather have the De Leon Police Department to continue, Pounds stated that it is still a possibility if the city council prefers. A contract could be negotiated. City Manager Denman responded that he still had the contract from a year ago that the Sheriff had offered for the city to consider. John Awbrey stated that one consideration would be to get a Marshall. Also, a suggestion was to get local students to begin to enroll in a Junior Police Department Curriculum. Pounds responded that it would be a good idea in order to start fresh in the future but for right now, that doesn't help us with the current situation. Neighbors on patrol was a suggestion to get citizens involved in watching out for mischief but that also include danger for citizens. Housing for police officers was suggested and exercise at the gym. Pounds said that if the sheriff's department took over law enforcement, then all current Police employees of DeLeon would have to reapply for the job and coverage by the sheriff's department would only guarantee that someone would be in the north side of the county, not necessarily in the City of De Leon. Emma Gonzales moved that we advertise on the website indeed.com with a base pay of \$21 per hour for a person with experience of one to three years, \$22 per hour for experience of 3 to 5 years, and \$23 per hour for experience of more than five years, with the addition of certificate pay. Trudy Spears seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.
- B. **EXECUTIVE SESSION; The Council may enter into Executive Session under Govt Code Sections 551.074 (Personnel Matters), Hiring of new Police Officer to send to Police Academy** – Start Time: 7:11 pm End Time: 7:49 pm
- C. **Results from Executive session** – No action was taken

5. ITEMS OF COMMUNITY INTEREST:

- Expression of thanks, congratulations or condolences
- Information regarding holiday closings
- Honorary recognition of City officials, employees, or other citizens
- Reminders about upcoming events sponsored by the City or other entity that is scheduled to be attended by a City official or City employee.

6. ADJOURN: Mayor adjourned meeting at 7:49 pm

CERTIFICATION



I, *David Denman*, City Administration for the City of De Leon, Texas, do hereby certify that the above and foregoing is true and correct of the regular meeting by the City Council of the City of De Leon and of the minutes pertaining thereto on the 26th day of April, 2024.

David Denman,
City Administrator

Minutes **PASSED AND APPROVED** by the City Council of the City of De Leon on the 13th May day of 2024.



Jay Grisham, Mayor


ATTEST:


Melenda K. Harbour
City Secretary