



MINUTES OF A CALLED PUBLIC MEETING

June 9th, 2016

City Council Approved on June 27th, 2016

Call to Order: Mayor Adams called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Roll Call: Council members present for roll call were as follows, to wit: Mayor Adams, Councilman Reyna, Councilman Johnson, Councilman Baugh, and Councilman Childers. Councilwoman Abbe was present via live videoconferencing.

Invocation: Mayor Adams gave the invocation.

Public comment:

City Attorney Lois Rockefeller gave instructions to the citizens present that the public comment portion of the meeting would be limited to topics that are not on the agenda, it would be limited to those who had completed the Citizen Comment Request forms, and that each person would be allowed 3 minutes to speak. Ms. Rockefeller stated that individuals wishing to speak regarding the item on the agenda would be called upon by the Council during discussion of that agenda item. Attorney Jim Parker gave a brief statement thanking Ms. Rockefeller for her efforts regarding the meeting and suggesting that everyone present get a copy of the City's Charter and read it thoroughly. Emma Childers told the Council that she thinks Chief Rowell is a good cop and he watches out for this town. She said she stands behind Ben. Bobby Schuman said that Mayor Adams was called because of him. Nicky Don Wilkerson told Mr. Schuman that he would have to wait to make comments on that topic until the agenda item was called. Attorney Jim Parker said Mr. Schuman could speak after deliberations of Council on that item.

Potential Removal from Position of Mayor:

Mayor Adams has requested that this item be discussed in open session. The Council began discussion of Mayor Adams' actions regarding a theft at the Dollar General on June 2nd and 3rd. Councilman Childers said that Mr. Schuman came to his house and told him that he and Mayor Adams are good friends and stated this is not a "good ol' boy system". Mayor Adams said he is the executor of the City. Mayor Adams stated that he called Ben about the alleged theft but Ben said he was off and would deal with it on Monday. Councilman Childers asked if Mr. Schuman should have been there with the Mayor. Mayor Adams said he went to view the video to see what had actually occurred because he questioned that the individuals involved had committed the crime. Mayor Adams said that the employee at the Dollar General asked him to take the video to the Police Department and at no time did the video or statements leave his hands. Councilman Childers said it really bothered him that the Mayor interfered with a police department issue. Mayor Adams stated that the Charter gives him the authority to do this. Councilwoman Abbe asked the Mayor if he went to the store as the Mayor or as a private citizen. Mayor Adams stated he went as the Mayor. Councilwoman Abbe asked the Mayor if he contacted Chief Rowell before the Mayor went

to the store. Mayor Adams stated he did not ask for Chief Rowell's permission to do this. Councilwoman Abbe stated that the City employs staff to handle these kinds of things and it would be more efficient for staff to handle. Mayor Adams emphasized the Mayor's authority under the Charter. Attorney Jim Parker again suggested that everyone present get a copy of the Charter and read it. Councilwoman Abbe asked Mayor Adams why the Mayor placed Chief Rowell on administrative leave. Mayor Adams said that it should have never gotten to that point and that Chief Rowell and Karen Wilkerson should have come to him to talk about it first. Christina Gardner asked why Chief Rowell was put on administrative leave. Mayor Adams said he made a bad decision on putting Chief Rowell on administrative leave. Councilman Reyna said that when he took office 2 years ago, he did not like the way Public Works and the City Secretary ran things, but after seeing it from behind the scenes he understood what all they have to deal with. Councilman Reyna said he did his job as Mayor Pro Tem in calling the meeting and that he does not know if he can stay on the Council if Karen, Ben, or Rob leaves employment with the City. Councilman Reyna says this situation got out of control and the City is spending money on attorney's fees that they could be spending on other things that the City needs. Mayor Adams said he wants to move forward with the City and if not everyone wants to move forward with the City that is fine. City Attorney Lois Rockefeller suggested that we have a couple of workshops with the City Council to orient the Mayor and Council on the duties and responsibilities of the Mayor and City officials under the City's Charter and the City's Policies and Procedures. Ms. Rockefeller suggested we could also consider amending the Charter during those workshops. There was discussion among citizens present about involvement by the public at City Council meetings and during elections. A woman stated that the people at the Senior Center never know when the meetings are held so they can't ever go. Karen Wilkerson stated that the agenda is posted on the front window of City Hall, sent to the newspaper, posted on the City website and the City's Facebook page. The woman said that her people do not have Facebook and that some did not even have computers. Ms. Wilkerson said that the woman could have made a special request that Ms. Wilkerson send copies of the agenda directly to the Senior Center but no one has ever asked for that. At this time, Ms. Wilkerson read a resignation letter that she had prepared prior to the meeting. Ms. Wilkerson stated that she had done a lot for the City but she did not want her name associated with the City going forward. She stated that her last day would be June 23rd, so she was giving two weeks' notice. Ms. Wilkerson then requested that Melenda Harbour take her place in taking notes and vacated her seat but remained present at the meeting in the crowd. There was additional discussion by members of the audience regarding Mayor Adams' actions. Kelly Rowell asked if the Charter or the City's policies and procedures need to be followed. Nicky Don Wilkerson asked about Chief Rowell's suspension. Christina Gardner asked the Mayor if he went to investigate because it was Bobby Schuman who asked or whether he would have done that for any citizen. Mayor Adams responded that he would have done that for any citizen. Regina Sadberry says she appreciates the Council and this whole thing was a misunderstanding because of who the citizen was who asked the Mayor for help. Ms. Sadberry said Chief Rowell does a good job and so does Karen, and it is wrong of Karen to resign. Ms. Sadberry said the Mayor should have gone about things in a different way and not taken the evidence from the store but it is time to move forward. There was additional discussion about the suspension of the police chief and the action in having the special meeting called. Ms. Wilkerson said that she advised the Mayor not to suspend Chief Rowell but the Mayor said he would do what he wants. Chief Rowell stated he followed the chain of command in asking the Mayor Pro Tem to call the meeting. At this point, Heath Sylvia

approached the Council and suggested that the Council needs a minister alliance and then prayed with the Council. It was confirmed that no action would be taken at this meeting because there was an allegation that the meeting was not properly noticed.

Adjourn:

Councilman Baugh made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Councilman Johnson seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously and the meeting was adjourned.

CERTIFICATION

I, *Melenda Harbour*, City Clerk for the City of De Leon, Texas, do hereby certify in a good faith effort, that the above and foregoing is true and correct of the called meeting by the City Council of the City of De Leon and of the minutes pertaining thereto on the 9th day of June, 2016.



Melenda K. Harbour, Acting City Secretary

Minutes **PASSED AND APPROVED** by the City Council of the City of De Leon on the 27 day of June, 2016.



Jim Adams, Mayor

ATTEST:



Melenda K. Harbour, Acting City Secretary

