

MINUTES  
PUBLIC MEETING  
SPECIAL CALLED CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
August 28, 2024

The City Council of the City of Jasper, Texas met on August 28, 2024, with the following members present to wit:

- Anderson M. Land, Jr..... Mayor
- Marcus Barber..... Council Member
- DeMarcus Holmes..... Council Member
- Ronald Sample..... Council Member
- Angel McCroskey.....Council Member
- Lequin Hilderbrand..... Council Member
  
- Greg Kelley..... City Manager
- Liz Jarrell..... City Secretary

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Anderson Land at 6:00pm and opened with prayer by Mr. Scott. All members were present.

Mayor Land asked for public comments, and there were two. Mr. Jesse Frazier spoke concerning the budget. Mr. Bowe Limbrick spoke concerning homelessness in Jasper.

Mayor Land then asked Attorney Craig Bennett representing the City of Jasper to speak to the citizens. Mr. Bennett explained SEnergy was hired to help with recommendations to set rates in accordance with sound rate making principles that the public utility commission recognizes as appropriate. Mr. Bennett explained the city proposed a 3-year incremental rate increase, which is making a 3.5% increase per utility bill. Mr. Bennett explained that the electric bill is based on a customer charge, an energy charge, and the fuel cost. Mr. Bennett explained the bulk of the bill comes from the fuel cost, but the changes being proposed were to the customer charge and energy charge. Electric bills do not have a fixed rate because the fuel cost is subject to change. Rates can go up or down because of the fuel cost changing periodically. Mr. Bennett stated this proposed rate is still better than most co-ops and nearby cities. It is at the lower end of the rates being charged. Mr. Bennett believes the city is in good shape, but to stay in good shape an increase is necessary or else the Cambridge funds will be decreased more which is available to use. Mr. Bennett explained the Cambridge funds should be for emergency purposes such as hurricane or tornado damage.

Mayor Land then asked for comments from the citizens of Jasper concerning the electric rates. Bill Grant voiced his concerns with the 3-year incremental rate adjustment. Mr. Craig Bennett stated the 3-year incremental rate adjustment is not set in stone, and it can be changed year by year if needed. Mike Lout then spoke concerning the Cambridge funds and Proposition "A". Mr. Craig

Bennett stated the City is in compliance with the ordinance for Proposition "A". Ms. Marsha Anderson then spoke concerning the increase in electrical rates. Ms. Carolyn Garrett also spoke concerning the increase in electrical rates. Mr. Craig Bennett reiterated that the council can choose to either use Cambridge funds instead of a rate increase or implement the 3-year incremental rate adjustment for the fiscal year 2025-2026.

Mayor Land then announced at 6:54pm council will go into executive session regarding personnel matters concerning the salary for the city manager. The meeting was reconvened at 7:10pm. No action was taken by the executive session.

Council Member Lequin Hilderbrand then made comments regarding everyone getting along with each other.

With no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 7:12pm.

  
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Anderson Land, Mayor

Attest:

  
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Liz Jarrell, City Secretary