

CITY OF THROCKMORTON
MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 14TH, 2023

1. Mayor Will Carroll called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. with four council members present. Brandon Chandler, Ricky Escalon, Judy Jackson, and Lester Moses. Cathey Lee was absent. Also present was Rick Ward, Angie Scarlett, City Secretary, Kim Bundy, Assistant Secretary, and Jimmy Collins, Public Works Director. The invocation was given by Mayor Will Carroll.

2. ***Approve Minutes from October 10th, 2023, regular meeting.***

The motion was made by-----Ricky Escalon
to accept the minutes as presented.

Second by-----Lester Moses

Motion carried, 4-0.

3. ***Citizens Participation- No one present***

4. ***Rick Ward to discuss his water bill. –***

Rick discussed with the council his past and present readings of his water meter. His argument was that the usage of 45,000 gallons, which was calculated for this past month's bill could not be correct. He stated that he has an open septic system, and the grass is only green about 10 feet down the hill and that his average usage has always been 4 to 5 thousand gallons each month. Rick stated that he's been there over 15 years and since then, a new meter has been put in. This issue with the high usage has happened a couple of other times in the past and he'd like a new meter to be put in if this continues to happen. He also stated that maybe the meter could be jumping forward and reading more at times. Jimmy Collins, public works Director stated that the meter will not read more if there is something wrong with the meter, if anything, it will read less.

Jimmy and the guys checked the meter and the readings with what was reported in the past year just to make sure they were all correct on our end and no misreading's were entered and no issues were found. There is no other explanation except that we have to go by what the meter reading tells us, and that water did go through the meter.

Mayor Carroll noted that looking back in June of last year on the audit for Rick's meter, there was a usage of over 35,000 gallons of water and then it went back to normal again just like this time. Mr. Ward added that yes, everything did go back to normal and yet there was no leak and no explanation of where the water went. Mayor Carroll stated that our responsibility is reading the meter and legally can't go on your property looking for leaks. Mr. Ward still argued that if 45,000 gallons of water was used anywhere on his property, he would have been able to see it somewhere. Mayor Carroll stated that he knew Mr. Ward was disputing that he had not used the water and that we can't explain this either except that all we have to go by is what the meter reading tells us. Mayor Carroll told Mr. Ward that he was put on the agenda because it was important enough to him that Mr. Ward was heard as a citizen and that if we had anything at all to go by other than the meter reading, there would be a different decision to be made. Mr. Ward was asked by the mayor and council what he would like the council to vote on. Mr. Ward replied that it's basically his word against what the meter reading states and asked if there could be an adjustment made. Councilman Brandon Chandler stated that he realizes Mr. Ward says he hasn't used the water but how can there be an adjustment made when all we have to go by is what the meter reading says. Mr. Ward asked Jimmy if there could be a check valve put in. There can be a check valve put in, but this would or could affect your water pressure. Councilmember Judy Jackson suggested that he could make monthly payments on the bill until it was paid. Mr. Ward noted that being able to pay the bill is not a problem, the problem is that he did not use the water, but he did understand that what we have to go by are the readings we get from the meter. Brandon Chandler asked if there were any outside faucets that are used and could have been left on. Mr. Ward mentioned that there are faucets and unless someone came to his house while he was gone and filled up a tank without him knowing?

Brandon went on to say that this in fact has happened to him before a while back by some hunters and it may be, since there is no other explanation of any leaks that someone could have stolen the water, not that this has happened, but we are at a point that all we have to go by is what Jimmy has said. Jimmy added that he read the meter today around 4 PM and everything seems normal. Rick mentioned he also read the meter with the same reading as Jimmy. Mayor Carroll ended the discussion with, “since there is no proposal to be voted on, the council meeting will need to go on with our meeting”. Mr. Ward thanked the council for listening and said that he knows that we have to go by the readings that were read but he is still confused as to where the water went.

5. ***Vote for Nominee and pass Resolution for Appraisal District Board of Directors-***

A motion was made by-----Rick Escalon for Chase Cook to be the city’s nominee for Appraisal District Board of Directors and pass Resolution stating the City of Throckmorton’s votes 4-0, for Chase Cook.

Second by-----Judy Jackson
Motion carried, 4-0.

6. ***Public Works Director Report – Jimmy Collins***

Jimmy reported that the lake is still at around 8 feet down and is staying steady with the small amounts of rain that we’ve received. More chemicals are having to be used from the water being so low. Work has been going on at the sewer plant in preparation for the state inspections next week. Meters are being replaced for the ones that are reading zero. Some asphalt has arrived so streets will continue to get patched up until it gets too cold to do so. There has been no word from Raydon for repair of the streets. Looks like it will be around January before this project will start. Scada work is finally being completed by some guys from Breckenridge so we’re hoping this will get finished pretty soon. The handrails for the sidewalks are being built at the water plant and look like they are about to finish up the project downtown and then will start on sidewalk project in front of the library soon. The mayor went over the specs of the sidewalk project that will be in front of the library. Ricky Escalon asked about the one light that is broken on West Chestnut Street and Jimmy explained to him on the plans to either have it repaired or not have a light there at all. Ricky also added that there is water leak over by his house that seems to be getting worse and Jimmy said he would take a look at it tomorrow.

Mayor Carroll let the council know that Mr. Olivier of *Oligow Crop Dusters*, has spoken to him about the airport. He let Mr. Olivier know that he is welcome to continue to use the airport anytime he wants. The airport is not closed, just under a NOTAM which has been extended another year. Mr. Olivier has made suggestions that he would like to lease the airport and be the manager. He has been talking to TxDot but the information he’s gotten from them, he’s misinterpreting. The real information is this. The city is on a Capital Improvement Program, 2024-2026. We are on the list for an engineering plan which is \$250,000. It is a 90/10 match. So, after that is done, the rest of the project amount will go up to 1.7 million dollars so the city’s portion would be around \$170,000. Mr. O is adamant about getting funding to do this. We will not proceed and put the city in that kind of financial jeopardy unless all of the funds to pay the matching are in the bank. In the past we’ve had help in redoing the runway and putting new lights up, but this would be a total re-do and we are staying with the NOTAM until we do get to that point. The justification is not there for the city or county to support this. If this turns out to be an option in the future, afterwards we would return to the RAMP program which is a maintenance program and right now its at a 50/50 but after the capital improvemnet Program is complete, it will be a 90/10. We would get \$100,000 dollars’ worth of work for \$10,000.

7. **Pay Bills/Financial Directors Report** – Mayor Carroll went over the city’s financials. Taxes are coming in slowly and sales taxes are still coming in strong each month.

A motion was made by-----Lester Moses
to pay the bills.

Second was made by-----Ricky Escalon
Motion carried 4-0.

8. **Adjournment-**

Ricky Escalon made the motion to adjourn.

All in favor.



Angie Scarlett, City Secretary



Will Carroll, Mayor