

MINUTES

PALESTINE VILLAGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

March 7, 2024

Palestine Board of Trustees met on March 7, 2024. Trustees answering roll call were Tim McDaniel, Mary Michael, Twilla Davis, Brian Nethery, and JR Dunlap. Gene Purcell being tardy.

Staff Members present: Rita Carmouche, Kerry Watson, Dan Cheadle.

Visitors present: Teresa Fielder, Carol McGahey, Resa Shaner, Penny Shaw, Stacie Ogle, Leonard Daugherty, Cynthia Bantican, Amy Beckes, Jamie Tull, Steve McGahey, Damien Tingley, Chuck Campbell, Susie Hancock, Jenna Aldrich, Bill Burke, Vickie Perkins, Alyssa Nethery, Larry Dunlap and Tammy Venatta.

Meeting called to order by Mayor Rob at 5:00pm.

The meeting began with all present reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes were taken by the Village Clerk.

The Minutes of February 2024 were accepted as presented.

OLD BUSINESS:

1) Update on Main St Building

New Business:

1) Discussion and Approval of Palestine to Participate in the County Wide Enterprise Zone.

Resa Shaner passed out a flyer and spoke about the County Wide Enterprise Zone. Bill Burke also made us aware that the Enterprise Zone is a go and this is happening sooner than they expected. Bill announced that things for the Enterprise Zone could be 100% complete by June or July. Motion made by Twilla and seconded by Tim McDaniel on approval to participate in County Wide Enterprise Zone. Motion carried unanimously by board members, with Gene Purcell being absent at the time of vote.

2) Discussion of increase in sewer disconnect fees and establish official guidelines for disconnection of delinquent customers.

Ordinance for this is currently at the Lawyers office to be updated. We discussed prices of postage for billing monthly rather than quarterly. Our goal is to get customers to pay in a more timely manner. Board members are to weigh out options and we will do a phone poll next week to get their vote.

4) Discussion and Approval for PDA Wine and Arts Festival October 5th & 6th.

Wine and Arts Fest is approved for this year. JR made motion and Brian seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

DPW REPORT: Luke McNair is absent. Mayor Rob brought up the discussion of possibly buying the Gator that we are currently leasing due to the overage of used hours, costing us \$2250. Lease is up on the Gator April 4, 2024. John Deere representative has given us a price of \$26,000 if we buy it, and we would not have to pay the \$2,250 for the overage of hours used. The representative will be at our

April board meeting to discuss. Clean out of the Lagoon has started.

POLICE REPORT: Chief Cheadle gave his report.

PIONEER ROOM/COMMUNITY FACILITY – Brian Nethery

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Budget and Finance Committee: Kerry Watson, Chairman. Financials were handed out. Kerry is working on the 2024/2025 budget at this time and will plan to meet in a couple weeks to go over before the April Board Meeting.

Bldg Regulations, Permits, Maintenance: Harry Gene Purcell, Chairman, reports we have had 6 permits given in February, 2 fence permits, 2 bedroom additions, 1 garage and 1 deck.

Employee Relations Committee: Mary Michael, Chairman.

FOIA/OMA Officers: Kerry Watson, Chairman.

Ordinance/Grant Committee:

Streets, Sidewalks, Alleys Committee: Tim McDaniel, Chairman.

Sewer/Lagoon Committee: Brian Nethery, Chairman. Brian is wondering if we can use ARPA funds to clean out the lines of the Sewer.

With no further business to discuss, made motion to adjourn, seconded the motion. Meeting ended at

PRESIDENT

VILLAGE CLERK