

**CITY OF TATUM**  
**REGULAR SCHEDULED MEETING**  
**July 12, 2021**

The City Council of the City of Tatum met in regular session on **July 12, 2021**, at **5:31 p.m.** in the City Hall Meeting Room with the following members present:

**Mayor - Clay Lassen**

**City Secretary – Kay Dyer**

**City Council**

Jeff Keller - Absent

Kim R. Smith

Tate R. Smith

Jack York

Dana Buddecke – Mayor Pro-Tem - Absent

**CITIZEN’S COMMENTS:**

None

**REGULAR BUSINESS:**

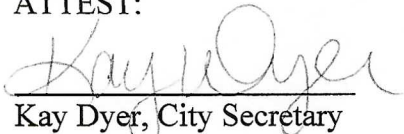
1. **Last month’s minutes and checks written** - Mr. Kim Smith made a motion to approve the last month’s minutes and checks written. Mr. Jack York seconded the motion and the motion passed with none opposed.
2. **Executive Session at 5:36 p.m.** – Council Members, along with the mayor, went into executive session. Executive session ended at 6:25 p.m. with no action taken.
3. **John & Felicia Miller’s home repairs at 135 Stonecrest** – Mayor Clay Lassen said he spoke with city attorney Joe Shumate. Mr. Shumate advised Mayor Lassen that the city is not liable for the sewage damage to John & Felicia Miller’s home. Mr. Kim Smith made a motion the City of Tatum would offer one thousand and five hundred (\$1500.00) dollars to help towards the damages. Mr. and Mrs. Miller would need to sign a release of liability accepting the offer. Mr. Tate Smith seconded the motion and the motion passed with none opposed. Mrs. Felicia Miller said she would need to discuss the offer with her husband.
4. **Citizen Mr. J R Smith addressing road conditions** - Mr. J R Smith stated that Beauregard and Stonewall Street are extremely bad. The roads have big potholes and Beauregard has spot that are down to the clay. Mr. Smith said that if the Grab-N-Go Food Mart is going to become a truck stop then the owner needs to be responsible for the repairs and he needs to maintain the roads. On hot, dry days the dust is horrible from the parking lot. Mayor Clay Lassen said he takes full responsibility for the repairs to the road not being done. Mayor Lassen said he would speak with Commissioner Robert Kuykendall on repairing the roads. Mr. Kim Smith stated that the wrap or oil dirt is the best for the repairs. He also told Mayor Lassen to speak with the owner of the Grab-N-Go Food Mart to see if he is willing to repair the roads. Mr. Jack York also agreed that owner should fix and maintain the roads. Mayor Lassen said he will speak with Commissioner Kuykendall to see what the cost will be to repair the roads, then he will contact the Grab-N-Go Food Mart owner to see if he is willing to repair and maintain the roads. If this doesn’t resolve the issue then the city will sign an ordinance that will place a weight limit restriction on city streets to prevent more damages. No motions were made. Mayor Lassen will update the city council at next council meeting on August 9, 2021.
5. **Yearly vendor permit** – Mayor Clay Lassen read some of his proposal to the council. He stated the fee would be two hundred (\$200.00) dollars per year, with the renewal date of December 31<sup>st</sup> each year with the hours possibly being from 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. He will contact Rusk County Health Inspector, Tammy Honea once he completes the permit to make sure he has all the



required information listed. No action taken.

6. **City council members having access to city benefit plan** – Mayor Clay Lassen spoke with TML city representative Shannon Caldwell. Mrs. Caldwell said it is allowable for city council members to have access to city benefit plan. If the council member doesn't work over twenty (20) hours per week, then council member would have to pay full price for the plan. Mr. Kim Smith ask what would be the repercussion if there were numerous, expensive claims filed. Mayor Lassen said it can affect the rates, but TML tries to keep the change low. Mr. Smith said he is concerned that it will raise the cost of the city's insurance. He said he does not need the insurance. Mr. Jack York stated he does not need the insurance as well. Mr. Tate Smith said he is the one that wanted information about getting on the city's benefit plan and he was aware that he would have to pay full cost for the plan. Mr. Jack York made a motion to table this item until next meeting. He wants more information on how this would affect the city's cost. Mr. Kim Smith seconded the motion.
7. **Bid to remodel city hall** – Council reviewed the bid submitted by Wendell Moore Construction. Mr. Kim Smith said Mr. Moore does good work. Mr. Jack York questioned the demo of the restroom in the police department's office. Chief April Rains said they would like to make this a storage room. Mr. Tate Smith said the cost of building supplies are going down in cost now. Mr. Kim Smith asked Mayor Clay Lassen his suggestion on the remodel. Mayor Lassen stated he would rather have the money in hand to do the project. Mr. Smith and Mr. York agreed. Mr. York made a motion to remove the bid to remodel city hall until the October meeting. The council will make a decision at that time. Mr. Kim Smith seconded the motion and the motion passed with none opposed.
8. **Chief April Rains overtime** – Mayor Clay Lassen stated that Chief April Rains goes above and beyond for the city. Mayor Lassen said he will contact TML by the end of the week to find out how to handle Chief Rains compensation for the overtime she has been working. Mayor Lassen told Chief Rains that he will meet with her by Friday, July 16<sup>th</sup> to discuss the overtime. Chief Rains stated she was called into work on Sunday, July 11, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. She had been at work for more than 25 hours. She stated she is the only police chief that has been employed with the City of Tatum that had been placed on salary. She is working extensive amount of overtime and she is not being compensated by the city. This has been an issue for several years. There are weeks she works more than 90 hours with no compensation for her overtime. She stated she is a non-exempt police officer and that the city is in violation for not paying her for her time worked. Mr. Jack York said we need more officers so Chief Rains does not have to work this overtime. Mr. York said he appreciates Chief Rains dedication to our city and citizens.
9. **Drilling within the city limits of Tatum** – Mayor Clay Lassen proposed an Ordinance that would prevent drilling within the city limits of Tatum. Mayor Lassen stated that Ordinance 2007-05 prevented drilling within the city limits of Tatum, then in 2008 an Ordinance was amended that allowed drilling. Mr. Kim Smith wanted to know if City Attorney Joe Shumate had prepared the new ordinance paperwork. Mayor Lassen said he had prepared the ordinance. Mayor Lassen stated he will consult with Mr. Shumate to prepare the new ordinance. This item was tabled until August 9<sup>th</sup> council meeting.
10. **Adjourn** - Mr. Tate Smith made a motion to adjourn @ 7:24 p.m. p.m. Mr. Jack York seconded the motion and the motion passed, all in favor.

ATTEST:

  
Kay Dyer, City Secretary

APPROVED:

  
Clay Lassen, Mayor