

**CITY OF TATUM
REGULAR SCHEDULED MEETING
September 13, 2021**

The City Council of the City of Tatum met in regular session on **September 13, 2021**, at **5:30 p.m.** in the City Hall Meeting Room with the following members present:

Mayor - Clay Lassen

City Secretary – Kay Dyer

City Council

Jeff Keller

Kim R. Smith

Tate R. Smith

Jack York

Dana Buddecke – Mayor Pro-Tem

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. Jeff Keller seconded the motion and the motion passed with none opposed.
2. **Updates on grants, projects, etc.** – Mayor Clay Lassen updated the council on the \$4.4 million grant for Hilliary Communication. He sent 3 or 4 emails to find out what the plan is for the grant. Hilliary Communication will update the city with plans as available. There is possibly another internet company coming to Tatum residents. There is a meeting set for Wednesday, September 15, 2021 at 2:00 p.m. at city hall with East Texas Council of Governments (ETCOG) to discuss grant for fiber internet. Police radio grant and the 2021 Texas Community Development Block Grant are coming along as planned. Mayor Lassen contacted Linda at ETCOG for guidance on what the city can use the American Rescue Plan Act grant funds for. Mr. Jeff Keller said he would like money to be given to the Tatum Nutrition Center each month to help it get started back providing meals for citizens of Tatum. Mr. Lassen received an email from Texas State Department on emergency plan for water and how the city needs to be prepared for emergencies. Group M7 will provide City of Tatum employees training the week of September 13, 2021 for the city’s new website.
3. **Mutual aid agreement with Rusk County Sheriff’s office** – Sheriff John Wayne Valdez presented a mutual aid agreement between Rusk County Sheriff’s office and City of Tatum. The agreement would help Tatum as well as Sheriff’s department with grants/funding. Mr. Kim Smith made a motion to approve the Mutual aid agreement. And Mr. Jack York seconded the motion and the motion passed with none opposed.
4. **Speed bumps in Eagle Ridge Subdivision** – Mrs. Kelly Woods said current speed bumps are wore down and cars are flying through their neighborhood. She is concerned about the children in the neighborhood being injured or killed by one of the speeding vehicles. Mr. Jack York asked if citations have been written to the drivers of the speeding vehicles. Chief April Rains advised yes there have been citations issued. Mrs. Woods has put Caution Speed Bump signs up. Mr. Dana Woods would like for the city to pay or help pay to replace the speed bumps. Mr. Jeff Keller said to get Public Works Supervisor, Michael Morton to order sign and install speed bumps to prevent kids from getting hurt. Mr. Kim Smith said to ask Commissioner Robert Kuykendall to see how much it would cost to repair/replace the speed bumps. The speed bumps

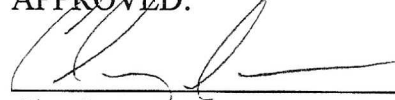
are needed at Falcon/Blue Bird/Robin and Falcon/Chaparral Streets. Mr. Jeff Keller made a motion to get the speed bumps repaired or replaced. Mr. Kim Smith seconded the motion and the motion passed with none opposed.

5. **RVS Utility Billing System** – Mr. Jeff Keller said he would like to see the change to RVS Utility Billing System. The current billing software is outdated. City Secretary, Kay Dyer explained the advantages of RVS Utility Billing system. The system would save time and cost to the city. Mrs. Dana Buddecke made a motion to approve the new billing system. Mr. Kim Smith seconded the motion and the motion passed with none opposed.
6. **Road repairs and Grab-N-Go Food Mart Owner** – Mayor Clay Lassen has continued to try to contact the Grab-N-Go Food Mart owner. He has been unsuccessful in reaching him. Mr. Jeff Keller has also tried to contact the owner with no success. Commissioner Robert Kuykendall has repaired the streets at the city’s expense. Mayor Lassen suggested a city ordinance preventing trucks from driving on the city streets. Chief April Rains said the city should limit the ordinance to cover that one area which is Stonewall and Beauregard Street. The city will order signs stating No Thru Truck Traffic and it will also have the maximum fine printed on them. Mr. Jeff Keller motioned to approve a city ordinance preventing trucks from using Stonewall and Beauregard Street and purchasing signs to be placed on these streets. Mr. Tate Smith seconded the motion and the motion passed with none opposed.
7. **Replacement value on city’s properties insured by TMLIRP** – Item table until October 11, 2021 council meeting.
8. **Truth in Taxation Tax Rate** – Mr. Jeff Keller made a motion to approve the voter approval rate of \$.299781/\$100 for the 2021 tax year. The proposed tax rate would increase total taxes in the City of Tatum by 4 %. Mr. Kim Smith seconded the motion and the motion passed with none opposed.
9. **Jefferson Street Property** – Mayor Clay Lassen explained that someone is trying to purchase property on Jefferson Street. The individual needs an easement for his bank to get the approval. A manufactured home that is currently on the property is sitting over the property line onto the city’s property. Mr. Jeff Keller said the home needs to be moved back or needs to be removed from the property. Mr. Tate Smith made a motion not to grant the easement. Mr. Jeff Keller seconded the motion and the motion passed with none opposed.
10. **Cardinal Street zoning** – Current Residents had concerns of more manufactured home being brought in. The residents do not want the home decreasing their property values. The zoning for this area is R1 and R2 which are not zoned for manufactured homes. Mayor Clay Lassen said if the homes are brought in without the city’s knowledge, then no water utilities will be turned on. No permits will be issued for moving manufactured homes in at this location, owner will be in violation and subject to fines. Owner will have to remove the home from the property. Mr. Jeff Keller made a motion that letters will be mailed to the Cardinal Street property owners letting them know that manufactured homes are not allowed per zoning in this area. Mr. Kim Smith seconded the motion and the motion passed with none opposed.
11. **Melinda/149 property** – Mayor Clay Lassen stated a builder is wanting to build homes in this area. The property is in a flood zone. The builder would have to bring in documentation showing where the water will be diverted to prevent homes in this area from flooding. A site plan would need to be presented to the council for further review. No action taken.
12. **Covid Policy** – Mayor Clay Lassen drafted a Covid policy for city employees. Mrs. Dana Buddecke stated that currently there is pay available through September 30, 2021. After this date, employees would need to use their sick or vacation time to cover their pay while they are

out sick. Mr. Jack York motion to accept the Covid policy and have Mrs. Dana Buddecke add in a section stating that employees would need to use their sick or vacation time to cover their payroll if they are out sick. Mr. Jeff Keller seconded the motion and the motion passed with none opposed.

13. **Adjourn** - Mr. Jeff Keller made a motion to adjourn @ 7:47 p.m. p.m. Mr. Jack York seconded the motion and the motion passed, all in favor.

APPROVED:



Clay Lassen, Mayor

ATTEST:



Kay Dyer, City Secretary

