

CITY OF TATUM

SPECIAL MEETING

Mayor - Michael Henry

October 22, 2024

5:30 PM
MINUTES

CITY COUNCIL

Tate Smith Pro-Tem
JR Smith
Wendell Moore
Robin Palmer
Greggory Cole - NP

City Secretary - J. Muckleroy

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Henry called the meeting called to order at 5:32 P.M.
Prayer: Mayor Henry offered prayer.

Pledge of Allegiance: Observed by all in attendance.

Citizen Comments: Please limit comments to a maximum of three minutes:

Citizen Malantha Palmer expressed concern that the last few meetings were not live-streamed. She also inquired if meetings could be scheduled later than 5:30 PM to allow citizens to participate after the Tatum ISD school meeting. Mayor Henry stated that he accepts responsibility for the last few meetings not being live-streamed. He noted that the city recently purchased new equipment that has to be synced up with Facebook so we can start live streaming at our next Council meeting in November. Mayor Henry also addressed Ms. Palmer's concern about the time council meetings are held. He advised that he was not in objection to it, nor was he opposed to having it on another day since the school board meets on a different day. He advised that he could look into it if he received enough citizen requests.

NEW BUSINESS:

Discussion and Motion: Review/Approve Agreement with AOKA Engineering LLC

Wendell Moore motioned to review and approve the Agreement with AOKA Engineering LLC. JR Smith seconded the motion. Mayor Henry made opening comments and deferred to Councilmen Moore to review the pricing aspect of the agreement. Mr. Moore reviewed and advised that the admin fees listed are in addition to the fees required by AOKA Engineering. He explained that these admin fees will go to the city for the administrative work needed to process these permits.

Wendell Moore motioned to vote and approve, and JR Smith seconded it. All in Favor. Item approved. The mayor will sign the agreement.

Discussion and Motion: Review/Approve Police Body Cam & Storage

JR Smith motioned to discuss Police Body Cameras, and Robin Palmer seconded it. Mayor Henry reviewed short-term options:

Option 1: The DROBO system, currently on loan from an oil company and running on an older computer, backs up to five hard drives, approximately 10TB.

Option 2: Mayor Henry reviewed a quote of about \$900 less. It involves storage in the cloud and approximately 20TB per drive. However, a new DROBO would still be required.

Option 3: Mayor Henry reviewed a quote from Motorola for a new body cam system for PD with the council. Mayor Henry asked Chief Smith to speak on the matter.

Chief Smith stated "that the vehicle's cameras are good. However, they are working with 2.5-3 working body cameras. One has a cracked screen, which does not allow us to see all the info on the screen. we can no longer get warranties. He stated that they can purchase refurbished cameras at **\$500 per camera**. E-force software is free, so we've stuck with it. However, they will no longer support that software because we can't tie into that software, which is why we keep this old computer. We need a couple of cameras. If we buy refurbished cameras, we must purchase the higher DROBO. Mayor Henry indicated that the cost for the two short-term options was more than **\$2500**, which is half the initial cost/payment for the annual cost to purchase the new camera system. He mentioned that the incident we had a week ago at City Hall could not be captured in full because the camera quit in the middle of the incident. Chief Smith said we are looking at an annual fee of **\$8k**. Mayor Henry said that per ETCOG, the next time to submit a grant is December next year. Councilman Moore stated that this is necessary for the PD, but he feels the PD should use the seizure money to pay for the body cameras. Chief Smith said that he doesn't feel it is the Police department's responsibility to supply itself with its basic needs. Councilman Moore disagreed and said these cameras are for the PD only, not for the city. Councilman JR Smith said it is a no-brainer that the City of Tatum funds should be used to purchase it, mainly because of liability issues the city would incur if an incident happened. Councilmen Palmer stated that this is a safety issue for officers and citizens. Councilman JR Smith agreed. JR Smith said he partially concurs with Wendell and understands the other side. Councilmen Palmer cited the incident with James and the gentleman on the motorcycle and how his camera didn't work correctly. Councilman Moore expressed that he felt the seizure money, \$9,459.32, could be used to purchase the body cameras for PD. Chief Smith asked if anyone had checked to see if funds were available. Chief stated, per law, that a motion can't be made to direct me on how to use the seizure money. He said he was not opposed to using it but didn't want to spend all the seizure money if it was needed for something catastrophic. Mayor asked Chief if he had the Lens lock quote available? He said he did, but it was not handy. He stated that the Motorola quote allowed them to use their current vehicle cameras and wouldn't require any wiring on vehicles to change out cameras from Lens lock.

Robin Palmer made a motion to purchase the new Motorola Agreement with the \$10k downpayment, with the understanding that in the future, if maintenance for PD vehicles is needed, the seizure money will be used to cover it. Councilmen Wendell Moore asked if the city would fund all \$10k for the body cameras. Robin Palmer said he felt the city

should.

JR seconded the motion that the city fund the cameras fully.
Councilmen Moore was not in agreement.

JR Smith motioned to adjourn, and Wendell Moore seconded it. All in Favor

The meeting adjourned at 6:17 PM

**** The Tatum City Council reserves the right to go into executive session at any time during the course of this meeting to discuss any of the matters listed above, as authorized by Texas Government Code Sections 551.071 (Consultation with Attorney), 551.072 (Deliberations about Real Property), 551.073 (Deliberations about Gifts and Donations), 551.074 (Personnel Matters), 551.076 (Deliberations about Security Devices), and 551.086 (Economic Development).**

This facility is wheelchair accessible and accessible parking spaces are available. Request for accommodations or interpretive services must be made 48 hours prior to the meeting. Please contact the City Secretary's Office at (903) 803-3580 or by email at cityoftatum@tatum.texas.gov.

I certify that the foregoing notice was posted on the bulletin board and the front door of the Tatum City Hall, Tatum, Texas this the 14th day of October, 2024.

Mayor Michael Henry

Date