

## ***Denton Utility Commission***

### ***Meeting Minutes***

February 19, 2025

4:00PM

- I. Mr. Woomer called the meeting to order at 4:00 PM and thanked all that were in attendance.
- II. Those in attendance were Leroy Woomer, Lee Tillery, Adam Jones, Ann Jacobs, Mark Chandler, Councilperson Lister and Scott Getchell
- III. Minutes for January 15, 2024, were reviewed and on motion by Mr. Jones and seconded by Mr. Tillery, the minutes were moved for approval. No discussion was had and the motion carried unanimously.
- IV. Open Issues
  - a. **Waterworth** – Mr. Getchell provided a report to discuss how the commission wanted to go about looking at rate increases to the W/S budget. The commission discussed philosophies on how and when to increase the rates. The two options discussed were to do a large increase once every couple years or smaller increases annually/incrementally. The consensus of the commission is that our recommendation is to do a gradual annual increase to the W/S budgets. Mr. Getchell would like to have a draft of the next fiscal budget to provide to Waterworth and then have them come back to the commission to present. Mr. Jones made a motion that the commission recommends to the council that they make smaller annual increases to the w/s rates vs. a large increase every couple of years. Second by Mr. Tillery. Unanimously approved.
  - b. **Sludge Management Upgrade** – Mr. Getchell reported that the Town has applied for MDE grand money to fund the project. The town is awaiting the decision.
  - c. **Water & Sewer Budgets** – Mr. Getchell is working on the budget currently and will present to the commission when the draft is ready.
  - d. **Fiber Optic/Broadband** – Mr. Getchell reported that there were no new updates.
  - e. **Third Pillar Floating Solar** – The town is still in negotiations and getting close to wrapping up the contracts with them.
  - f. **Lead Service Line Inventory** – The town has put in a request for grant funding to help pay for the cost of the replacement. Mr. Getchell will report

back when he has additional information. This project is being federally mandated with a significant cost that will accompany the federal mandate.

g. **Member Vacancy** – Mr. Scott Hollingsworth resigned his position. The Town Council appointed Ms. Ann Jacobs to fill the remainder of his term (12.31.26). Mr. Woomer thanked Ms. Jacobs for joining the commission.

h. **Other Open Issues** - None

V. **New Business**

a. **Talkie Communications** – Representatives from Talkie Communications will present a proposal to install equipment on the Industrial Park water tank.

i. Mike from Talkie presented to the Commission a proposal to install Wi-Fi plates on the tower to offer internet solutions to the town. The thoughts are to install the equipment as a test for 6 months to see how the technology/broadband worked. Councilperson Lister noted that if we decide to move forward with Talkie, would we be impacting the Simple Fiber's expansion of fiber in the town. Mr. Tillery mentioned that we as the town should be looking for references from other towns about their services. Mr. Jones made a motion to allow Talkie to do a 6-month trial run for their equipment on the tower with a fee to be determined by staff and the contract to be reviewed to make sure there is no conflict in the contract from a competition standpoint. Second by Mr. Tillery. Unanimously approved.

b. **Other New Business**

i. Council Person Lister reported that he reached out to Sharp Energy about maybe looking at a Natural Gas pipeline. Which in turn would open the option for other energy sources for the Town to take a look at. Councilperson Lister said that he would be happy to schedule them to come out and speak to the commission about what that might look at.

VI. **Adjournment** – Motion to adjourn at 5:15 by Mr. Jones, second by Mr. Tillery. Unanimously approved.

Respectfully Submitted,

Adam Jones, Secretary