

The City Council of the City of Willis, Texas convened in special session at city hall on the date and time aforesaid with the following members present:

Leonard Reed, Mayor  
Ashley Nixon, Council Member  
Barney Stone, Council Member  
Tom Luster, Council Member  
Tamara Young-Hector, Council Member  
Robert Evans, City Manager  
Marissa Quintanilla, City Secretary  
James Nowak, Chief of Police  
Taylor Whichard, Director of Public Works

And the following members absent: William Brown, constituting a quorum at which time the following business was transacted to-wit:

1. Call to order the special meeting.  
Mayor Reed called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.
2. Roll Call, Pledge of Allegiance, and Invocation  
I Pledge Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all. Honor the Texas Flag. I pledge allegiance to thee Texas; one state under God, one and indivisible.  
City Secretary called roll; William Brown was absent. Pledges were recited and James Nowak gave the invocation.
3. CITIZENS INQUIRY
  - a. Public Comments  
No public comments
4. NEW BUSINESS
  - a. Administer Oath of Office to Councilman Barney Stone.  
Mayor Reed administered the Oath of Office to Councilman Barney Stone.
  - b. Discuss and take action on projects for the American Rescue Plan Act funding.  
Robert Evans stated that the city has received updated guidance on the American Rescue Plan funding and what it can be spent on. Mr. Evans stated that staff needed the Council's permission to go ahead and submit for RFQs and RFPs to get the process started. Mr. Evans stated that the Public Works Director, and the City Engineers have done research on possible projects. Mr. Whichard stated that the first priority is the need for a sewer model. Mr. Whichard stated the City has never had one done, and with all the development coming into the City, we need to know where our problem areas are going to be. Mr. Whichard stated that the second priority is upsizing the generator at water plant three to run the cooling towers and the transfer pump, and the Catahoula well. Mr. Whichard stated that lastly, it would be rehabbing three different lift stations in Pin Oaks and North Forests. Mr. Whichard stated that these lift stations are constantly failing. Mr. Whichard stated that is not listed is upgrading the City's entire metering system to AMI and that way we would have ultrasonic meters in the ground at every residence and would be able to read meters here at city hall. Ms. Tamara Young-Hector asked if there was anything the City could use the money for. Mr. Evans stated there is a list that states the funds can be used for projects like plan rehabilitation, water meters, trunkline and watermain construction. Mr. Evans stated there were some links that provided in depth information. Mr. Young-Hector asked if it could be other projects besides just water and sewer projects. Mr. Evans stated that

infrastructure is the biggest thing it says you can do, but there are a few other things that is also allows. Mr. Luster asked how much total is the funds. Mr. Evans stated it was 1.7 million over two years. Mayor asked how long did the City have to use the funds. Mr. Evans stated three years. Mayor stated that the City would be receiving 1.7 million, but the first project on the list was for 2.1 million. Mr. Whichard stated that with the Catahoula well we are having to investigate more with our water model to see if that is actually needed. Mr. Whichard stated it was due diligence we had to do on our part, as well as the elevated storage tank. Mr. Whichard stated they ran the sewer model last week and it showed these things needed to be done, but we can tweak some things at our current water plants to avoid having to spend that. Mr. Whichard stated that it is coming from the Moran Ranch and the Woodland Hills coming online in the near future. Mayor stated he understood that, and that is why when the City was talking about annexing these properties, and development agreements he had asked about the City having the water and sewer capacity to serve them. Mayor stated he thought the answers he was getting was that the City does have the capacity to serve the things that were coming in. Mr. Evans stated we do. Mr. Evans stated that there are triggers whenever a certain number of connections, but we do have the plant capacity. Mr. Evans stated that this upgrade would allow the City to serve the additional connections that have not been planned on yet and gives flexibility in case of new connections. Mayor stated that the total number for water improvements is 4.6 million, and we are getting 1.7 million. Mr. Whichard stated that was correct, and list was to show Council a list of various projects that can be selected from, and to show Council some of the items that need to be done throughout the City in order to get our infrastructure to where it needs to be within the guidelines that are provide to us by our grant manager. Mayor stated that from looking at the list and the information he is getting, you can actually look at your budget and if your revenues wet down from last year, you could actually recoup those out of the fund also. Mayor stated that there is a lot of things other than water, sewer, and infrastructure that you can do with the funds. Mayor stated you can do cybersecurity, and WIFI. Mayor stated that was the list he was looking for so that council could see all the things you can use the funds for and decide on what to spend it on and try to budget for. Mr. Evans stated that when he did the research on what the other cities have done, water, sewer, and infrastructure is what they plan to use the funds for. Mr. Evans stated this was just staff recommendation on what we think the city needs right now. Mr. Evans stated there are some additional things that if Council has an idea or want staff to pursue, staff will do so. Mayor stated that Council needs the entire list of projects before it's decided on what to spend the funds on. Mayor stated that he would like to get the metering system in. Barney Stone asked about the broken meters now. Mr. Whichard stated that we have 128 broken registers to replace and have replaced about 90 since January of this year. Mayor asked how long it typically take to change the registers out. Mr. Whichard stated that it can take anywhere between 10 and 30 minutes. Jennifer Steen with Bleyl asked if the Council had any questions regarding the water and sewer projects. Tom Luster asked about the three lift stations that needed rehabbing and which one was the worst. Ms. Steen stated that there are three lift stations were pretty bad, but the one that they would recommend to rehab would be the Big Pin Oaks lift station. Ms. Steen stated the reason for this is that when trying to apply for a grant last year, one of the things they realized is that it would be at the City's best interest to gravity over to the main trunk line that is coming to the wastewater treatment plant. Ms. Steen said if they are able to do the sewer model, they would like to look at redoing some of this to save in the pump size, and it would save in the capacity needs with the lift station. Mayor asked about the lift station on Rogers Road, and what category it fell in, and if there were any future plans to fix it. Ms. Steen stated that we still have not heard back from the GLO grant that was applied for last year and that was definitely on the list along with updating the SCADA to all lift stations. Ms. Steen stated that they are looking at running the model since we know Moran is coming, to look at the demands on that system and looking at the developer agreement and consider what makes logical sense for the city. Ms. Steen stated that if we are going to make improvements, they wanted to look at the long-term picture, not just the short picture. Ms. Steen stated that they were looking at the funds the City is receiving from Moran, and the impacts of the system and also what the current conditions are and trying to come up with the best projects that would fit both of these needs. Mayor and Council continued to discuss projects list that was given to them. Mr. Evans stated that for know would like Council to give staff permission to proceed with RFP's and RFQ's. Motion was made by Barney Stone to authorize staff to move forward

with RFP's and RFQ's. Tom Luster seconded the motion. Mayor asked for any further discussion or questions. None were received. Motion passed unanimously.

5. REPORTS

Input from Council related to issues for possible inclusion on future agendas; related to issues such as (but not limited to) municipal projects, personnel, public property, development, and other city/public business. Councilman Stone asked how we stood on road repairs. Mr. Whichard stated that there is an agenda item for this on the regular Council meeting. Mr. Whichard also stated that the street department was working as fast as they can to repair as many potholes as they can. Mayor stated that along with potholes, the place where we have done street cuts are also bad. Mayor stated there was one on Marlin Street, and First Street. Mr. Whichard stated that he would pass this along and make sure they get taken care of. Mayor asked about Marlin Street being part of the drainage street project. Mr. Whichard stated it most likely was. Mr. Evans stated that he would get an itemized list of projects the City can do with the ARPA funds. Mayor stated he would like for Mr. Evans to check our revenues to see if the City's revenues went down during time. Mr. Evans stated he would work on that.

6. ADJOURN

Motion was made by Tamara Young-Hector to adjourn. Tom Luster seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 6:14 p.m.

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Leonard Reed, Mayor

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Marissa Quintanilla, City Secretary