



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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HIGHLIGHTS FROM CITY OF CUERO COUNCIL MEETING NOV. 14, 2022

CUERO, TX - City Of Cuero's November City Council Meeting was held November 14th in Cuero City Council Chambers and the following are the highlights from the meeting. For more information, as well as upcoming agendas, minutes from previous meetings and more, visit www.cityofcuero.com. A short recap video of each city council meeting can be found on the website, as well as their social media channels.

The meeting opened with the invocation led by city attorney James Crain and the pledge to the American flag and the Texas flag was led by councilman Emil Garza. With no public comments, presentations or recognitions, the city council moved on to resolutions.

Cuero City Council conducted the first reading of a resolution to approve Cuero Development Corporation to provide funding exceeding \$10,000 for the Chisholm Trail Heritage Museum. The Cuero Development Corporation director, Maggie Cromeens, presented more detail on the proposal for the Peebles Park, located next to the Chisholm Trail Heritage Museum. Councilman Mitch Adams moved to adopt the resolution and Mr. Matthys seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Council also discussed and had the first reading for approving the use of funds for a Cuero Chamber of Commerce project and for a Cuero Development Corporation project each exceeding \$10,000. Cuero Development Corporation was approached to be a line of credit for an EDA grant that, if granted, will award up to one million dollars that the Cuero Chamber will utilize to renovate their building.

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PAGE 2/CUERO CITY COUNCIL MEETING RECAP - NOVEMBER 2022

Cuero Development Corporation will extend the credit and be reimbursed by grant funds as expenses are incurred. Councilman Garza moved to adopt the resolution, councilman Glover seconded and it passed unanimously.

Next, Maggie Cromeens shared the two year plan to install speakers in the Cuero Municipal Park. This will enable those visiting Christmas in the Park to hear music throughout their visit. It will also be used by other entities utilizing the park, such as Turkeyfest. She shared that \$35,000 covers half which the CDC will support and that the speakers will be up and utilized in 2023. The resolution passed unanimously.

The next four resolutions, which all council was in favor of and passed, covered the following:

- A resolution to appoint animal control officers as the local rabies control authority, which, according to Cuero Police Chief Jay Lewis, will require additional training.
- Council reviewed and accepted an RFQ for engineering services with Urban Engineering and made a recommendation for \$1.1 million and Raymie Zella, Cuero City Manager, will negotiate the contract, getting the engineer hired on and will be back with contracts as part of the two step process.
- Council approved the bid for a 50,000 gallon storage tank painting bid for Cuero's two water towers. Wayne Berger with the City of Cuero explained they received 6 bids for this work and BRZ Coating received the bid.
- Last, council approved the donation of a 2006 Wells Fargo utility wagon trailer to Cuero Regional Hospital. Billy Jordan, with Cuero Regional Hospital, explained it will be used as a mobile emergency medical clinic in the City of Cuero and Dewitt County. Chief Lewis explained that the police department and city have not used it for a number of years and the hospital district can better utilize the 22 ft trailer. Mr. Jordan shared that the City of Cuero and the City of Yoakum helped to renovate the trailer. Amherst did a phenomenal job updating the trailer within two weeks and had it ready in time for Turkeyfest, Mr. Jordan shared. The trailer will be utilized for grass fire rehab to allow first responders to cool off, and can be used for active shooter events, as well as can go to area schools for vaccine clinics.

Two ordinances were read for the first time at the meeting. The first was for the closing of a portion of San Antonio Street, as well as portions of West Live Oak St., West Courthouse St. and Gazzie St.

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PAGE 3/CUERO CITY COUNCIL MEETING RECAP - NOVEMBER 2022

One question was raised from councilman Adams inquiring if local authorities had received any complaints from neighbors near Amherst where the closures are located. Chief Lewis said no and, with all in favor, the motion carried.

The next reading was an emergency reading of an ordinance, which is an agreement with GVEC to allow internet equipment to be placed on the water tower located at Park Heights Drive. All were in favor and motion carried.

Next, there were several items for council to consider and take possible action, including:
A request from Cuero Main Street Director, Sandra Osman, to close streets for the Christmas in Downtown event held December 9th - 11th. Similar to years past, several streets in the downtown area will be closed during that weekend. Ms. Osman shared that a new event has been added on Saturday from 2 - 10 pm which will be the West Main Teen Wonderland. The Teen Wonderland will include a Mobile Escape unit, cornhole, Connect Four, Jenga, and more games. All businesses have been notified in those areas impacted by the street closures. All were in favor and the street closures were approved.

A request to rename the Old Cheapside Road was reviewed by councilman Fuqua. He had visited with several residents on the road and many did not want to change the road name. After some discussion, the city council voted to keep the name as is.

The council discussed the location of the new outdoor fitness area to be located in Cuero Municipal Park. Mr. Berger, with the City of Cuero, shared the various locations and concerns about Christmas in the Park and not wanting to interfere with light displays. All three areas would work, but option #1 would be best, said Mr. Berger, as it puts the new fitness court right by the old volleyball courts, which allows them to utilize the lighting that is already in place. The other locations were discussed and option 1 was recommended. Mr. Garza made a motion to approve option #1 for the location and Mr. Adams seconded. The final vote was 6 in favor and 1 opposed. Mayor Sara Post Meyer opposed the location because she felt the wall background for the fitness area was distracting and the area would be too crowded.

Next, council reviewed changes proposed to the Cuero Museums' board bylaws. Amber Fitts said the museum board voted to change the bylaws to allow five members to vote.

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PAGE 4/CUERO CITY COUNCIL MEETING RECAP - NOVEMBER 2022

The mayor recommended to set a number of members for a quorum and allow the majority to take action. James Crain, Cuero city attorney, will revise the bylaws and will coordinate with Ms. Fitts to add that information to the existing bylaws. The motion to postpone was put forward by Mr. Matthys and Mr. Fuqua seconded.

The council reviewed the City of Cuero's 150 year anniversary celebration plan and advertising costs. Emily Weatherly with Building Brands Marketing reviewed the advertising proposal and updated council on the new website that will be developed: cuero150years.org that will include the history of Cuero, calendar of events, sign-up form to stay informed, sponsorship information, videos, and more. Mayor Meyer questioned billing and Ms. Weatherly said it is to be invoiced as services are rendered each month. Amber Fitts shared the pricing for the promotional products and Mayor Meyer suggested Ms. Fitts come back in December to Cuero city council with the list of events and final quantity and cost for each of the promotional items.

Reports shared with council included an electric update and the Main Street walkthrough update.

Wayne Berger shared the electric report from the City of Cuero. Cuero electric rates are significantly lower than others listed on the power to choose website, particularly when compared with the Victoria area. He also analyzed GVEC rates and the City of Cuero is comparable in rates. Mr. Berger also shared that, per Weaver & Jacobs, the walk thru should be complete by mid-December. The benches and irrigation have been installed and aluminum work is currently being completed on the siding. Council noted that the project is taking longer than initially proposed; Mr Berger explained it is a supply issue. It will be open for Christmas in Downtown and used as a walk thru, but no vendors will be located in that area.

Under the consent agenda, council reviewed October meeting minutes, as well as monthly reports from the building department, library, municipal court and Dewitt County appraisal district, as well as appointing Michelle McCaskill to the museum board, Gilberto Esquivel to the zoning board of adjustments and Tamara Kainer to the tree board.

The mayor commended the tree board for the presentation in November and the positive comments at the tree dedication service. She shared it brought smiles and a few tears to attendees' faces.

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PAGE 5/CUERO CITY COUNCIL MEETING RECAP - NOVEMBER 2022

The mayor asked the council to share possible nominations with the tree board for future tree dedications.

Items of community interest closed out the meeting and the focus was on upcoming City of Cuero holiday closures. City of Cuero offices will be closed November 24th and 25th for Thanksgiving. Residential and commercial trash routes will also be adjusted for the holiday with Thursday and Friday routes running the following day, Sat. Nov. 26th. and, the library will be closed all three days of the Thanksgiving holiday.

For the latest updates on the City of Cuero, as well as council meeting agendas, minutes and more, visit www.cityofcuero.com

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