



City of Hawkins
City Council Minutes
May 20, 2024



On this day May 20, 2024, at 6:00 pm, Mayor Debbie Rushing called a Regular City Council Meeting to order with council members Greg Branson, Eric Maloy, Eleta Taylor, Clara Kay, and Chuck Richoz. The department heads were Norma Hallmark, Mike Maberry, Bucky Elkins, Mandy Thomas, and Interim Police Chief Eric Tuma.

Jeff Karlson gave the invocation.

U.S. Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor Debbie Rushing.

Councilmember Eric Maloy made a motion to canvass the results from May 04, 2024, elections.

Councilmember Chuck Richoz seconded the motion. The motion carried.

City Secretary, Mandy Thomas, administered the oath of office for newly elected Mayor Deb Rushing, Alderman Place 1 Meredith Hancock, and Alderman Place 3 Eric Maloy.

Councilmember Eric Maloy made a motion to appoint Greg Branson as Mayor Pro Tem. Councilmember Eleta Taylor seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Councilmember Clara Kay made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda consisting of minutes from March 28, 2024, Special City Council Meeting, April 15, 2024, Regular City Council Meeting, and Financial Reports. Councilmember Greg Branson seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Councilmember Eric Maloy made a motion to approve the Over 65 and Disabled person Property Tax Exemption. Councilmember Meredith Hancock seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Councilmember Clara Kay made a motion to authorize the City of Hawkins to publicly advertise a "Request for Qualifications" for financial advisor, bond counsel, and engineering services associated with the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) SFY 2023 Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) Lead Service Line Replacement (LSLR) funding application and project for the City of Hawkins. Councilmember Eric Maloy seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Councilmember Eric Maloy made a motion to approve the Project Task Order# 102991 HW Hawkins ISD Waterline Replacement Project. Councilmember Meredith Hancock seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Paul Gant with the Greater Hawkins Veterans Association gave an update on the Veterans Memorial Park.

Councilmember Eric Maloy made a motion to approve the Monthly Departmental Reports; Seconded by Councilmember Greg Branson. The motion carried.

Councilmember Clara Kay made a motion to approve the letter of intent to purchase the new Rosenbauer Custom Pumper Fire Truck; Seconded by Councilmember Eric Maloy. The motion carried.



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Councilmember Meredith Hancock made a motion to abolish Ordinance No. 2024-05-20 An Ordinance of the City of Hawkins Repealing and Abolishing the Office of Municipal Judge; Seconded by Councilmember Greg Branson. Councilmembers Clara Kay, Eleta Taylor; and Eric Maloy voted against the motion. Councilmembers Meredith Hancock and Greg Branson voted for the motion. The motion did not pass.

Councilmember Greg Branson made a motion to approve accepting applications for Chief of Police.

Councilmember Meredith Hancock seconded the motion. Councilmembers Eric Maloy, Clara Kay, and Meredith Hancock voted for the motion. Councilmembers Eleta Taylor and Greg Branson voted against the motion. The motion passed.

Councilmember Greg Branson made a motion to approve plans for the quads on Harris Street. Councilmember Clara Kay seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Councilmember Eleta Taylor made a motion to table reducing cleaning responsibilities for City Buildings to Community Center only \$150.00 month. Councilmember Greg Branson seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Councilmember Meredith Hancock made a motion to take no action on appointing Eric Tuma as Interim Police Chief for the next 6 months. Greg Branson seconded the motion. Councilmembers Greg Branson, Eric Maloy, Clara Kay, and Meredith Hancock voted for no action taken on motion. Councilmember Eleta Taylor voted against no action taken on motion. The motion passed.

Councilmember Meredith Hancock made a motion to take no action on hiring Kayla Sartor as full-time Patrol Sergeant; Seconded by Councilmember Clara Kay. Councilmembers Greg Branson, Eric Maloy, Clara Kay, and Meredith Hancock voted for no action taken on motion. Councilmember Eleta Taylor voted against no action taken on motion. The motion passed.

Councilmember Meredith Hancock made a motion to take no action on hiring Matt Al-Flaih as full-time Patrol Officer; Seconded by Councilmember Clara Kay. Councilmembers Greg Branson, Eric Maloy, Clara Kay, and Meredith Hancock voted for no action taken on motion. Councilmember Eleta Taylor voted against no action taken on motion. The motion passed.

Councilmember Meredith Hancock made a motion to take no action on hiring David Morris as part-time Patrol Officer; Seconded by Councilmember Clara Kay. Councilmembers Greg Branson, Eric Maloy, Clara Kay, and Meredith Hancock voted for no action taken on motion. Councilmember Eleta Taylor voted against no action taking on motion. The motion passed.

Councilmember Clara Kay made a motion to table hiring Janae Holland for the Hawkins Municipal Court Judge; seconded by Greg Branson. The motion was carried.

Mayor Debbie Rushing let the citizens on the speaking list discuss items on the agenda.

Citizen Norma Oglesby has already spoken on the agenda item.



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Becky Attaway stated, “Mayor you talk about working together with the department and you never once came to me as Department Head of my department and talk to me about you wanting to be the Judge with me. You never come over asked any questions. Do you know how many cases we have on hold?”

Mayor Deb Rushing stated, “that’s why I’m trying to be Municipal Judge and so we can get all the cases taken care of.”

Becky Attaway stated, “Wouldn’t that be something you need to know? How many cases do we have on hold. It could be 5 cases or 50 cases we had on hold. There is a hold because we have no judge, and we don’t have an attorney and not had an attorney since February 2024, and we are not in compliance with the State.”

Mayor Deb Rushing stated, “Your office being in the police department is not in compliance.”

Becky Attaway stated, “There is a door between me and the police department.”

Mayor Deb Rushing stated, “No, it has been suggested to me by other judges not appropriate.”

Becky Attaway stated, “The remaking of the middle part of the room is in the works, but not in compliance. We complied when the judge told me once we got the plans. You never come over and say anything. Apparently, you pick departments.”

Mayor Deb Rushing stated, “What departments are you talking about?”

Becky Attaway stated, “The City Hall, Water Department, and the police department “Do you come over and asked if anything needs to be done?”

Mayor Deb Rushing stated, “That is why you have heads of departments that know what needs to be done? If you have a problem, come talk to me.”

Becky Attaway stated to Mayor Deb Rushing, “You’re not an easy person to talk to.”

Mayor Deb Rushing stated, “I don’t have time to come to departments because they are working with no complaints.”

Beck Attaway stated, “We need to get an attorney too. You took over, I gave you names of both neither one had a phone call that was in April 2024, both wanted to come to the city and help our community as an attorney or judge.”

Mayor Deb Rushing stated, “Are you all serious I can’t do this. I feel like I am being punked. “

Citizen Norma Oglesby stated, “that Mayor Deb Rushing would be here more than 2 times a month and wanted her to be appointed judge to help clean the back up.”

Becky Attaway states, “We have to have experienced people that are willing to take that.”

Citizen Norma Oglesby states, “Cindy wasn’t experienced until after class.”



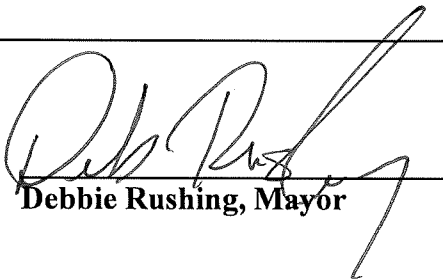
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Mayor Deb Rushing stated, "I just thought I was the best candidate and can get more time to get the cases cleaned up and have court multiple times a week."

Citizen Ms. Wade stated, "Eric Tuma came in my conversation with the news people. I have my opinion, and everybody has one. That dog did not deserve to be shot. That dog was not growling or biting anybody. Why didn't the other dogs get shot and just that one. That's all I got to say."

Councilmember Greg Branson made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Councilmember Clara Kay seconded the motion. The motion carried.



Debbie Rushing, Mayor

Attest:



Mandy Thomas, City Secretary