



# Town Council Meeting Minutes

February 14, 2023

## 1. Call the Meeting to order

Mayor Amy Gutierrez called the meeting to order at 5:00pm.

## 2. Roll Call

Present were Mayor Amy Gutierrez, Mayor Pro Tem Ron Smith, Councilor Carl Tennison, and Councilor Leisha Joiner.

In attendance were Police Chief Kevin Gutierrez, Library Director Crystal Weigel, Librarian Pam Dallas, Town Attorney Patrick McMahon, Police Department Administrator Lisa Joiner, Officer Jerry Boyer, Code Enforcement Officer Tiffany Lambert, Senior Center Administrator Stella Fernandez, Janice Derrick, Raymond Derrick, Jerilyn Dunlap, Martha Joiner, David Jiron, Mary Jiron, Virginia Cunningham, Brandon Lambert, Janice Joiner, Lila Serrano, Chris Miller, Ray Manly, Steve Taylor, Dennis Shelton, Becky Alexander, Joe Kalisek, Robn Hogue, Peter Carmany, Arnold Ramirez, Russton Ramirez, Teresa Grady, JW Grady, Adriana Ybarra, Lexie Montez, Judy Dorado, Herminia Dorado, Soria De La O, and Aaliyah De La O.

## 3. Approval/Disapproval of the Agenda

Discussion included adding "vote" to line item 8C and removing item 8D from the agenda since it was previously approved.

Councilor Carl Tennison made the motion to approve the amended agenda to add the word "vote" to line item 8C and to remove item 8D from the agenda. Councilor Leisha Joiner seconded the motion, motion passes.

## 4. Approval/Disapproval of the Meeting Minutes from the regular meeting on January 24, 2023 and the Special/Continuance Meeting on January 30, 2023.

Councilor Leisha Joiner made the motion to approve the meeting minutes from the regular meeting on January 24, 2023 and the special meeting on January 30, 2023. Councilor Carl Tennison seconded the motion, motion passes.

## 5. Departmental Reports

Mayor Pro Tem Ron Smith made the motion to approve the Departmental Reports. Councilor Carl Tennison seconded the motion, motion passes.

## 6. Financial Reports

None.

## 7. Public Comments

Public comments made by Mayor Pro Tem Ron Smith, Ray Manly, Crystal Weigel, Tiffany Lambert, Janice Derrick, Vasshawn Robinson, Judy Dorado, Peter Carmany, and Councilor Leisha Joiner.



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## 8. Discussion with Possible Action

A. Resignation of Jerry Boyer from Tatum Police Department.

Discussion included why he resigned and the cost of his employment being low.

B. Resignation of Tiffany Lambert from Code Enforcement/Animal Control.

Discussion included what Mrs. Lambert considered a hostile environment.

C. Request that the Sheriff's Department come in temporarily take over our Police Department. (Requested by Councilor Leisha Joiner.) Amended to include the ability to vote.

Discussion included the need for a visible police force, the funding that would be lost should the police department be closed down, and the Sheriff stated he is advocating for the citizens of Tatum. Citizens were asked what they wanted, and they all talked over each other. The Sheriff stated that his own personnel would be brought in.

Councilor Leisha Joiner made the motion that the Sheriff's Office come in and take over the police department temporarily effective 2/15/2023. Mayor Pro Tem Ron Smith seconded the motion. Roll Call: Leisha Joiner – Yes, Carl Tennison – Yes, Ron Smith – Yes. Motion passes.

D. Approval of the governing body prior to the spending of the (LERF) fund by the Police Department. (Requested by Councilor Leisha Joiner.)

This agenda item was removed during the approval process.

E. Move to reconsider the vote taken on February 22, 2022 concerning placing someone in between the Chief of Police and the Mayor to alleviate nepotism or the appearance of nepotism. (Requested by Councilor Leisha Joiner.)

Discussion included this item being a moot point considering the vote on Item C.

Councilor Leisha Joiner made the motion to remove Item E from the agenda. Councilor Carl Tennison seconded the motion. Motion passes.

F. Officers that who were fired receive backpay between the time they were terminated, and this action being approved by the governing body. (Requested by Councilor Leisha Joiner.)

Councilor Leisha Joiner made the motion to open discussion for this item. Mayor Pro Tem Ron Smith seconded the motion. Motion passes.

Councilor Leisha Joiner made the motion that the officers that were terminated (Teresa Grady and Vasshawn Robinson) be paid 80 hours, two weeks, at their rate of pay they were previously making. Mayor Pro Tem Ron Smith seconded the motion. Motion passes.



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- G. Councilor Joiner to attend Municipal Day in Santa Fe February 17, 2023. The cost is \$160.00 for the conference plus meals, gas, and hotel for one night. (Requested by Councilor Leisha Joiner.)

Discussion only, no vote, no action taken.

### 9. Adjournment

Councilor Leisha Joiner made the motion to adjourn at 6:38pm. Mayor Pro Tem Ron Smith seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned.

Read and approved the 28<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2023.

Mayor Amy Gutierrez

City Clerk Amanda Thomas