

**Minutes of**  
**Cresson City Council Meeting**  
**April 9, 2024**

*The City Council reserves the right to adjourn into Executive Session during the course of the meeting to seek legal advice from its attorney regarding any item on the posted agenda as authorized by Section 551.071 of the Texas Government Code.*

Mayor Pro Tem Becker called the City Council Meeting of Cresson, Texas to order at 7:00 P.M. on April 9, 2024, at the City Council Chambers. Attendance as follows:

Ron Becker

Lisa Clement

Jeff Keeney

Gary Robertson

Melanie Athey

City Attorney Rachel Raggio

Mayor Pro Tem Becker gave the invocation and Councilperson Keeney led us in the Pledge of Allegiance and the Texas Pledge.

The meeting is opened to the public.

**Citizen's Comments**

Lynn Stonecipher of 108 Deer Run Court requested when items are put up on the screen at a City Council meeting that it be enlarged so the audience can see it or to give handouts.

Dave Stonecipher of 108 Deer Run Court praises Chief Becker and the Cresson Volunteer Fire Department (CVFD). He also questioned the way the council handled the donation of the mayoral salary to the CVFD.

**Mayor's Report and Comments**

**A.** Paving will be done on N. Crook, S. Crook, and S. Broadway later this week.

**B.** TxDOT will do paving along the edges of Hwy 377 between Sunoco and Crook Street sometime after the Eclipse (4/8/2024).

**C.** The new acceleration/deceleration lanes have been put in by TxDOT at Bourland Fields Estates and should be striped later this week.

**D.** The new ETJ law has taken some platting authority away from cities and some cities are refusing petitions.

**E.** Mayor Pro Tem Becker is the new Cresson Representative for the Hood County Master Thoroughfare Committee. The last group was formed in 2000 with no action by the group. Anyone with input is welcome to let Mayor Pro Tem Becker know their ideas.

## Deliberation Agenda

**A. Discuss and possibly act on procedural matters for City Council meetings, including citizen comment procedures, in conjunction with the Open Meetings Act.** Councilperson Robertson reads a memo from City Attorney Raggio regarding the three options for handling citizen comments. The general consensus from the council is as follows: Non-Agenda comments will be at the beginning of the meeting; Each agenda item will have a time for citizens to comment on that item prior to the council deliberating and voting; a Future Agenda item category will be added to the agenda when council can request to have certain items put on the agenda. Those items could be held during a scheduled workshop the first 15 minutes of a council meeting where the council and citizens can interact about a specified topic. All Citizen Comments will still have the 3-minute limit per person and the council cannot interact with the citizens during the comment time either at the beginning of the meeting or during agenda item comment times. The new citizen comment time will start immediately. Citizen Comments: Dave Stonecipher of 108 Deer Run Court applauds the city for changing the policy. Helen Kerwin is running for State Representative in this district. He applauds the transparency and consideration of the citizens. She is a huge supporter of local government.

**B. Consider and possibly act on the presentation by Chris Turner of the FY 2021-2022 Audit.** Due to the severe weather, Mr. Turner did not make the drive from Texarkana. No citizen comments. Councilperson Robertson makes a motion to table the item until the next meeting. Councilpersons Athey and Clement second the motion. 5 ayes and 0 nays. The motion passed unanimously.

**C. Consider and possibly act on the minutes of the City Council meeting held on March 12, 2024.** No citizen comments. Councilperson Keeney makes a motion to approve the minutes as written. Councilperson Athey seconds the motion. 5 ayes and 0 nays. The motion passed unanimously.

**D. Consider and act on the ordinance supporting the budget amendment approved by the city council on March 12, 2024.** Mayor Pro Tem Becker recuses himself and leaves the room. Councilperson Clement takes the gavel. Citizen comments: Mike Reese of 147 Concorde Circle praises the CVFD and believes there is no better place for money looking for a home than the CVFD. Jack Farr of 220 S. Crook Street questions the way the budget amendment was handled and believes the mayor should make the amendment properly. David Hendricks with the CVFD thanks the council for their consideration by making the budget amendment. Bob Ellis of 163 constellation asks if he can turn to face the heroes (multiple CVFD members in the audience) to thank them. He survived the 9/11 attack on the Pentagon and truly appreciates the CVFD. Councilperson Keeney seconds the motion. 4 ayes and 0 nays. Mayor Pro Tem Becker abstains. The motion passed unanimously. Mayor Pro Tem Becker takes the gavel again.

**E. Consider and possibly act on paying the City Hall note off early.** The remaining balance is \$160,760.89 at 4.75% interest. The city is obligated by the Facilities Improvement Agreement to act. No citizen comments. Councilperson Becker makes a motion to authorize Mayor Pro Tem to pay off the City Hall note. Councilperson Robertson seconds the motion. 5 ayes and 0 nays. The motion passed unanimously.

**F. Discuss agreements regarding the provision of sewer service being negotiated between the City of Cresson and Cresson Crossroads LLC.**

Mayor Pro Tem Becker requests to adjourn to Executive Session for legal advice from the City Attorney. Council adjourns in Executive Session at 7:53 P.M. Council reconvenes at 9:11 P.M. No action taken.

**Adjourn**

The meeting is adjourned at 9:11 P.M.



Ron Becker, Mayor Pro Tem



Katy Freyd, City Secretary