

City Council Regular Meeting
March 20, 2023

A City Council regular meeting was held on the above date at Cameron City Hall, McLane Municipal Center, 100 South Houston Avenue, 3rd Floor, Cameron, Texas with all officers and members present except Council Member Hardeman.

Mayor Harris called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

Council Member Goza offered the invocation.

Council Member Cryer led the pledge of allegiance.

Mayor Harris asked for citizen's comments.

There were no citizens comments.

Council Member Fuchs moved to approve the March 6, 2023 regular meeting. Council Member Deal seconded the motion. City Manager Ricky Tow presented a change that Council Member Hardeman presented regarding item number fourteen from the meeting. Council Member Hardeman would like it noted that the Mayor tabled the item and the Council agreed. After discussion, it was determined that no vote was taken on tabling the item so no changes were made. The item carried unanimously with Council Member Goza abstaining.

Andy Layne presented the following dates for horseshoe tournaments to be held at the horseshoe pits in Cameron: April 1, 2023; May 20, 2023 and August 26, 2023. All tournaments will be held during the daylight hours and no receptions are planned for the night prior.

Council Member Goza moved to approve the request as presented. Council Member Cryer seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Carolyn Henderson, representing El Camino Real Chapter of Texas Master Naturalist, requested approval to plant trees in Ledbetter Park, City Park and Orchard Park. Three trees will be planted in April since they will have a close water source. Other trees will be planted in November.

Council Member Deal moved to approve the request. Council Member Pratt seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Luther Burnett, representing the Abiding Savior Lutheran Church, requested use of the downtown mall for Easter Sunrise Service on April 9, 2023. The Abiding Savior Lutheran Church and Cameron Ministerial Alliance will hold a service with refreshments.

Council Member Cryer moved to approve the request. Council Member Goza seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Richard Tention requested permission to hold a revival service in Cameron City Park on May 28, 2023; June 28, 2023 and June 29, 2023 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Mr. Tention is a minister from Caldwell, Texas that provides outreach in other communities.

Council Member Pratt moved to approve the request. Council Member Deal seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Council Member Fuchs moved to approve the following Resolution with changes made. Council member Deal seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

RESOLUTION NO. 2023-03-20-010

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CAMERON, TEXAS, TO ESTABLISH DRIVING POLICIES FOR THE EMPLOYEE HANDBOOK.

WHEREAS, the governing body of the City of Cameron, Texas has approved personnel policy;

WHEREAS, the governing body of the City of Cameron, Texas recognizes that additional driving policies need to be added to the current personnel policy.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT REOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CAMERON, TEXAS THAT:

Section 1. The governing body of the City of Cameron, Texas shall enact the following policies to the current personnel policy:

1. Distracted Driving Policy – Exhibit A
2. Text Messaging While Driving Policy – Exhibit B
3. Seat Belt Usage Policy – Exhibit C

**EXHIBIT “A”
Cameron Distracted Driving Policy**

Please read the Distracted Driving Policy, sign and return to your supervisor.

In order to increase employee safety and eliminate unnecessary risks behind the wheel, the City of Cameron has enacted a Distracted Driving Policy, effective March 20, 2023. We are committed to stopping distracted driving and have created the following rules.

- City employees may not use a hand-held cell phone while operating a vehicle – whether the vehicle is in motion or stopped at a traffic light. This includes, answering or making phone calls, engaging in phone conversations, and reading or responding to emails, instant messages, tweets, and text messages.
- This policy applies to all employees when **any** of the following five conditions apply:
 - Operating a City vehicle
 - Operating a personal vehicle on City business
 - Driving on City property
 - Using a cell phone supplied by the City.
 - Using a personal phone for City business
- If City employees need to use their phones, they must pull over safely to the side of the road or another safe location.
- Additionally, City employees are required to:
 - Turn cell phones off or put them on silent before starting the car.
 - Consider modifying voice mail greetings to indicate that they are unavailable to answer calls or return messages while driving.
 - Inform citizens, associates, and vendors of this policy as an explanation of why calls may not be returned immediately.
- Failure to comply with this policy may result in disciplinary action leading up to termination.
- On-Duty Police Officers are exempt from this policy as they will follow the regulations in the Transportation Code.

I acknowledge that I have received a written copy of the Distracted Driving Policy, that I fully understand the terms of this policy, that I agree to abide by these terms, and that I am willing to accept the consequences of failing to follow the policy.

EXHIBIT "B"

POLICY ON TEXT MESSAGING WHILE DRIVING

The City of Cameron strongly discourages the use of any cell phone while operating any vehicle. Employees should plan calls to allow placement of calls either prior to traveling or while on rest breaks.

The City of Cameron bans all employees from texting while operating any city owned vehicle. City employees who are driving their own personal vehicle are also banned from texting while driving on city business.

Federal law prohibits any CDL driver operating any vehicle over 10,000 GVWR from texting with fines and penalties, up to including loss of CDL.

EXHIBIT "C"

CITY OF CAMERON SEAT BELT USAGE POLICY APPROVED BY CITY COUNCIL ON MARCH 20, 2023

Introduction. Because seat belts are the best protection against injury or death in a crash, a City of Cameron seat belt use policy is extremely important. The simple act of buckling up reduces the chance of serious injury or death by 40% to 60% and can save money for city.

Policy. The City of Cameron recognizes that seat belts are extremely effective in preventing injuries and loss of life. We care about our employees and want to make sure that no one is injured or killed in a tragedy that could have been prevented by the use of seat belts. Therefore, effective March 20, 2023, it will be the City of Cameron's policy that seat belts shall always be used by both drivers and passengers while traveling on official company business. Employees are strongly encouraged to use their seat belts off the job as well. The purpose of this policy is to establish mandatory belt use as an organizational priority and designate responsibility for implementation and enforcement.

Application. The seat belt use policy applies to all employees and occupants of any vehicle driven by employees, including rentals and personal vehicles when used on official company business.

Responsibility. Managers and supervisors must demonstrate their commitment to this policy by communicating it to their employees, monitoring compliance, evaluating effectiveness, and taking disciplinary action against violations.

Belt Systems Maintenance. Seat belts in all city vehicles are to be maintained so that they are clean and in good working order.

Employee Education. Information on the benefits of seat belts, as well as city's commitment to their use will be emphasized in new employee orientation, training, handbooks, safety rules and internal communications. Managers and supervisors are encouraged to promote and provide time for employee awareness programs to explain the benefits of seat belts both on- and off-the-job.

Contractor Education. Information on the benefits of seat belts, as well as city commitment to their use will be distributed to contractors through website and other means. Contractors are encouraged to promote and provide time for employee awareness programs to explain the benefits of seat belts both on- and off-the-job.

Enforcement. Seat belt use is such a common, healthy practice that the need to actively enforce this policy should be rare. However, the policy will be enforced the same as other city rules, and employees who violate it will be subject to disciplinary actions which may include dismissal. Managers and supervisors have an obligation to encourage and routinely monitor usage. The driver of the vehicle is responsible for enforcing seat belt use by all occupants.

Cameron Economic Development Director Ginger Watkins requested approval to advertise for bids on the EDA Project 08-01-05488. The EDA Engineer has approved the plans for bids.

Council Member Deal moved to approve advertising for bids on the EDA Project 08-01-05488.
 Council Member Cryer seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Council Member Fuchs moved to approve the expenditures for March 4, 2023 through March 17, 2023. Council Member Goza seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

The following expenditures exceeded \$25,000.00:

- Waste Connection \$40,631.31

Council Member Fuchs moved to approve the January 2023 Financial Report. Council Member Pratt seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

JANUARY 2023 REVIEW

33.00%

General Revenues	\$2,301,740.97	48.23	HOT Revenues	\$157,196.51
EXPENSES			HOT Expenses	\$24,090.00
Street Dept	\$318,699.94	29.92	HOT Profit	\$133,106.51
Code Enf	\$27,515.71	21.56		
Fire Dept	\$143,402.37	46.34	LIB Revenues	\$24,496.16
Police Dept.	\$450,341.06	33.46	LIB Expenses	\$4,411.90
			LIB	
Court	\$19,683.69	27.66	Profit	\$20,084.26
Library	\$28,249.55	27.2		
Other Operating Exp	\$214,862.46	36.41	Fire Revenues	\$52,796.70
Cemetery & Parks	\$34,812.13	26.17	Fire Expenses	\$491.59
Administration	\$116,466.04	28.8	Fire Profit	\$52,305.11
Swimming Pool	\$8,897.13	24.99		
Debt Service	\$459,102.62	88.65		
Animal Control	\$20,720.65	30.31	TWDB-DWSRF-LF1000534	
Total Expenses	\$1,842,753.35	38.61	DWSRF Rev	\$30,504.42
			DWSRF Exp	\$0.00
GF Fund Profit/Loss	\$458,987.62		Project Balance	\$30,504.42
Water & Sewer				
Revenues	\$1,269,936.26	37.63	TWDB-DWSRF-L1000517	
EXPENSES			DWSRF Rev	\$289,833.17
Water Maintenance	\$359,853.62	46.28	DWSRF Exp	\$287,506.97
Water Treatment	\$131,148.79	32.7	Project Balance	\$2,326.20
Sewer Treatment	\$91,075.56	29.61		
W & S Administration	\$260,998.43	28.92	TWDB-CWSRF-L1000516	
Bond Retirement	\$700,064.20	70.97	CWSRF Rev	\$110,504.16
Total Expenses	\$1,543,140.60	45.72	CWSRF Exp	\$108,343.65
			Project Balance	\$2,160.51

Water & Sewer Profit/Loss	-	\$273,204.34
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Airport Revenues	\$62,330.96	61.11
Airport Expenses	\$28,668.61	39.71
Airport Profit/Loss	\$33,662.35	

2018 CDBG #7217049		
CDBG Revenues	\$1,500.00	
CDBG Expenses	\$0.00	
Project Balance	\$1,500.00	

PD Revenues	\$19,729.48	
PD Expenses	\$783.47	
PD Profit	\$18,946.01	

TWDB-CWSRF-LF1000523	
CWSRF Rev	
CWSRF Exp	
Project Balance	\$0.00

CDBG #7219061	
CDBG Revenues	\$12,373.53
CDBG Expenses	\$0.00
Project Balance	\$12,373.53

There being no other business to consider, Council Member Deal moved to adjourn the meeting at 5:48 p.m. Council Member Fuchs seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.