

THE LEVELLAND CITY COUNCIL MET IN REGULAR SESSION ON MONDAY, THE 22nd OF MARCH 2021, AT LEVELLAND CITY HALL, R. O. DENNIS COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 1709 AVENUE H, WITH THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS PRESENT:

Barbra Pinner	Honorable Mayor	Present
Jim Myatt	Council Member	Present
Max Ledesma	Mayor Pro-Tem	Present
Breann Buxkemper	Council Member	Present
Joe Bill Vardeman	Council Member	Absent
Matt Wade	City Attorney	Present
Erik Rejino	City Manager	Present
Andréa Corley	City Secretary	Present

The Pledge was led by Mayor Barbra Pinner and the Invocation was given by Police Chief Albert Garcia

Statements by Citizens:

There were no statements by citizens

FIRST ITEM OF BUSINESS:

Consider and take necessary action to approve the minutes of the March 1, 2021 regular meeting.

Motion by Max Ledesma

Seconded by Jim Myatt

To approve the minutes of the March 1, 2021 regular meeting

Motion carried unanimously.

SECOND ITEM OF BUSINESS:

Consider and take necessary action on procedures, processes, timelines, and priorities regarding lifting restrictions and regulations implemented during the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency – Resolution No. 2021-18.

At the last meeting Council extended the current reopening order which was in line with Governor Abbott's GA-32. Shortly after that Governor Abbott issued a new order, GA-34, which resulted in some changes to current measures. First of all, the new order rescinded GA-29, which is known as the face covering mandate and now leaves that decision up to each individual business and organization. Secondly, it also removed the outdoor gathering restriction that has been in place. Prior to the new order, all outdoor events larger than 10

people were prohibited unless approved by the Mayor. That restriction was also lifted with the adoption of GA-34.

Mayor Pinner issued a Mayoral order earlier this week which is in line with GA-34. The order is in place until this coming Monday. At the meeting we will plan to review current COVID-19 numbers, provide an update on vaccinations, and will be asking Council to adopt a resolution extending the new order. It is important to note that while Governor Abbott has loosened some restrictions, he has continued to renew his disaster declaration. While the overall COVID-19 situation has been improving and continues to improve we still remain in a public health emergency which is the primary reason we have continued to recommend that Council extend our local disaster declaration.

Below is a summary of the regional hospital capacity and COVID-19 cases in the County. Also, following this memo you will find a copy of the order issued by Mayor Pinner, the proposed resolution extending the local order, and a further summary of COVID-19 numbers.

COVID-19 Case Summary	
03/18/2021	
Total	2087
Probable	276
Recovered	2234
Deaths	100
Active	29

Date:	COVID-19 Hospitalizations
03/11/2021	4.02%
03/12/2021	3.66%
03/13/2021	3.16%
03/14/2021	2.73%
03/15/2021	2.42%
03/16/2021	2.90%
03/17/2021	2.29%

Motion by Breann Buxkemper

Seconded by Jim Myatt

To approve Resolution No. 2021-18 extending the local disaster declaration.

Motion carried unanimously.

THIRD ITEM OF BUSINESS:

Consider and take necessary action to award a bid for a Pickup Truck for the Emergency Management Department.

The current budget includes \$34,500 to replace the Emergency Management pickup truck. The current pickup is a 2013 Ford F-150 2WD with approximately 145,000 miles. Accordingly, a bid opening was held last week and the following bids were received.

<u>Bidder</u>	<u>Vehicle Bid</u>	<u>Bid Amount</u>	<u>Trade In</u>	<u>Total</u>
Scoggin-Dickey	2021 Ram 1500 Crew Cab 4x4 SSV	\$29,353.10	\$9,000.00	\$20,353.10
Grapevine Dodge- Chrysler-Jeep	2021 Ram 1500 Crew Cab 4x4 SSV	\$29,276.00	\$6,000.00	\$23,276.00
Smith South Plains	2021 Ford F-150 Super Crew 4x4	\$40,130.21	\$9,000.00	\$31,130.21

At this time, we are recommending award to the low bidder, Scoggin-Dickey, in the amount of \$20,353.10.

Motion by Breann Buxkemper

Seconded by Jim Myatt

To award bid for Emergency Management Pickup Truck to Scoggin-Dickey in the amount of \$20,353.10.

Motion carried unanimously.

FOURTH ITEM OF BUSINESS:

Consider and take necessary action regarding street improvements to South Alamo Road.

In January of this year Council authorized staff to proceed with participating in the annual group seal coat. We recently received bids back and the City of Levelland portion for the 2021 seal coat came in at \$299,342. In this particular line item in the Street Department budget we have \$400,000 for the current fiscal year. In addition to the seal coat, this line item is used for general street repairs such as purchasing materials for pothole repair.

We were recently informed that the County will be making improvements to South Alamo Road, beginning at Mouzon Lane. While the City of Levelland improved and widened Alamo Road in the mid 2000s, the improvements stopped at Alamo Road. There is a stretch of approximately ¾ of a mile between Alamo Road and Mouzon Lane that is inside the City limits. This particular

stretch of road has deteriorated with heavy oilfield traffic which is one reason the County is improving the portion of Alamo Road outside the City. In addition, this is the road that that leads to the Wastewater Treatment Plant. Lastly, while the designated route to the landfill is on S. 385, much of the landfill traffic utilizes Alamo Road causing a further deterioration of the road.

At this time, we feel that this $\frac{3}{4}$ mile section of Alamo Road needs to be widened and improved so it can better handle the traffic that currently exists on the road. Accordingly, we have looked at a couple of options to address the road.

Option 1: Design and bid the project as a traditional construction project: This would cost the City approximately \$75,000 plus engineering fees based on unit prices from recent construction projects provided by our engineers.

Option 2: The County has offered to perform the improvements to Alamo Road for the stretch inside the City limits since they will already be mobilized in the area making improvements to Alamo Road outside the City limits. The County has offered to perform the project so long as we pay for the materials which will cost \$55,430. This work will include grinding up the existing surface, adding nine (9) inches of caliche compacted to six (6) inches, spraying prime oil, spraying two coats of CRS 2 asphalt, and applying two seal coats while widening the road so it is wide enough to handle two vehicles.

In assessing both options, we are recommending that Council proceed with Option 2 and allow the County to perform the work. After reviewing the Street Department budget there are sufficient funds to make these improvements to Alamo Road and address the deteriorating road conditions in this $\frac{3}{4}$ mile stretch of Alamo Road. These repairs will also result in decreased maintenance on this section of Alamo Road.

Motion by Max Ledesma

Seconded by Breann Buxkemper

To authorize City Manager to move forward with an interlocal agreement with Hockley County to conduct street improvements on South Alamo Road in the amount of \$55,430.

Motion carried unanimously.

FIFTH ITEM OF BUSINESS:

Consider and take necessary action to authorize the design and bidding of the City of Levelland Landfill Type I Cell Excavation, Landfill MSW Landfill Permit No. 2369.

The City of Levelland opened the Levelland Landfill in August of 2015. At that time there were two pits that were constructed. The Type I Cell is used for household garbage while the Type IV Cell is used for construction type debris. Depending on compaction rates and waste volume, these pits are expected to last between five (5) and seven (7) years. At this time, after conducting the last volume survey for the Type I Cell, the cell will reach capacity at the end of the calendar year.

The construction of this particular cell is listed in the Sanitation Department's Capital Improvement Plan for the fiscal year 2021/2022 fiscal year. At this time, we are recommending that we move forward with engineering design of the cell and move forward with bidding the project once the plans and specifications are completed. We would like to complete those two steps this fiscal year so that at the beginning of the next fiscal year, which starts in October, we can move forward with construction of the Type I Cell and complete it before the current Type I Cell reaches capacity.

Motion by Breann Buxkemper

Second by Max Ledesma

To authorize staff to proceed with the design and bidding of the City of Levelland Landfill Type I Cell Excavation, Landfill MSW Landfill Permit No. 2369.

Motion passed unanimously.

SIXTH ITEM OF BUSINESS:

Consider and take necessary action authorizing the City Manager to take appropriate action towards procuring a brush truck for the Levelland Fire Department

As Council is aware, the current budget includes funds to replace one of the three brush trucks,

Unit B-10, in the Levelland Fire Department. The budget includes \$100,000 to match a Texas Forest Service (TFS) Grant. A new brush truck will cost approximately \$280,000. We have been notified by the TFS that while we are still on the waiting list, the City of Levelland will not be funded for at least a few more years. This particular brush truck that is in need of replacement is a 2005 and is used as a third run truck when needed. The other two brush trucks, Unit B-12 and unit B-14 are the initial trucks that respond to grass fires and they respond jointly for safety reasons. Unit B-10 ensures there is a brush truck on standby in the event of another emergency incident requiring a brush truck.

Unit B-10 has had some significant mechanical overhauls with 260,805 miles which includes having to rebuild the front end twice. At this time, while the brush truck is on standby when needed, it is in need of some significant repairs and improvements which is why we had planned to replace it this year. However, without the grant there are not sufficient funds to replace Unit B-10 at this time with a new unit.

Another issue that has surfaced within the last few weeks is that of Unit B-12 which serves as a primary booster truck and second run truck. The tank on Unit B-12 has started splitting in multiple locations. While the tank is under warranty and repairing the tank will not cost the City anything, the truck will have to go offline for 45-60 days while the repairs are made. This creates an issue as it is the very beginning of grass fire season.

Prior to taking Unit B-12 offline for repairs we must first develop a plan to address Unit B-10 now that we know the grant is not going to be available. Accordingly, we have looked at several options as follows:

Option 1: Purchase a new grass truck.

While this option is the preferred route, we do not have sufficient funds in the budget to proceed with a \$280,000 purchase at this time. In addition, the wait time on a new brush truck would likely be 10-12 months which does not provide any relief this grass fire season.

Option 2: Replace the chassis on Unit B-10 and transfer the bed to the new chassis.

While we would receive the chassis sooner than we would receive a completely new brush truck, we would not expect receiving the new chassis until September or October of this year which again would not provide any immediate relief to grass fire season this year. In addition, this option would cost approximately \$178,000.

Option 3: Replace Unit B-10 with a used brush truck.

We have identified a used brush truck that is owned by the North Hopkins Fire Department, which is a small volunteer fire department in the Sulphur Springs area. In visiting with the department the brush truck simply does not meet their needs due to the size of the truck and the amount of trees in the area. Accordingly, they have listed it for sale on a used fire apparatus website (www.redfiretruck123.com). The brush truck is a 2016 Type 3 4x4 Wildland Quick Attack Brush Truck with 4,321 miles and 323 hours. Chief Durham has seen and test drove the truck and feels this truck will meet the needs of the Levelland Fire Department. In addition, we have had a mechanic take a look at the truck and there are no mechanical concerns we were able to identify.

After reviewing prices, this option will cost the City of Levelland \$160,000 and will be readily available to provide relief during grass fire season. In addition, after reviewing the budget closely, we feel that we can stay within budget in the Fire Department without requesting any additional funds through a budget amendment.

After assessing all three options, staff is recommending that Council authorize staff to issue a Request for Proposals (RFP) for a used brush truck. While this is the only used brush truck that we have been able to identify that will meet our needs we can issue an RFP and see if any other proposals are submitted for Council to consider. If authorized, the specifications in the RFP will be designed around the brush truck owned by the North Hopkins Fire Department so we can determine if there are any other comparable brush trucks out there that would meet our needs.

Motion by Breann Buxkemper

Second by Max Ledesma

To authorize staff to issue a Request for Proposals for a used brush truck.

Motion passed unanimously.

SEVENTH ITEM OF BUSINESS:

Consider and take necessary action to award a bid for a Pickup Truck for the Levelland Fire Department.

The current budget includes \$54,000 to replace one of the command units in the Levelland Fire Department. The pickup being replaced is a 2010 Chevrolet ¾ ton Crew Cab with approximately 103,000 miles. Accordingly, a bid opening was held last week and the following bids were received:

<u>Bidder</u>	<u>Vehicle Bid</u>	<u>Bid Amount</u>	<u>Trade In</u>	<u>Total</u>
Scoggin-Dickey	2021 Ram 2500 Crew Cab 4x4	\$31,765.89	\$11,000.00	\$20,765.89
Grapevine Dodge- Chrysler-Jeep	2022 Ram 2500 Crew Cab 4x4	\$33,401.00	\$7,800.00	\$25,601.00
Smith South Plains	2021 Ford F-350 Super Crew 4x4	\$37,353.14	\$11,500.00	\$25,853.14

Shortly after the bid opening we were notified by Scoggin Dickey in writing that all government ¾ ton pickup truck orders have been postponed due to availability issues. Accordingly, they removed their bid for the Fire Department pickup truck.

Motion by Breann Buxkemper
Second by Jim Myatt
To reject all bids
Motion passed unanimously.

EIGHTH ITEM OF BUSINESS:

Discussion and necessary action providing direction to the City Manager regarding the Fire Service Agreement with Hockley County providing fire suppression in the county and expiring 9-2021.

As you all know the City and County have a Fire Service Agreement. Under this agreement the County provides financial assistance to the City in return for the Levelland Fire Department providing fire suppression services in the County. The current agreement expires on September 30th of this year.

At this time staff is seeking direction from Council regarding any changes that may need to be made to the agreement as we look to enter into a new agreement October 1st. Council may

also consider appointing a committee of two Council members to work with staff on the agreement.

Motion by Max Ledesma

Second by Jim Myatt

To form a committee to study this, with the committee to include Mayor Pinner and Breann Buxkemper

Motion passed unanimously.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Andréa Corley, City Secretary