

**City Council Minutes of Blue Mound  
November 20, 2023, at 6:30PM**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Copeland Called the Meeting to Order at 6:34pm.

**2. ROLL CALL AND CERTIFICATION OF A QUORUM**

Mayor Copeland Certified a Quorum with the Following Members Present:

Mayor, Darlene Copeland  
Council Member 1, Dave King  
Council Member 2, Fred Smith

**MAYOR WENT STRAIGHT TO ITEM 6 TO CANVASS VOTES.  
CITY SECRETARY COMPLETED ITEM 7.  
NEW COUNCILMEMBERS COMPLETED ITEM 8.  
MAYOR CONTINUED FROM ITEM 3, SKIPPING ITEM 6, 7, AND 8.**

**3. INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Mayor Copeland Gave the Invocation and Led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**4. MAYOR/CITY ADMIN ANNOUNCEMENTS-MONTHLY REPORTS**

Mayor Copeland spoke on the city food pantry and how we are now helping 300 families each month. She also spoke on the continuance of the Senior Box Program and gave special thanks to our food pantry volunteers. We received a load of vegetables from Del Monte, 150 boxes of groceries from St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church to help with the Thanksgiving holiday, and 15 turkeys from Tyson Foods.

Mayor Copeland spoke on the community center rentals already booking into 2024 and that the court clerk resigned and there were no plans to fill that vacancy; only re-distribute the workload.

Mayor Copeland spoke on the Holiday office closures for Thanksgiving and that there would not be a December Council meeting.

Council did not have any questions on the monthly reports.

**5. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None.

**6. DISCUSS AND TAKE ACTION TO ADOPT RESOLUTION #23-14 CANVASSING RETURNS AND DECLARING RESULTS OF A SPECIAL ELECTION HELD ON NOVEMBER 7TH, 2023, FOR COUNCIL PLACES 2, AND 4.**

\*City Secretary read the election results as follows:

For City Council, Place 2, Fred Smith received 78 votes or 100% of the votes. Therefore, Fred Smith should be declared the winner in the race for Council, Place 2 with 100% of the votes.

For City Council, Place 4, Edgar Valencia received 44 votes or 44.9% of the votes. Don Shotwell received 54 votes or 55.1% of the votes. Therefore, Don Shotwell should be declared the winner in the race for Council, Place 4, with 55.1% of the votes.

The total votes cast in the election were 115 votes and with 1,258 registered voters, that is a 9.14% turn out.

**COUNCIL ACTION - PASSED**

Councilmember, Fred Smith, made a motion to adopt Resolution #23-14 canvassing returns and declaring results of a special election held on November 7, 2023, for Council Places 2 and 4. Councilmember, Dave King, seconded the motion. For: Unanimous. The motion carried a vote of 3-0.

**7. ADMINISTER THE OATH OF OFFICE, ISSUING CERTIFICATES OF ELECTION TO THE ELECTED COUNCILMEMBERS.**

\*City Secretary administered to oath of office, issuing certificates of election to the election councilmembers.

**8. NEWLY ELECTED COUNCILMEMBERS TAKE THEIR POSITIONS.**

\*New election councilmembers took their positions.

**9. INTRODUCTION TO NEW CC MEMBER, COUNCIL DECORUM**

\*City Administrator briefly discussed each department, city administrator duties, department head duties, and council duties.

**10. INDIVIDUAL CONSIDERATION**

- A. Discuss, consider, and possibly act upon approving Resolution #23-15 authorizing the Mayor to cast Blue Mound's one (1) allocated vote for the election of members to the Tarrant Appraisal District's Board of Directors as shown on the final ballot attached to said resolution.

\*Councilmembers discussed the TAD candidates and made their vote.

**COUNCIL ACTION - PASSED**

Councilmember, Fred Smith, made a motion to cast the vote, adopt Resolution #23-15, and authorize the Mayor to sign. Councilmember, Don Shotwell, seconded the motion. For: Unanimous. The motion carried a vote of 4-0.

- B. Discuss, consider, and possibly act upon adopting Resolution #23-16 supporting Israel.

**COUNCIL ACTION - PASSED**

Councilmember, Don Shotwell, made a motion to adopt Resolution #23-16 as presented. Councilmember, Fred Smith, seconded the motion. For: Unanimous. The motion carried a vote of 4-0.



- C. Discuss, consider, and possibly act upon adopting Resolution #23-17 designating regular Council Meetings per the Texas Local Government Code Chapter 22, "Aldermanic Form of Government in Type A General-Law Municipality," Section 22.038, "Meetings".

COUNCIL ACTION- PASSED

Councilmember, Fred Smith, made a motion to adopt Resolution #23-17 as presented. Councilmember, Dave King, seconded the motion. For: Unanimous. The motion carried a vote of 4-0.

- D. Discuss, consider, and possibly act upon a Resolution authorizing staff to enter into an agreement with Mission Square Retirement.

\*Councilmember Dave King asked how the City decided on Mission Square Retirement. City Secretary explained how she reached out to multiple Cities and most all Cities used Mission Square. Councilmember Dave King stated that they only had a 3-star rating.

COUNCIL ACTION- PASSED

Councilmember, Fred Smith, made a motion to approve a Resolution authorizing Mission Square Retirement as the vendor for the 457(b) plan. Councilmember, Dave King, seconded the motion. For: Unanimous. The motion carried a vote of 4-0.

- E. Discuss, consider, and possibly act upon adopting Ordinance #589 amending Chapter 13, "Utilities" repealing and replacing Article 13.01, "General Provisions", and Article 13.02, "Water and Sewer Service".

\*Public Works Director spoke on how the current Ordinance referred to the "Company" as keeping maintenance on the water system. This was not changed when the City purchased the water system from Monarch. This Ordinance was to give the City control of the water system and to set rules per law.

COUNCIL ACTION- PASSED

Councilmember, Dave King, made a motion to approve Ordinance #589 repealing and replacing Chapter 13, Utilities, Article 13.01 and Article 13.02 as presented. Councilmember, Don Shotwell, seconded the motion. For: Unanimous. The motion carried a vote of 4-0.

- F. Discuss, consider, and act upon adopting Ordinance #590 repealing and replacing "Appendix A Fee Schedule," Article A8.000, "Utility Rates and Charges".

\*Public Works Director spoke on updating the fee schedule presented and that these fees do not affect the water bill rates in any way.

COUNCIL ACTION- PASSED

Councilmember, Fred Smith, made a motion to approve Ordinance #590 repealing and replacing Appendix A Fee Schedule as presented. Councilmember, Dave King, seconded the motion. For: Unanimous. The motion carried a vote of 4-0.

- G. Discuss, , consider, and act upon adopting Ordinance #591 amending Chapter 8, "Offenses and Nuisances," to include "Mosquito Control".

\*Public Works Director spoke on how this would allow us take action on any standing water that is infested with mosquitos, including back yards. Councilmember, Don Shotwell, asked if this would violate the peoples right by us entering into a backyard without permission. The Public Works Director said no, that if there was a complaint made then he would work with the resident first and if the resident does not get it taken care of then this Ordinance allows the City to take care of it.

COUNCIL ACTION- PASSED

Councilmember, Dave King, made a motion to approve Ordinance #591 amending Chapter 8, Offenses and Nuisances as presented. Councilmember, Don Shotwell, seconded the motion. For: Unanimous. The motion carried a vote of 4-0.

- H. Discuss, consider, and act upon approving the Interlocal Agreement for dispatch and warrant services with the City of Everman.

\*Chief of Police spoke on the Interlocal Agreement and why we are moving away from Lake Worth dispatch.

COUNCIL ACTION- PASSED

Councilmember, Don Shotwell, made a motion to approve the Interlocal Agreement with the City of Everman as presented. Councilmember, Dave King, seconded the motion. For: Unanimous. The motion carried a vote of 4-0.

- I. Discuss, consider, and act upon approving authorized staff to create a Grant Fund and rename ACA Fund and bank account.

\*Finance Manager spoke on how the ACA (American Cares Act) account is limited to only allowing the City to deposit ACA funds to it. By renaming the fund to Grant Fund, the City is able to deposit all grant funds to this account.

COUNCIL ACTION- PASSED

Councilmember, Fred Smith, made a motion to approve authorized staff to create a grant fund and rename the America Cares Act fund and bank account. Councilmember, Dave King, seconded the motion. For: Unanimous. The motion carried a vote of 4-0.

- J. Discuss, consider, and act upon approving authorized staff to close the Utility Note bank account.

\*Finance Manager spoke on how the City has an account with Logic and TexStar and that the City does not use this account with Simmons Bank any longer.

COUNCIL ACTION- PASSED

Councilmember, Fred Smith, made a motion to approve authorized staff to close the Utility Note bank account. Councilmember, Don Shotwell, seconded the motion. For: Unanimous. The motion carried a vote of 4-0.

- K. Discuss, consider, and act upon approving the Employee Agreement for Jacob Lawton.

\*Police Chief spoke on the agreement.

COUNCIL ACTION- PASSED

Councilmember, Dave King, made a motion to approve the employee agreement for Jacob Lawton. Councilmember, Fred Smith, seconded the motion. For: Unanimous. The motion carried a vote of 4-0.

- L. Discuss amending "Exhibit 14A Zoning Ordinance," Section 19, "Sign Regulations" to include "Bandit Signs".

\*Councilmembers and staff discussed how this would limit all the random signs that are posted everywhere and help keep the City looking cleaner.

COUNCIL ACTION- NONE

This was a discussion item only.

- M. Discuss amending Chapter 4, "Business Regulations," Article 4.05, "Garage Sales".

\*Councilmembers and staff discussed the garage sales regulations.

COUNCIL ACTION- NONE

This was a discussion item only.

- N. Discuss the class action lawsuit against Dupont, Chemours, Corteva, and 3M.

\*City Administrator spoke on the lawsuit and the City Attorney's recommendation to stay in.

COUNCIL ACTION- NONE

This was a discussion item only.



## 11. CONSENT AGENDA

*All consent agenda items are routine by the City Council and will be enacted by one motion. There will be no separate discussion of these items unless a Councilmember request so, in which event the item will be removed from the Consent Agenda and voted on separately.*

- A. Approve the council meeting minutes for October 17, 2023.
- B. Ratify the October 2023 expense report.

### COUNCIL ACTION- PASSED

Councilmember, Fred Smith, made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Councilmember, Dave King seconded the motion. For: Unanimous. The motion carried a vote of 4-0.

## 12. CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS MOVED FOR DISCUSSION


There were no consent agenda items moved.


## 13. ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Copeland adjourned the meeting at 8:15pm.

APPROVED

ATTEST

  
Darlene Copeland, Mayor

  
Amber Smith, City Secretary

## CERTIFICATION

I, THE UNDERSIGNED, AMBER SMITH, DO HEREBY CERTIFY THE ABOVE IS TRUE AND THE CORRECT COPY OF MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 20, 2023. ADOPTED BY THE CITY OF BLUE MOUND CITY COUNCIL AT A REGULAR MEETING DULY CONVENED ON JANUARY 16, 2024.

