



## MINUTES

**PUBLIC HEARING (ALCOHOL LICENSEE CHANGES-Dill's Food City; El Timon; Walgreens)  
DEC 14, 2021, 6:15 PM**

**REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING DEC 14, 2021, 6:30 PM**

### **PUBLIC HEARING:**

**Call to Order:** Mayor David Jordan opened the Public Hearing at 6:18PM.

**Attendance:** Mayor David L. Jordan, Mayor Pro-Tem Lee Strickland, Larry Bowen, Kenneth Roach, Matt Fields, Wayne Braswell, Jason Phillips, City Attorney Andrea Grant, City Manager Ed Andrews and City Clerk Sharleen Ayers.

**A:** Alcohol Licensee Changes:

1. Dill's Food City to Stan K Dillworth.
2. El Timon to Jeniffer Perez (Co-Owner)
3. Walgreens to Darryl Lamar Mathis

**Invitation of Public Comment:** No public comments were made.

**Response by Council:** Wayne asked if all paperwork was filed correctly and if there were any issues. City Clerk Sharleen Ayers responded that all was in order. No other questions were asked.

**Close Public Hearing:** Wayne Braswell made a motion to close public hearing; Kenneth Roach seconded the motion; motion carried 6-0. Public hearing closed at 6:33 PM.

### **REGULAR MEETING:**

**Call to Order:** The Dec 14, 2021, Regular Council Meeting was called to order by Mayor David L. Jordan at 6:33 PM.

**Attendance:** Mayor David L. Jordan, Mayor Pro-Tem Lee Strickland, Larry Bowen, Kenneth Roach, Matt Fields, Wayne Braswell, Jason Phillips, City Attorney Andrea Grant, City Manager Ed Andrews, and City Clerk Sharleen Ayers.

**Approval of All Outstanding Minutes:** Matt Fields made a motion to approve the November 9, 2021, Regular Meeting Minutes; Wayne Braswell seconded the motion; motion carried 6-0.

**Additions or Deletions to Agenda:**

- G. Hart Co Water Rate Increase
- Executive Session: Personnel & Potential Ligation after G.
- H. ARPA Premium Pay Funds

**Approval of Agenda:** Wayne Braswell made a motion to approve agenda as amended; Matt Fields seconded the motion; motion carried 6-0.

**Elected Officials Retirement Presentations: Ed Andrews:** The City Manager presented to Council framed retirements for Mayor Jordan, Councilman Larry Bowen, Former Councilman Keith Turman (now Mayor Elect), and Former Gas Department Supervisor David Pressley (now Council-Elect). Mayor Jordan presented a retirement plaque to City Manager Ed Andrews.

**Firewise Award Presentation: Susan Russell & Mark Wiles:** Mark Wiles presented a Firewise Award to the Royston Fire Department. Assistant Fire Chief Matt Elrod accepted the award. Mr. Wiles gave a short talk about the Firewise program. He recommended everyone stay up to date on burning regulations using gatrees.org.

**Main Street Update – Michael Crump:** There will be a Drop- In Retirement Event on Thursday from 4 to 6 PM. Small Business Saturday Holiday Market was a good day for merchants, Christmas in Royston and Tree Lighting had a good turn-out. Parade has been postponed to this Saturday December 18<sup>th</sup>. Annual DCA Assessment coming up. Also working on Opportunity Zone Year End Report with Kathy Papa with the DCA.

**New Business:**

- A. **Alcohol Licensee Changes for Dill’s Food City to Stan K Dillworth (Co-Owner):** Motion was made by Jason Phillips to approve the change of Alcohol Licensee for Dill’s Food City to Stan K Dillworth. Motion was seconded by Larry Bowen. Motion passed 6-0.
- B. **Alcohol Licensee Change for El Timon to Jeniffer Perez (Co-Owner):** Motion was made by Matt Fields to approve the change of Alcohol Licensee for El Timon to Jeniffer Perez. Motion was seconded by Wayne Braswell. Motion passed 6-0.
- C. **Alcohol Licensee Change for Walgreens to Darryl Lamar Smith (Manager):** Motion was made by Kenneth Roach to approve the change of Alcohol Licensee for Walgreens to Darryl Lamar Smith. Motion was seconded by Matt Fields. Motion passed 6-0.
- D. **Ratify Verification of the Answer & Acknowledgement of Service of the Petition for Bond Valuation for MGAG’s Gas Portfolio V Project Bonds:** At Mayor Jordan’s request, City Attorney Andrea Grant gave a brief synopsis of the Petition and its purpose to the City Council. She stated this was the same as the last time, it comes up every few years that MGAG must restate this Bond Valuation. A prior Resolution gave the council permission to Verify and Sign these bonds when they came up. They just need the signature to be Verified in a council meeting. She did not see any reason for council not to verify. Motion was made by Wayne Braswell to ratify the signature made by Mayor Jordan on December 2<sup>nd</sup> for the Verification of the MGAG Bonds. Motion was seconded by Kenneth Roach. Motion passed 6-0.

**E. Transco Agreement: Capacity Opportunity: Ed Andrews:** MGAG brought to the City Managers attention, on November 24<sup>th</sup>, an opportunity proposed by Transco to municipalities that already have gas contracts with them. They are offering a long-term firm capacity opportunity. This will add capacity to their current system which would allow for future growth and increase for Royston. This is tentatively 300 DTH per day at a 14.60 to 16.73/Dth/month. City Manager discussed with David Pressley and Lee Strickland to get their thoughts. City Manager let MGAG know he could not obligate the city without discussing with the Council or Committee. Mr. Andrews asked if this would impact current pricing under current contract. It was confirmed it would not affect the current contract. This would only be for the future. This contract would start in 2025 and would be for a minimum of 15years. Transco has the right to reject the request to participate in case there is not enough participation, but if accepted, the bids would be binding. They are simply asking if we would entertain this. Mr. Pressley commented that you would pay regardless, its just the price this would affect. Currently, during some winter days, we bump up against our contract and some days we go over the contract. He believes Royston is close enough to the current contract often enough that we are going to need the extra capacity. He feared if we did not take advantage of the opportunity, we would lose out. Mayor Jordan asked if there was anything to vote on. Mr. Andrews said no, not a vote, just an acknowledgement that the council would be interested.

**F. Royston Housing Authority Reappointments: Mayor Jordan:** Tabled by Mayor Jordan.

**G. Hart Co Water Rate Increase: Ed Andrews:** The Water Superintendent has talked with the Water Committee to discuss increases in costs of overhead expenses in the Water Department. Chemical Costs have increased along with electric costs, overtime, and other costs related to COVID and to an increase in demand especially from municipal customers. In the Hart Co Agreement, we have an opportunity to impose a cost increase once a year that cannot exceed the cost-of-living increase for the year. From a contractual standpoint, any other changes would require a 24 month notice to the Hart Co Board. We intend to look at all the water agreements we have, it is just the right thing to do from a business standpoint in efforts to be able to continue to serve our customers with water. Larry made a motion to go forward with the rate change. Matt Fields seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0. Larry Bowen responded he thinks we are still extremely cheap on water rates. Mr. Andrews agreed the city is way below where we need to be.

**Other Business – City Manager Update:**

1. **Post Office Lease Agreement:** Post Office land has been sold. During a survey the new owners found some of the fixtures encroach upon city property. City Attorney has asked for a copy of the title work to figure out when the encroachments occurred. They would like us to explore and consider after information is gathered, would the city enter into some sort of License Agreement enabling them to keep the encroachment. Currently the City Attorney has no opinion, she does not believe we have enough information. No decisions need to be made today, she just wanted council to apprised of the situation.

**Executive Session: Potential Litigation & Personnel:** Matt Fields made a motion to go into executive session at 7:13PM. Wayne Braswell seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0. A motion was made by Lee Strickland to come out of executive session at 8:05 PM. Motion was seconded by Kenneth Roach. Motion passed 6-0.

**H. ARPA Fund-Premium Pay:** Wayne Braswell made a motion to approve a supplement for Full Time qualified employees of \$1,000 and for qualified part time employees of \$300.00 to be paid from State and Local ARPA funds. A question was asked if this was a grant. The mayor responded that it was a grant from the Federal and State funds that allowed us to give these one time supplements. This was intended for essential workers and was well deserved. Jason Phillips seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0.

**Adjourn:** Wayne Braswell made a motion to adjourn; Lee Strickland seconded the motion; motion carried 6-0. Meeting adjourned at 8:07 PM.

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**Mayor Keith Turman**

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**Sharleen Ayers, City Clerk**

**(SEAL)**

**“This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.”**