

City of White
Council Meeting Minutes
December 5, 2022

Present at the meeting were Mayor Pro Tem Gary Crisp, Councilmember Stephanie Nichelson, Councilmember Charles Buttrum, City Clerk Sherry Walker and later, Councilmember Kim Billue.

Mayor Pro Tem Gary Crisp began the meeting at 7 p.m. and lead the meeting with Invocation and lead the room in the saying of the Pledge of Allegiance and asked Councilmember Stephanie Nichelson to lead in prayer.

At 7:05 p.m., Judge Brandon Bryson swore Kim D. Billue in as the newest councilmember and she immediately joined the others on the council.

Due to the unavailability, there were no minutes to review and approve.

Interim Chief Jason Smith gave the announcement of the grant that the police department received from Governor of Hwy Safety for the new computers and printers for the cars. The grant was for \$13,500 and is completely free. Money that the City of White will not have to worry about. Jason Smith stated that we are now fully staffed with two full time officers and three part time officers. Jason gave the following stats for the months of October and November: 8 accidents, assisted other agencies 4 times, 133 calls for service, 247 citizen contacts, 58 business escorts, 7 arrest, 155 business checks, 48 citations, and 51 warnings. Kim Billue asked for a breakdown on the citations. Jason Smith stated that he did not have the breakdown, but they included speeding, possession of marijuana, no insurance and running the school bus stop signs. Gary Crisp stated that the Chief had been patrolling Richards Rd. and doing a good job at stopping the trucks. Jason Smith stated that he was giving a warning at first and logging their information incase it is needed later. Mrs. Watkins asked the Chief why we had to educate them when there are signs everywhere? Chief explained when he said to educate them, that could mean different things from warnings to citations. Chief stated that he wanted to educate them on what took place. He stated that a lot depended on their attitude. Mrs. Watkins interrupted and said that she was a truck driver to, and

she did not think that a warning was sufficient when there are signs. Chief agreed that there are signs, and he basically has taken it a little further by contacting the companies and if they continue using the roads there will be citations given out. Chief Smith stated that the word was getting out. Mr. Watkins stated that it was the discretion of the officer. Mrs. Watkins says that she understands that. Tim Nicholson stated that he has brought it up before that if you are coming from Toyo, the sign says no trucks and he would take it as no trucks down John Huskins Street because it's on the North side. Tim Nicholson stated that the sign needed to be placed further down. Tim Nicholson stated that he was no truck driver, but if you turn on that road and then see the sign, what do you do? Stop? Gary Crisp stated that backing a tractor trailer out from that road would be tough. Chief Jason Smith stated that yes, they could call 911 and state that they were blocking traffic and they needed some assistance in backing out. Mr. Watkins said that usually when they have to do that the officer will give them a warning against doing it again. Chief Jason Smith agreed. Mr. Watkins stated that you have some officers tell them that they should have known better. Chief Jason Smith stated that it is the officer's discretion. Gary Crisp stated that we would look into where the sign was. Tim Nicholson stated that the sign was North of John Huskins Street. The Chief and Gary Crisp said that they would take care of it.

Superintendent Jimmy Nichols explained that we had 4 service line leaks in November. Jimmy Nichols explained that he went to the Fall Water Conference back in October and learned that we will have to make record of all the lead service lines by October 16, 2024. This isn't for the main lines, only the service lines. Jimmy Nichols stated that it is usually the lines that was put in in the late 50's or early 60's. Jimmy Nichols stated that he didn't know how to check it, so if anyone knew that they had led lines to let the City Hall know so that we could record it. Jimmy Nichols said that we use Neptune system, and we still have a lot of old meters that are playing out. Jimmy Nichols suggested before we started replacing meters, we should look at the Badger system like the county has. Jimmy Nichols said that he didn't know to much about them, but they never have any trouble out of them. Jimmy Nichols also explained how reading the meters have been an issue for some time and stated that it has got where it takes about a week to get the water read and in the system. Jimmy Nichols stated that when you think that things are good, something else messes up. Jimmy Nichols

informed that Delta Supply is who supplies us with the meters and sometimes it takes 2-3 days to get back to us. Jimmy Nichols suggested that the brand of the meter system needs to be updated. Kim Billue asked Jimmy Nichols if he had a price on that and Jimmy Nichols stated no, but he would check into it. Jimmy Nichols also informed the council about the CCR reporting. Originally, the report was once a year and now it will have to be twice a year. Jimmy Nichols stated that was all that he had and asked if anyone had any questions. Kim Billue asked where were we on rebuilding the pumps? Jimmy Nichols stated that we had all 3 pumps at the Toyo station rebuilt. Jimmy Nichols stated that we haven't done anything to the Aubrey station, and we were not going to allow any pumps to be taken out unless we have the parts to fix it. One station rebuilt and one not. Gary Crisp suggested that we look into the cost of having a pump in case one needed to be replaced. Renting a pump could run around \$10,000.00. Gary Crisp suggested that we always have a pump available. Gary Crisp asked Jimmy Nichols to look into the price so that we may budget the money for it. Jimmy Nichols said that he would. Tim Nichelson said that Delta Municipal was one of the sorriest companies to deal with. Jimmy Nichols agreed.

Curtis Powell with Planning and Developing congratulated Kim Billue and gave an executive summary of Mr. Huskins place at 122 Kelley Dr. to the councilmembers. Curtis Powell explained that they had the public hearing on September 22, 2022. Attendees in the meeting were Curtis Powell, Jean Swank, Heather Griffis, and Tim Nichelson. Eddie Billue was not able to attend the meeting. Mr. Huskins was requesting to subdivide the property into 3 lots. One acre each to construct and to sell two homes. It cannot be brought up for voting since Mr. Huskins was not there. Mingledorfs was brought up for rezoning from commercial to industrial. Mr. Murray requested a buffer to be able to square the building. Letters and signs have been sent out and placed. Curtis Powell advised that there are no indications of starting Heritage Pallets until the of Stephanie Beck after maternity leave in March. Curtis Powell asked for permission to purchase notice signs. Gary Crisp thought that would be a good idea. Kim Billue made the motion and Stephanie Nichelson seconded. Motion passed 3-0. Curtis Powell also stated that we needed to make a fee schedule for fees. Gary Crisp informed him that we had a copy of that, and it needed to be looked at.

Stephanie Nichelson suggested that the city not spend the money on a special election and just appoint a new mayor. Stephanie Nichelson says that in November we would be having an election, so she doesn't see the point on spending the money on a special election, but with 12 months remaining one needed to be appointed. Gary Crisp suggested that anyone interested needed to speak to the councilmembers. Gary Crisp advised that the councilmembers had to vote on it so if anyone was interested, they needed to come forward. Stephanie Nichelson asked would this happen in January?

Gary Crisp asked for the public comments. James Swift stated that he sent in an open request for some documents on in 2022. Someone in audience asked when it was requested, and James Swift stated on October 20, and he was still waiting on a response and had no updates. Sherry Walker stated that he did receive an email stating that those documents had not been located and she was working diligently to get those documents that she had to request those herself. Once those documents were located then she would send them over. Tim Nichelson asked how long does it take to get this stuff? Mr. Watkins said that if he wasn't mistaken, that was a violation of the Sunshine Law. Tim Nichelson said it is. Gary Crisp said that sometimes it takes time and Mr. Watkins claims that he understands that, however, violating the law, is violating the law. (Tim Nichelson and Mr. Watkins overtalking each other) Gary Crisp explains that we haven't had an audit in two years and some of the questions needed the audit in order to get answers. Gary Crisp explains that the open request form states that you have three days to respond to your request and that was met. James Swift read the section of the Sunshine Law advising that it was violated. Gary Crisp advised without an attorney to represent the city, we would not be responding, and would have him an answer later. (Laughing and loud talking) Alexis Billue stated that she just had one question for the council; when are yall going to legally hire a professional, qualified, City Clerk? Gary Crisp stated that he thinks that we have a qualified City Clerk. Alexis Billue stated legally hired. Gary Crisp stated that she was legally hired. Alexis Billue claims that the City Clerk was hired as an Asst. Clerk with no one to assist. Gary Crisp said that she was hired as a Clerk. Alexis Billue claims that is not what the minutes say. Gary Crisp advised that Perry was the mayor at the time, and he was the one that hired her, and Perry had that authority to do so. Alexis Billue quoted the Charter and Gary Crisp said that he

would check on it. Man in audience asked how long would that take? Roger Oswald said that he has had to come up to the City Hall in the last 3-4 months due to his billing being off. Roger Oswald said that he had concerns for the City of White and with no disrespect to any of the councilmembers those concerns needed to be addressed. He stated that unfortunately we lost a mayor, and it has affected more than just his family. It has also affected the city and the businesses that operate in the City of White. If the city is going to continue to prosper and grow, then the councilmembers will have to continue pushing forward without any personal agendas. Roger Oswald is concerned that files are missing, we haven't had a meeting in a couple of months, that we charge a fee for paying online, etc. and wants to know what is going on? Roger Oswald says that he doesn't understand. Roger Oswald claims that he does not trust the post office. Since he has lived here, the post office has messed his mail up on numerous occasions. Roger Oswald is concerned with Heritage Pallets being placed on hold because of the passing of the mayor. He wonders how many others are placed on hold and if there was something in place with the former mayor, then it should continue without interruption. Gary Crisp explained that there was nothing being placed on hold due to the mayor's passing. Curtis Powell explained that it was supposed to have come before the council and there were not enough votes to vote on it, so it was rescheduled. (Loud overtalking in the background by Mr. Watkins and Tim Nichelson) Eddie Billue stated that before he started, he wanted to address something here. Very argumentative, he told Sherry Walker that her attitude was wrong sitting up there smirking, smiling. Sherry Walker asked, what would you prefer that I look and act like you? Gary Crisp asked Eddie Billue to keep this unpersonal, that he was picking on these folks and it was not going to happen. (Eddie Billue overtalking Gary Crisp) Eddie Billue stated that all he was going to say was the facts. Eddie Billue wants to address his water bills first. Eddie Billue states that in July, he had 29 days on his water bill, Gary Crisp stated that Jimmy Dean should be able to answer those questions. Eddie Billue said that he was talking right now. In August his bill was normal, and his September bill was over doubled. Jimmy came and checked. There were no leaks, no toilets running, and nothing busted. October the bill was normal, however the bill had a 10/3 date on it, and he did not receive it until 10/20. Eddie Billue claims that he knows the mail is slow, but he knows that it's not that slow. Eddie Billue claims that he had to pay the double bill because if you don't then they will shut your

water off and pick your garbage cans up. Eddie Billue wants to know why the usage was doubled. Charles Buttrum stated we didn't know why. Gary Crisp asked if Eddie Billue discussed his water bill and he stated that it was brought up. Gary Crisp asked again if Eddie Billue discussed the billing and Eddie Billue stated no, that he did not discuss it with anyone. Charles Buttrum stated that Eddie Billue should have discussed it. Eddie Billue stated that is not the point. The point is why is this happening? Gary Crisp tried explaining that the guys go out and read the meters, bring it back and then sent to a third party. Kim Billue claims that's not how it was done when she was here. (Loud overtalking in background) Mr. Noland interrupts and claims that his billing was messed up really bad and he came to the City Hall and Sherry Walker discussed it and fixed it. Charles Buttrum stated that we had two different types of meters and the newer meters read correctly and then the older meters read backwards. Charles Buttrum reminded that we had this conversation with the water department, and they were trying to figure out if we needed a new reader or meters when all we get is the run around and we don't understand the problem ourselves. Charles Buttrum agreed that yes, there is definitely a problem. Alexis Billue claims that help was offered, and Sherry Walker blatantly refused the help when it's obvious that she didn't know what she was doing. Charles Buttrum states that we don't need to make any accusations, that we didn't know what the problem was. Charles Buttrum stated that we could get a whole lot more done by working together instead of everyone acting like this. (Alexis Billue loud and overtalking) Gary Crisp states, keep all personal comments to yourselves. Gary Crisp states that we don't need to fight we need to figure things out. (loud talking in background) Eddie Billue says that he is done with the water billing. Next, Eddie Billue says that he was forced to incur legal fees when the incompetent leadership of this city, that was from his understanding that was advised to not continue forward with the disqualification, did so. Eddie Billue stated that an invoice was coming to the City of White for his legal fees. Eddie Billue stated that he expects to be promptly reimbursed for to avoid any further litigation. Eddie Billue says that it doesn't need to be drugged out, when we get the bill, he needs to be reimbursed. Stephanie Nichelson asked how much the bill was for and Eddie Billue stated \$2700.00. Eddie Billue gets argumentative with Gary Crisp and hits the podium with his hands. Eddie Billue overtalking Gary Crisp and he states that he did not cuss, and Gary Crisp stated that he was getting to loud and out of

order. Tim Nichelson said Gary you don't want people interrupting you, let him talk. (overtalking) Tim Nichelson says I tell you what big boy you want to, and Chief Jason Smith tells him to calm down. Tim Nichelson tells Gary Crisp when it's not in here, it's on. Chief Smith advised that everyone needed to take a deep breath. (Tim Nichelson overtalking) Chief Smith stated that if it wasn't on the agenda, lets skip it. Eddie Billue read the former atty's resignation letter quoting the part about personal agendas. Eddie Billue suggested that the City Clerk and Council start focusing on the problems that the city has. He stated that we could once again be a good city instead of a laughingstock. Eddie Billue suggested that we honor our oath instead of chasing personal agendas. Eddie Billue says that he wants to give Charles Buttrum some friendly advice of making his own decisions and stop listening to other people. Charles Buttrum agreed. Charles Buttrum stated that if anyone was having problems paying their water bills to let him know and he would pay them. A lady stated that wasn't the problem, the problem was getting a correct water bill. Charles Buttrum stated that there had to be a starting point and we needed to find the solution. Charles Buttrum asked Eddie Billue what he would recommend, and Eddie Billue stated that he would recommend if someone offered to help for free to let that person help. Charles Buttrum asked Kim Billue what she thought the problem was and she stated that it was in the billing. Kim Billue thinks that putting the handheld in Jimmy's office will solve the issue. Tim Nichelson was asked if he wanted to speak. He said no that it doesn't do no good anyways. Mr. Watkins (talking in background) things that have been going on for months like violating the charter. Mr. Watkins stated not having meetings were violating the charter. Mr. Watkins quotes the charter. Mr. Watkins says that every month there shall be a meeting on the first Monday of every month unless there is a holiday, then it is supposed to be the next business day. Mr. Watkins brings the Sunshine Law, violating the charter, and not having a special election up. Mr. Watkins says that all of these are indeed a violation. Mr. Watkins claims that he doesn't mind helping anyone, however, if we are going to keep wasting money, then we should give it to him. Mr. Watkins is interrupting the charter. Mr. Watkins went all the way back to Tony Ross in 2019. Mr. Watkins claims that they allowed Tony R. to quit his job, come in thinking he was going to get sworn in and then he is told no. (Talking in background) Mr. Watkins states that he doesn't need any help. He claims that it is time to change. Time to work together and correct the things that is wrong. Mr. Watkins states and again

this is has been going on for quite a while and it needs to be corrected before someone else takes over the city. Gary Crisp states that everyone has their own interpretation, and the charter is available to anyone that wants a copy. (loud overtalking) Mr. Watkins tells Gary Crisp that he is not putting the city first and that the city can get a petition together to get him out. (Loud overtalking) Tim Nichelson asked if he could resend. Tim Nichelson asked if we issued permits for houses that are in the county. Tim Nichelson says do we Sherry? Do we issue permits to the county? Sherry Walker stated no, we are not supposed to are you saying that I did? Tim Nichelson stated that Mike Jones called him not knowing what to do. Sherry Walker admitted mistakenly giving the permit to Mike Jones Heating and Air after calling and speaking to Stephanie Nichelson which Tim claims that he went to her earlier about. (Lots of overtalking) Tim Nichelson claims that he came to the drive thru window and there was a lady sitting there that had to back up and get out in the rain and go inside because Sherry Walker would not go to the window. Sherry Walker stated that she does not remember anyone having to getting out or even it raining. Sherry Walker stated that if she is on the phone or with another customer, whoever is at the window is going to have to wait. Kim Billue stated that all needed to be done was to ask someone to hang on. Sherry Walker stated that this is how it's been done for the last six months and now suddenly, we were complaining. Tim Nichelson claims that he sits at the window for 15 minutes and Sherry Walker never came to the window. Sherry Walker asked Tim Nichelson numerous of times if he rang the bell and he finally answered no, he did not ring the bell. Tim Nichelson asked Sherry Walker how she knew that he was at the window. Sherry Walker stated that she had windows open that she seen every car that came in there. Gary Crisp stated that after the meeting he would take him in the office to show him and Sherry Walker said no one will go in the office while my little one is in there. (Lots of loud overtalking) Kim Billue asked why a little one was in there and Sherry Walker stated that was none of her business. Kim Billue stated that it was. Tim Nichelson stated that the three councilmembers were Sherry Walker's boss and if he was them, she would be fired today. Sherry Walker stated that with everyone's attitude and argumentative attitudes, no one would go in that office with her in there. Tim Nichelson asked Kim Billue if she wanted to go in the office. Kim Billue said that she sure did. Tim Nichelson said (to Sherry Walker) tell her (Kim Billue) that she can't go into that office. Sherry Walker stated that no one would be

going in the office, if they wanted to wait until she removed the little one then they could, but not while she was in there. Kim Billue stated that this was not a daycare. (Tim Nichelson and Mr. Watkins loud overtalking) Kim Billue claimed that Sherry Walker was not opening the drive thru window because she was babysitting. Tim Nichelson asked Gary Crisp why the window was not being opened. Gary Crisp stated that the lady has 4-5 different jobs that she was doing and if she didn't open the window, there was a reason. (Everyone had their own personal opinions on whom should be considered number one. Everyone overtalking) Roger Oswald asked if there was a drop box that he could drop his payment off. Tim Nichelson stated that yes but be careful because your check may get lost.

Gary Crisp stated that there was one more issue that should have been brought up earlier about Anthony Morris wanting to rent the house across the street from Kim Billue and that it needed to be voted on. Stephanie Nichelson said that she was not opposed to the idea, but she wanted to know that it was safe before anyone moving in. Stephanie Nichelson said that she would make it her job to have someone come out and inspect the house for black mold. She would like to see someone living in the house verse it sitting there just rotting. Stephanie Nichelson said that she did not want Anthony's family getting sick. Stephanie Nichelson made a conditional motion to get the house rented, but she wanted it inspected first. Charles Buttrum asked that in that motion that it be added that Anthony Morris could rent the house once it was inspected and cleared of black mold. Stephanie Nichelson said that she was good with Anthony Morris moving in once it was cleared. Gary Crisp stated that he just wanted everyone on the same page that once it was cleared that Anthony Morris could move in. All councilmembers agreed that once the house had been inspected and cleared that Anthony Morris could move in the house on Richards Rd. Jimmy Nichols requested that this be done as soon as possible that this was very time sensitive.

Curtis Powell states as a citizen that he wants what's best for the city and if there are not documents here, then they had to be removed.

Gary Crisp stated getting back to the house, it needs painted and repaired. Gary Crisp stated the estimates that we had on the painting. Stephanie Nichelson said that we also needed to set a rent. (overtalking)

Mr. Watkins asked about the budget. Gary Crisp stated that the budget was ready, and we would get that to them. He explained that there would be amendments.

Gary Crisp stated that he and Sherry Walker did not have access to all the bank accounts, (Mr. Watkins overtalking) and we needed a motion to place Gary Crisp and Sherry Walker on the accounts. Gary Crisp stated that it was to deal with the CD's. (Lots of overtalking)

Stephanie N. motioned for Sherry W., Gary C., and Kim B. to be on the checking accounts. With this motion, Kim Billue only has the ability to sign checks. Tim N. tried carrying the meeting and Stephanie N. said that we had the second, so we needed to say "I". Gary Crisp said all in motion

Kim B. motioned to adjourn and Stephanie N. second. Charles B. said that he would like to say something before adjourning.

Charles B. said that we all come here to get our questions asked but we all need to be respectable. Mr. Watkins stated that you had to give respect to get respect. (Lots of loud overtalking) Jean Swank agreed with Charles Buttrum. Jean Swank also stated that she thinks that the charter needs to be reviewed. (Mr. Watkins overtalking) Jean Swank tells Mr. Watkins that he is always so vocal. (Lots of loud talking)

Stephanie Nicholson stated that she was very aware that the charter had some issues and there were some things that needed to be taken care of.

Gary Crisp asked for a motion to adjourn, lady voice motioned, Charles Buttrum second the motion. Motion passed 3-0. Meeting adjourned.