



**Acts of
City Council of Hinton
Regular Meeting
Tuesday, August 21, 2018
7:00 p.m. -- Hinton City Hall**

1. Call to order/Roll Call – Mayor Joe Blankenship called the meeting to order, and the record showed that Councilman Pat Jordan, Councilman Jack Scott, Councilman Meador and Councilwoman Roberta Sorg were present.
2. Invocation / Pledge of Allegiance – City Manager Cris Meadows led the prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance.
3. Approval of Agenda – Councilwoman Sorg moved to approve the agenda moving some items around and adding a resolution in support of the National Park Service. Councilman Scott seconded the motion, and the motion passed on a vote of 4-0.
4. Approval of Minutes- Councilman Jordan moved to approve the minutes of the July Regular Council Meeting. Councilman Meador seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 4-0. Councilman Jordan moved to approve the minutes of the August 6 Emergency meeting. Councilman Meador seconded the motion adding to change the start time to 9:15. The motion passed on a vote of 4-0.
5. Approval of Paid Invoices – Councilman Jordan moved to approve the paid invoices. Councilman Meador seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 4-0.
6. Approval of Financial Report July 2018 – Councilman Meador moved to approve the financial report. Councilman Jordan seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 4-0.
7. Discussion and or action regarding personnel – Mayor Blankenship read a statement “please allow me to read this statement and I won't be taking any questions afterward. I hope everyone can respect the privacy of my daughter and my two grandchildren as well as myself. They are victims in this situation. As you know I have been accused of ignoring or brushing under the rug the actions of Derek Snavelly. These false claims appall me and those of you who know me know that is the truth. I want to start from the beginning. In 2009 our previous administration hired Derek Snavelly as a police officer. He had been previously been employed at the Hinton Police Department around 2006. Mr. Snavelly was promoted to Police Chief in the late 2009 without the recommendation of this mayor. The reason was he was dating my daughter. They got married two years later. Please be aware that I even recuse myself from meetings when raises are brought up regarding Snavelly. Mr. Snavelly began a private lawn care business around 2014. It had become noticeable and complaints were coming in regarding Snavelly mowing grass during City of Hinton business hours. I summoned Mr. Snavelly to my office and gave him a memo that his working hours were to be Monday through Friday 8:00 am to 4:00 pm. And if he was to be seen mowing grass during those hours he would be charged vacation time. Mr. Snavelly filed a grievance against me with the civil service board and they ruled in his favor. I tell you this to state that things aren't always as they seem and don't

believe everything you hear. Concerning the matter at hand and with advice of our city's legal Council I decided to step aside and remove myself from actions involving Snavelly because of family. Fifteen days ago this council without my presence voted to grant Mr. Snavelly a leave of absence through September 3, 2018, because of personal issues. He was to use accrued vacation which he had previously earned. He was to see a doctor of the city's choice and couldn't return to work until we received a certificate of fitness from all doctors. Although I was not in attendance I applaud my council for their actions. Matters involving Mr. Snavelly and my daughter are private but as Bethany's father and best friend, I feel I am aware of everything. A lot of what you hear and read is nothing but untruths. I want to state that at no time has Mr. Snavelly pulled a gun on my daughter or the kids. Since recusing myself from this situation over three weeks ago I have been doing a lot of soul-searching. In 2009 when I took this office I pledged to put this city number one and uphold the integrity and safety for all in the city of Hinton. I love this city and the great people in it and hold this office of Mayor proudly. State code states that the office of Chief of Police is at the will and pleasure of the mayor in every municipality. Therefore I feel I cannot stand aside any longer concerning this situation. Effective immediately I am terminating Derek Snavelly's position as Chief of Police in the City of Hinton because of job performance or lack thereof and will be accepting applications beginning tomorrow. Thank you."

8. The appearance of Citizens – none
9. Discussion and or action regarding a resolution for National Park Service support - Councilman Jordan moved to approve the resolution. Councilman Scott seconded the motion and the motion passed on a vote of 4-0.
10. Discussion and or action regarding appointments to the planning commission – Mayor stated his recommendations for appointment to the five-member board are Councilwoman Sorg and himself representing the city. Kit Durnan, Virginia Fitzwater, and Tom Conway fill out the remaining seats. Councilman Meador moved to approve the commission. Councilman Jordan seconded the motion and the motion passed 3-0 with Councilwoman Sorg abstaining.
11. Discussion and or action regarding Booster Fund – Brian Kirk spoke about the BOOSTER fund and its mission to promote STEM programs in the school system. Council asked the city manager to look into seeing how we could help with the program.
12. Discussion and or action regarding the police station – Councilman Jordan stated he asked for this to be on the agenda to get a progress report on the status of the move. He understands now that they should be moved in by the end of the week and he then thanked everyone for their efforts with the new station.
13. Councilwoman Sorg moved to adjourn the meeting. Councilman Jordan seconded the motion, and the motion passed on a vote of 4-0.

Cris C. Meadows/ City Manager

Joseph M. Blankenship/ Mayor