

**REGULAR CALLED CITY COUNCIL MEETING
September 25, 2014**

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR CALLED MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF OVERTON, TEXAS THAT WAS HELD ON **SEPTEMBER 25, 2014** AT 7:00 PM IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, CITY HALL, 1200 SOUTH COMMERCE, OVERTON, TEXAS.

PRESENT:

C. R. Evans Jr., Mayor
John Ed Welch, Mayor Pro-Tem
John Posey
Philip Cox
Jerry Clark

ABSENT:

Pat Beets

Also in attendance were, Charles Cunningham, City Manager, Rachél Gafford, City Secretary, and Clyde Carter, Police Chief representing staff. Dudley Hickman, representing the public.

- ITEM I: CALL TO ORDER** - Mayor Evans called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M.
1. Invocation given by Councilman Posey.
 2. Pledge of Allegiance lead by Councilman Cox

ITEM II: CONSENT AGENDA

None

ITEM III: CITIZEN FORUM

None

ITEM IV: CITY ADMINISTRATION'S MONTHLY REPORTS

1. Fire Department
2. Police Department
3. Department of Finance
4. City Manager

City Manager Cunningham presented the monthly departmental reports to the council. No action required.

ITEM V: NEW BUSINESS (CONSIDER AND/OR ACTION)

1. **HEAR AND / OR CONSIDER ACTION ON PROPOSAL FROM CHAMPION EMS FOR RENEWAL OF CONTRACT FOR AMBULANCE SERVICES.**

City Manager Cunningham presented the proposed EMS renewal agreement submitted to staff by Champion EMS via mail on August 21, 2014.

Mayor Pro Tem Welch asked if a representative from Champion EMS was going to be available to ask questions as to why they were making such drastic changes in the middle of an existing contract.

City Manager Cunningham stated that he wanted to present the contract proposal for discussion as a group and give each of you a chance to ask your questions prior to inviting Champion EMS to the Council Meeting. Cunningham also said that according to his interpretation of the contract; that not only was Champion EMS requesting that the City pay for the company to occupy a presence inside the City of Overton; the contract made no mention of Champion EMS continuing to pay the \$1,100 per month rent on the building which the City has purchased to house this service. Therefore costing the citizens of Overton \$4,100 per month instead of the \$3,000 as stated in the proposed contract.

Mayor Pro Tem Welch asked if the clause as listed in Section VII of the original contract “Should either the City or Contractor elect not to renew and extend the contract for any renewal term, that party must notify the other in writing of its intent not to renew at least 180 days prior to start of the applicable renewal term” would keep Champion EMS from altering the contract since they did not notify the City of their intentions to modify the contract 180 days prior to the renewal term?

City Manager Cunningham stated that he did not think that would apply, as their intention is to renew the contract with modifications. There is no clause in the current contract as to what happens if Champion EMS chooses to terminate the services.

Councilman Clark asked who is paying for the Champion EMS service to sit in Sexton City or New London. Does either of these cities help pay for these services?

City Manager Cunningham responded that if other Cities were paying for the services he was not aware of it.

Councilman Cox stated that he did not feel that the City should agree to the terms as being proposed by Champion EMS.

City Secretary Gafford stated that we had heard that Champion EMS had just done the same thing in Tatum; it appears that Champion EMS is moving out of the small communities’ state wide.

Councilman Posey asked what Tatum was doing for an ambulance service.

City Secretary Gafford stated that staff had not heard if they had been able to find any alternative and would have to rely on ambulance service from Marshall or Henderson (over 20 miles away).

Councilman Posey stated that he would hate to see the citizens of Overton loose the quick response time of having a local ambulance service in our community. Having to rely on Tyler or Kilgore could mean the difference of a life or death.


Mayor Pro Tem Welch requested staff contact Champion EMS requesting that a representative be present at the next Regular Council Meeting on October 16, 2014 to discuss the proposed contract renewal.

ITEM VI: ADJOURNMENT

Councilman Cox made a motion that the meeting be adjourned. Mayor Pro Tem Welch seconded the Motion. Motion carried 4 – 0, Councilman Beets absent.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:42 P. M.

Minutes approved and submitted and/or corrected this 16th day of October, 2014.


C. R. Evans Jr., Mayor

Attested by:


Rachél Gafford, City Secretary