



CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES
Monday, April 5, 2021 – 6:30 PM
2801 Ranch Road 1869, Liberty Hill, Texas

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| Liz Branigan, Mayor | Liz Rundzieher, Mayor Pro Tem / Place 5 |
| Steve McIntosh, Place 1 | Kathy Canady, Place 2 |
| Gram Lankford, Place 3 | Tony DeYoung, Place 4 |

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Liz Branigan at 6:30 PM. In attendance were Liz Branigan, Mayor; Liz Rundzieher, Mayor Pro Tem and Place 5; Kathy Canady, Place 2; and Gram Lankford, Place 3. Quorum was established.

The Invocation was provided, and Pledge of Allegiance and Texas Pledge were recited.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Chris Pezold, who resides at 3607 RR 1869, addressed Council rumors of unethical behavior. Mr. Pezold provided his written comments, attached hereto. Council and Mr. Pezold discussed his concerns.

PRESENTATIONS

Mayor Branigan addressed Council and those in attendance, stating “we took care of each other” during the ice storm. Nancy Wilks kept the lines of communication open. She was assisted by her sons and Vicki McCown.

Kendra Cofer had food delivered to help out with those in need.

Mayor Branigan presented Hometown Hero ribbons to these ladies in gratitude to their contribution during the blizzard.

Following the presentation, Kathy Canady stated she felt these were deserving people and that she had no issue with the presentation but would have liked to have had Council involved in the process. She stated she would like Council to help set criteria for these awards.

CONSENT AGENDA

Mayor Branigan stated she would like to move item 4.e to Regular Session, and the agreement is a year out of date and since the agreement should have been discussed with the Over the Hill Gang.

4.e. Consideration and possible action to authorize the City Administrator to negotiate and execute a Facilities Use Agreement between the City of Liberty Hill and Terry Walker, Director of the Our Village program.

Lacie Hale, City Administrator stated that if there is a desire for this, a motion is recommended.

Gram Lankford made a motion to move item 4.e. to Regular Session. Motion died for lack of a second.

On motion by Kathy Canady and second by Liz Rundzieher, Council approved the Consent Agenda.

- Discuss and consider approval of Special Called Council meeting minutes of March 15, 2021.
- Discuss and consider approval of Regular Council meeting minutes held March 22, 2021.
- Acceptance of February 2021 Departmental Reports submitted to Council on March 22, 2021.
- Discussion and possible action to approve the prior passage of Ordinance 20-O-03 amending the water and wastewater impact fee amounts and eliminating monthly MUD payments from MUDs 12, 13, 19, and 19A.
- Consideration and possible action to authorize the City Administrator to negotiate and execute a Facilities Use Agreement between the City of Liberty Hill and Terry Walker, Director of the Our Village program.

Motion passed on vote of 3 ayes, 0 nays, and 0 abstentions.

REGULAR AGENDA

Discuss and consider authorizing the City Administrator to complete the tower parking lot with construction of a privacy fence along the north perimeter, matching fence adjacent to Wetzel Park.

Mayor Branigan asked if there was a cost estimate yet. Lacie Hale, City Administrator stated she had not yet been authorized to go out for bids. She believes the fence adjacent to Terry Moore's residence was around \$8,000. Following discussion of fence materials and placement, Council authorized Ms. Hale to gather various options, including live foliage, and return to Council with bids.

Discuss and consider moving Executive Sessions to 5:00 PM preceding each City Council meeting.

Mayor Branigan stated that some neighboring cities have moved their Executive Session to 5:00 PM, and she would like to see that done here.

Following discussion of impact to Council members who would find that difficult with their work schedules, Kathy Canady made a motion to move EXECUTIVE SESSION until just after PRESENTATIONS for all those items with participants the City is paying, with the remaining items of EXECUTIVE SESSION moved to after REGULAR SESSION. Gram Lankford seconded the motion. **Motion passed on vote of 3 ayes, 0 nays, and 0 abstentions.**

Discuss and consider confirming reappointment of Mosby Hamilton to the Parks and Recreation Board of Directors.

Mayor Branigan stated she is bringing this to Council to reappoint Mr. Hamilton to the Parks Board. Kathy Canady responded that Council had voted to have board and committee members continue to serve until Council can have a workshop to review and consider parameters for serving on these boards and committees. Mayor Branigan stated that the Parks Board has had a difficult time making quorum. City Staff explained that of the five members of the Parks Board, there is one vacancy; however, Mr. Hamilton is already a member of the board. Council took no action.

Consideration and possible action to authorize the City Administrator to negotiate and execute a standard terms of engagement agreement with the Bojorquez Law Firm for as- needed Special Counsel and Prosecutor services.

Following discussion and assurance that funds for the estimated \$8,000 for these services are within the City's budget, Kathy Canady made a motion to authorize the City Administrator to negotiate and execute a standard terms of engagement agreement with the Bojorquez Law Firm for as-needed Special Counsel and Prosecutor services. Liz Rundzieher seconded the motion. **Motion passed on vote 3 ayes, 0 nays, and 0 abstentions.**

Discuss and consider utility leak adjustment for applicant.

Becky Wilkins, City Treasurer addressed Council stating that Council previously approved a leak adjustment policy with the directive to come to Council if the request was for more than \$100. The request included in Council's packet today is for \$199.70. Ms. Wilkins feels like this is a valid request and recommends Council approve the City paying for fifty percent (50%) based on policy guidance. This is the only request made to the City thus far.

Following discussion, Kathy Canady made a motion to approve the Utility Leak Adjustment request in the full amount of \$199.70. Gram Lankford seconded the motion.

Motion passed on vote of 3 ayes, 0 nays, and 0 abstentions.

Discuss and consider action to initiate an annual Household Hazardous Waste Cleanup Day.

Nancy Sawyer, City Secretary provided information to Council on what is included and must be considered for a Household Hazardous Waste Cleanup Day for the City. The amount for this would be around \$15,000 for 100 families.

Council directed the City Secretary and staff to see if there are other, less expensive options that could be considered, including sharing the cost and service with the County or a neighboring city.

Discuss and consider directing staff to prepare a resolution welcoming Our Village back to the City of Liberty Hill.

Mayor Branigan stated she was not sure if Our Village ever left. Kathy Canady stated that they were not able to move into the City's building on RR 1869 due to COVID. She would like to welcome them back with a resolution.

On motion by Kathy Canady and second by Liz Rundzieher, Council directed staff to prepare a resolution welcoming Our Village back to the City.

Motion passed on vote of 3 ayes, 0 nays, and 0 abstentions.

UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS

And

MAYOR AND COUNCIL FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- Spring Cleanup Days
 - Curbside pickup on April 7, 8, and 9
 - Drop off at Municipal Court Parking Lot on April 10
- April 12, 2021 at Municipal Court
- April 26, 2021 at the **Liberty Hill Learning and Event Center**
- April 24, 2021 Workshop at the **Liberty Hill Learning and Event Center**

ADJOURNMENT

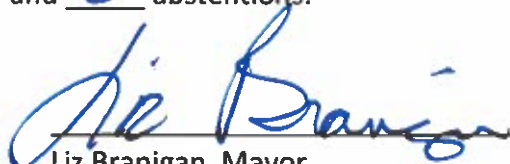
On motion by Liz Rundzieher and second by Gram Lankford, Council was adjourned.

Motion passed on vote of 5 ayes, 0 nays, and 0 abstentions.

PASSED AND APPROVED by the City Council of the City of Liberty Hill, Texas on Monday, April 26, 2021 on vote of 3 ayes, 0 nays, and 0 abstentions.



[seal]


Liz Branigan, Mayor


Nancy Sawyer, City Secretary

From: Christopher Pezold cjpezd@texas.com
Subject: Rumors of unethical behavior by current and past council and board members
Date: April 5, 2021 at 6:04 PM
To: Casey Pezold casey@1111yankee.com



Hello Council

After reading our local paper and the latest accusations made by Gram about rumors of Unethical behavior and him running on same platform that a few others on this council ran on two years ago.

I wanted to share an aphony that I had.

This town has a rumor problem.

The Citizens of Liberty Hill deserve to have full trust in their Council Members and Board Members.

This is unattainable if there are rumors spread about our City Leaders and Board Members.

There were rumors about me being unethical while I served on the Planning and Zoning board. The first I heard of these rumors was during your last campaigns..

There are also rumors about this Council's misappropriation of funds.

A lot of rumors floating around here.

The only thing that that we can control about rumors is how we react to them.

For example, When I first heard that I was accused of unethical behavior I reached out to everyone that I heard was speaking ill of me, Not one would return a call or an email.

When several of you where elected I came before this very Council and asked repeatedly for an investigation to clear my name.

This Council refused to give me one.

Over the past two years I have heard rumors about the unethical dealings of this council and former Mayor.

So how has this council reacted to rumors about themselves?

First - by "Policing Public Comments" and adding another layer of bureaucracy to the process of speaking before this council. So to prevent public discourse.

Second - by refusing to disclose how money has been spent over the last few years.

How people react to rumors speaks volumes.

We need full transparency for this town to come together.

I will yield the rest of my time for a little back and forth with the council.