



CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES
Monday, May 3, 2021 – 6:30 PM
2801 Ranch Road 1869, Liberty Hill, Texas

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 6:00 PM. In attendance were Liz Branigan, Mayor; Kathy Canady; Gram Lankford; and Tony DeYoung. Quorum was established.

The Invocation was provided by Pastor Dawn Slack, and Pledge of Allegiance, and Texas Pledge were recited.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

City Council was convened to Executive Session at 6:32 PM for discussion of the following items pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 551.071 (Consultation with Attorney), Section 551.072 (Deliberations about Real Property), Section 551.073 (Deliberations about Gifts and Donations), Section 551.074 (Personnel Matters), Section 551.076 (Deliberations about Security Devices), and Section 551.087 (Development).

Section 551.071 Consultation with Attorney

Consultation with Attorney to seek legal advice regarding pending or contemplated litigation, a settlement offer, or a matter on which the City Attorney has a duty to advise the City Council, including posted agenda items.

- Discuss and consider third amendment to the Butler Farms Development Agreement
- Discuss and consider threatened Clean Water Act litigation
- Discuss and consider TCEQ enforcement

No action was taken during Executive Session.

RECONVENE TO REGULAR SESSION

City Council was reconvened to Regular Session at 7:54 PM for deliberation of the following items pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 551.071 (Consultation with Attorney), Section

551.072(Deliberations about Real Property), Section 551.073 (Deliberations about Gifts and Donations), Section 551.074 (Personnel Matters), Section 551.076 (Deliberations about Security Devices), and Section 551.087 (Development).

Section 551.071 Consultation with Attorney

Consultation with Attorney to seek legal advice regarding pending or contemplated litigation, a settlement offer, or a matter on which the City Attorney has a duty to advise the City Council, including posted agenda items.

- Discuss and consider third amendment to the Butler Farms Development Agreement
- Discuss and consider threatened Clean Water Act litigation
- Discuss and consider TCEQ enforcement

On motion by Tony DeYoung and second by Kathy Canady, Council authorized the City Administrator to execute the third amendment to the Butler Farms Development Agreement. Motion passed on vote of 3 ayes, 0 nays, and 0 abstentions.

CONSENT AGENDA

Kathy Canady congratulated Ms. Wilkins for completing this certification. **On motion by Tony DeYoung and second by Gram Lankford, Council approved Consent Agenda items as presented.**

- Observe and record official Certificate of completion of Government Finance Officers Association of Texas Continuing Education Units for Becky Wilkins, City Treasurer.

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

REGULAR AGENDA

Discuss and consider possible action to authorize the City Administrator to negotiate and execute a mobile pilot agreement for biological nutrient recovery with Clearas Water Recovery.

Lacie Hale, City Administrator stated that the pilot program will go into effect two weeks after Suez is online at the wastewater treatment plant. This is about \$140/day for a total of around \$15,680. Staff recommends approval.

On motion by Kathy Canady and second by Tony DeYoung, Council authorized the City Administrator to negotiate and execute a mobile pilot agreement for biological nutrient recovery with Clearas Water Recovery in an amount not to exceed \$16,000.

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

Discuss and consider Resolution 21-R-05.03-01 adopting an amended cell phone policy.

Randy Hodges, IT Director presented to Council stating that in the past, employees left employment with the City and there was no way to access their phones. This policy provides staff with login information and secures controlled phones.

On motion by Tony DeYoung and second by Gram Lankford, Council adopted Resolution 21-R-05.03.01 adopting an amended cell phone policy.

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

Discuss and consider redirecting the \$40,000 unused mayoral stipend funds to place in the Events Budget for

- charitable contributions.
- or to make amends to the owners of 114 Hickman.

Mayor Branigan presented stating she declined the salary because she did not run for office for her own personal gain. After much deliberation, Mayor Branigan decided to defer these requests. She did state that she did not think allocating \$40,000 for sound equipment is a wise decision.

Kathy Canady stated that the City does not have a policy for charitable contributions and a Mayor cannot give public funds to make amends. Tony DeYoung stated that the Mayor had removed those options from consideration.

No action was taken.

Discuss and consider re-directing the \$40,000 unused mayoral stipend funds to purchase an upgraded sound system to allow for better service to the public at meetings.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Crystal Mancilla, 105 River View Road, addressed Council stating that sound quality of meetings has been an issue. She knows the city has purchased some equipment already. Ms. Mancilla stated she has experience in information technology and audio-visual. She thinks it is a good idea to get an expert in here. She would like Council to pause, and speak with professionals, then move forward.

Mayor Branigan asked Ms. Mancilla if she thought the estimate was out of line. Ms. Mancilla responded that she did not know but does think Council should consult an expert.

Randy Hodges, IT Director explained to Council the equipment needed, sources he used to determine that equipment, and the need for some of the equipment to integrate with Granicus, the agenda and streaming platform in use.

Following discussion, Kathy Canady made a motion to use \$16,005 of the unused mayoral stipend to purchase equipment to upgrade the audiovisual equipment used for Council and board meetings. Gram Lankford seconded the motion.

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

Update on memorial recognition of William "Bill" Pickett's contribution to and legacy in Liberty Hill.

Kathy Canady stated that at a previous meeting, Council approved signage and is wondering what the next steps are on installing that signage. Becky Wilkins, City Treasurer stated there is \$10,000 allocated for this.

Council directed Lacie Hale, City Administrator to look into this more.

UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS

and

MAYOR AND COUNCIL FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- Lacie Hale stated she would like to adjust the budget calendar to begin May 24 with workshops rather than May 10.
- May 12th will be the canvass for election

- For the budget workshops, Tony DeYoung stated department heads can provide information on where they land on their current budget with a history of past expenditures. Kathy Canady requested graphs as part of the budget presentations.
- Mayor Branigan stated she would like to get an expert to explain the budget. Tony DeYoung stated the city already has an expert in the form of Becky Wilkins, City Treasurer
- Ethics Policy will be added to the orientation for new and current Councilmembers.
- Lacie Hale introduced John Byrum, the new Senior Director of Planning.

ADJOURNMENT

On motion by Kathy Canady and second by Gram Lankford, Council was adjourned.

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

PASSED AND APPROVED by the City Council of the City of Liberty Hill, Texas on Monday, May 10, 2021 on vote of 3 ayes, 0 nays, and 0 abstentions.

[seal]




Liz Branigan, Mayor


Nancy Sawyer, City Secretary