

**REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING AND PUBLIC HEARING
OF THE GOVERNING BODY OF
THE CITY OF BLANCO**

**Meeting Minutes
April 13, 2021**

A regular meeting of the City Council, City of Blanco, Texas was held on April 13, 2021 at 6:00 pm at the Gem of the Hills, 2233 US Hwy. 281 N., Blanco, Texas.

The meeting was called to order at 6:01 pm by Mayor Pro-Tem Martin Saucedo, followed by roll call (Laurie Cassidy) announcing a quorum was present and the Pledge of Allegiance. Council members present: Mayor Pro-Tem Saucedo, Councilmembers McClellan, Smith, Lewis, and Divine.

City staff present: Will Daves, Ronnie Rodriguez, Laurie Cassidy, Chief Rubin and City Attorney Brad Bullock.

Old Business: Consider, discuss and take appropriate action on the following:

1. Consideration and possible action on COVID-19 update(s) and review City mask policy implemented July 14, 2020. Brad shared updates on the current mask requirements from the AG's office. Smith wants to follow Blanco County **A motion was made by Smith to follow Blanco County and extend the mask policy an additional 30 days, seconded by McClellan, all in favor.**

Mayor Pro-Tem Saucedo made the following announcements:

- Thank you to everyone who participated in the appreciation night at the park.
- Trash off this past weekend, big success, thanks to all participants, Public Works, Retta Martin, and others.
- Water Plant const. on-going, still have street closures.
- General Election is Saturday, May 1, 2021. Early Voting starts April 19 and goes through April 27. We will have two long days of early voting from 7:00 am to 7:00 pm on April 20 and April 22, 2021. Thank you to all who participated in the candidate forum last night.

Saucedo read the Proclamation for May National Historic Preservation Month.

Public comments from residents:

- Bullock stated the mask policy is still under appeal with the state.

Public Hearing

PH opened at 6:14 pm

Comments from residents:

- Susan Moore spoke as a member of the CMP review committee. She shared the information the committee gathered and how the updates were completed. She stated it has been updated twice. Table of contents lists all items which are included. Nothing will change until City Council assigns committee members to review each part.
Planning & Zoning Commission reviewed and approved in October. In March they held Public Hearing (with notice) and passed an updated assessment, all were in favor.

Closed Public Hearing at 6:21 pm.

Staff and Commission Presentation and Updates:

1. Police Department, Chief Rubin presented the monthly statistics report. Spent some of the grant money that was approved by council on training for officers. Chief Rubin was sworn in April 1 as the President of the Texas Police Chief's Association at a ceremony in Ft. Worth, Texas.
2. Public Works, Ronnie Rodriguez asked for council input on what type of reports they would like to see or hear updates on at our monthly meetings. Trash off was completed last Saturday. We are waiting on the dumpsters to be delivered so the trash can be sorted and hauled off. Water plant construction is on-going. Smith asked about the builder's risk policy. We have asked for quotes for additional coverage. Would like to see change order for additional work. Contractor does not have insurance on materials in the flood zone. We are going with the quote the general contractor gave us. Saucedo would like to see water usage report. Divine wants to know more about the cost of drilling new wells. Surface water is obtained from Canyon Lake or our water plant. Second option is groundwater thru wells (would be a back-up source, for supplemental needs only, quick, easy, fast results). Divine expressed her major concern with MUD coming to City and us drilling well and having to use it to support big growth.
3. City Hall, Will Daves, City Administrator gave an update on City Hall - Majestic Hills moved out, Task Force will have next meeting on Wednesday. City has hired a new Finance Director, under a 90-day contract to be reviewed every 30 days. After 90 days we can hire her full time or release her.
4. Cassidy shared details of the upcoming May 1 General Election. Ballots by mail have been mailed out. Early voting will be from April 19 through April 27 at City Hall. Election day the polls will be open from 7:00 am to 7:00 pm at the Byars Building.

Consent Agenda: Approval of Minutes from March 9 and March 23, 2021 Meeting. A motion was made by Smith to approve the March 9 and March 23 minutes as presented, seconded by Lewis all in favor.

Old Business: Consider, discuss and take appropriate action on the following:

2. Consideration and possible action on Comprehensive Master Plan Update. Saucedo thanked Moore for her work. He suggested council form committees to work on plan, small sections at a time. Need to add the cost of additional studies to our next budget. A motion was made by Smith to approve the updates to the comprehensive master plan as approved by the committee and Planning & Zoning Commission, seconded by McClellan, all in favor.

New Business: Consider, discuss and take appropriate action on the following:

1. Consideration and possible action on request to sound the noon/emergency whistle at noon reinstated for the Month of May. (Note: This is part of the National Historic Preservation Month. Many of the local citizens recall the daily whistle from just a few years ago). The horn broke, had an electrical issue and was then done manually for a while. Ben Oakley is concerned with desensitizing the community and has concerns with a real emergency being ignored. It would take some work to get up and running again. New timer cost could run us \$600 to \$800 plus cost of electrician. Right now it can only be done manually. Cost to come out of Parks and Streets budget for building maintenance. Money well spent if it can be used in an emergency. A motion was made by Smith to sound the noon/emergency whistle at noon in the month of May, seconded by McClellan, all in favor.
2. Consideration and possible action on street closure for Lavender Festival (June 11-13, 2021) presented by Chamber of Commerce. Tasha spoke on the following:
 - Closures are as follows: 3rd street from 281 to Pecan Street and Pecan Street from 2nd to 4th street.
 - Large barricade is requested to be placed at 3rd Street & 281. Signage will be added to the barricade requesting visitors NOT cross 281 and to use the crosswalk at the traffic light.
 - It would be appreciated if we could borrow the orange cones from the city. These are placed in various places to reserve parking places and block entrances during set up and tear down.
 - We very much appreciate the City's support of the festival for the past 15 years and we are hopeful for a successful year in 2021.
 - *Accommodations are made the night of the set up for customers of the pharmacy and the Blanco River Pizza Company. In the past the City has waived the fees. A motion was made by Lewis to approve the Chamber's requests and waive the City fees, seconded by Smith, all in favor.

3. Consideration and possible action on Resolution authorizing the submission of an application for the 2021-2022 TxCDBG Community Development Fund Grant. **A motion was made by Smith to approve the Resolution authorizing the submission of an application for the 2021-2022 TxCDBG Community Development Fund Grant, seconded by Divine, all in favor.**
4. Consideration and possible action on collection, distribution, and usage of rain water in the City of Blanco. Smith said the current UDC touches on this, cannot drain into the septic or connect to wastewater system. Residential use would require a backflow prevention device. Cost a few hundred dollars to a few thousand dollars. TCEQ requires a physical separation device between City water and rain water device. City has to have record of all residents and they must have a City permit. **No action taken** at this time—need further review by Council.. Would have to update our UDC. Need to look in the IBC code as well and ask for input from our City Engineer, Freeland Turk.

Break at 7:30 to 7:40 pm.

5. Consideration and possible action on Resolution adopting a Municipal Utility District Policy. Divine presented the draft policy. McClellan said there is a lot of miss-information out there. With a resolution it shows more transparency to the residents of Blanco. Brad spoke and said the policy needs to be reviewed and revised to ensure that all conditions apply to our City and that all conditions are enforceable by law. Secondly these are the guidelines we expect you as the developer to follow. Two separate agreements. Art could review for next meeting. **A motion was made by Smith to hire our legal counsel to review this MUD policy and create a separate development agreement policy for review next month, seconded by McClellan, four (4) in favor, opposed by Lewis.**
6. Consideration and possible action on disbursement of tuition reimbursement to Victoria DeReu. **A motion was made by McClellan to approve the tuition reimbursement to Victoria DeReu in the amount of \$921.00 per City's personnel policy, seconded by Smith, all in favor.**

Closed regular meeting at 8:22 pm, opened executive session at 8:25 pm.

Executive Session in accordance with Texas Government Code: in accordance with the authority contained in the Texas Government Code, Sections 551.071.

1. Texas Government Code Section 551.074 (Personnel Matters) to deliberate the appointment, employment, evaluation, reassignment, duties, discipline, or dismissal of a public officer or employee – City Administrator and City Secretary.

2. Texas Government Code Section 551.071 (Consultation with City Attorney) and Section 1.05, Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct. Confer with City Attorney regarding legal issues associated with the Wastewater Treatment Plant permit application (WQ0010549002).
3. Texas Government Code Section 551.071 (Consultation with City Attorney) and Section 1.05, Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct. Confer with City Attorney regarding Canyon Lake percentage of ownership in water service lines and related billings.

Close executive session at 9:28 pm and opened regular session at 9:28 pm.

Item #1, no action taken.

Item #2, no action taken.

Item #3, no action taken.

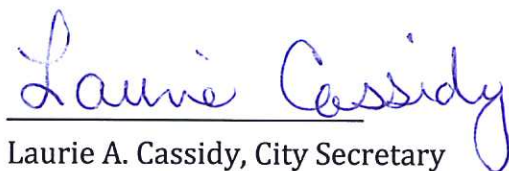
New Business (continued):

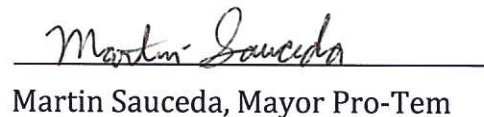
7. Consideration and possible action related to amendment of personnel policy manual related to office administrative functions. **No action taken.**

A motion was made by Smith to adjourn the meeting, seconded by McClellan, all in favor.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted by,


Laurie A. Cassidy, City Secretary


Martin Saucedo, Mayor Pro-Tem

These minutes were approved on the 11 day of May, 2021.