

**REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING
OF THE GOVERNING BODY OF
THE CITY OF BLANCO**

Meeting Minutes

June 8, 2021

A regular meeting of the City Council, City of Blanco, Texas was held on June 8, 2021 at 6:00 pm at the Byars Building, 308 Pecan Street., Blanco, Texas.

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm by Mayor Rachel Lumpee, followed by roll call (Laurie Cassidy) announcing a quorum was present. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor Lumpee. Council members present: Mayor Lumpee, Mayor Pro-Tem Saucedo, Councilmembers McClellan, Smith, Barron, and Divine.

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

Mayor Lumpee made the following announcements: As of May 21st the mask mandate has been lifted, congratulations to our Police Department for achieving recognition status for the best practices program, Lavender Fest starts at noon this Friday, Blanco county has declared June 14 as Flag Day and June 13-19 as flag week.

Public Comments:

- Billie Jean Kutzer spoke regarding the Blanco Historic Preservation Commission.
- Jay Palmer spoke regarding the wastewater discharge route.
- Harvie Lindeman spoke in favor of Resolution 2021-R-006 in support of preservation and protection of groundwater and the Trinity Aquifer.
- Dennis Arneson resident at 1006 12th Street spoke regarding the current poor condition of 12th Street. This unpaved road becomes a mud pit after rain storms. Can the City at least add road base to this street?
- Beckie Morris spoke in support of Resolution 2021-R-006 against groundwater management area 9's current and proposed desired future conditions of the Trinity Aquifer which is to allow a 30' drop of the aquifer.
- Gail McClellan introduced herself and expressed her interest in serving as a commissioner for the Blanco Historic Preservation Commission.
- Katherine Romans, Executive Director, Hill Country Alliance, voiced her support for item #9, a resolution and sponsorship agreement to join forces with the Hill Country Alliance to host educational forum.
- Pamela Prescott Capps, Commissioner with the Blanco Historic Preservation Commission asked Council to table item #3, the approval of the commissioner's term July 2021 to June 2023 until the Historic Preservation Commission has had time to review new applications.

Staff Presentations:

- City Hall (Will Daves) had no updates to report at this time.
- Public Works (Ronnie Rodriguez) The City of Blanco has implemented stage 1 water restrictions, this is standard procedure, pushing toward water conservation, completely voluntary at this time. Looking for 10-20% reduction in water usage. Water Treatment Plant construction is ongoing. Preparation is underway for Lavender Fest ; Parks & Streets will be taking care of the Square. Councilmember Barron asked about leadline mapping plans, Ronnie said we do not have lead and copper lines in the city at this time. Councilmember Barron said city has two years from July 1 to map all lines (TCEQ) money to be had. Councilmember McClellan asked about pilot program, we did a few years ago. We do have GIS on the wastewater collection system.
- Police Department, (Chief Rubin) presented the monthly statistics report, noting addition of "cases filed" line on report. Lavender Fest is this weekend and will have 24-hour police coverage. The Police Department has completed the best practices program with only 1 major and 3 minor discrepancies. Hope to have a formal presentation next month. October 30 will be the Real Ale Bike Ride.

Mayor Lumpee said we will now move on to the Consent Agenda.

Councilmember Barron asked to convene into executive session regarding item #1.

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.

City Administrator, Daves asked that item to be heard in open session. Attorney Bullock asked Mayor Lumpee to read item 1 and note that Daves has requested this item be discussed in open session. Councilmember Smith said he appreciates the work Daves has done but believes the city needs better leadership. After much discussion between councilmembers, **Councilmember Smith made a motion that Council thank Daves for accepting the role as City Administrator but as of this date we no longer need his services , in this position, council further requests that he resume his prior position as Code Enforcement, if he so desires, seconded by Councilmember Divine, four in favor, one opposed (Councilmember Saucedo), motion passed.**

Consent Agenda: *The following items may be acted upon in one motion.* No separate discussion or action is necessary unless requested by the Mayor or a Councilmember, in which those items will be pulled for separate consideration.

1. Approval of Minutes from the May 11, 2021 City Council meeting.
2. Approval of Minutes from May 25, 2021 City Council meeting with amendment to Item 1 proposal from Kelly Kuenstler regarding consultation and evaluation of staff and city structure to show motion made by Smith was **approved** by Council with a 3-2 vote. **A motion was made by Councilmember Barron to approve the minutes, seconded by Councilmember Divine, all in favor, motion passed unanimously.**

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

1. Discussion and possible action on ratification of Resolution 2021-R-003 adoption of MUD Policy. Council adopted the redline version at the May 11 meeting. Bullock said this is the cleaned-up version, no other changes were made. After discussion, **A motion was made by Councilmember Barron to ratify Resolution 2021-R-003, adoption of MUD Policy (ratifying the clean version that was previously approved), seconded by Councilmember McClellan, all in favor, motion passed unanimously.**
2. Discussion and possible action on collection, distribution, and usage of rain water in the City of Blanco. Smith said he will look to Attorney Bullock to write ordinance from bullet points. Supportive of having an ordinance allowing rainwater collection that protects our municipal water supply and prevents the possibility of cross contamination. Attorney Bullock stated Texas Local Government Code, Section 580.004 Rainwater Harvesting allows for city's ability to regulate rainwater collection. Further, a municipality may not deny a building permit solely because the facility will implement rainwater harvesting. However, a municipality may require that a rainwater harvesting system comply with the minimum state standards established for such a system. Bullock passed around to the Councilmembers one copy of a few articles from Texas Water Development Board regarding Rainwater Harvesting. **No action taken.**
3. Discussion and possible action on Resolution adopting a Development Agreement Policy. Councilmember Barron spoke regarding two areas needing review, the UDC and ordinances. Samples of development agreements were provided at previous council meeting What development items need to be addressed that are not covered in the UDC and current ordinances and checklists?. Councilmember McClellan shared citizens don't want houses so close together. Zoning should come into play here regarding housing and lot sizes. Attorney Bullock is happy to provide workshop for Council. **No action taken.**

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

1. Discussion and possible action on approval of Resolution 2021-R-004 renewal of Municipal Court Judge. **A motion was made by Councilmember Barron to approve resolution 2021-R-004 renewing the appointment of the presiding Judge of the Blanco Municipal Court of the City of Blanco, Texas, seconded by Councilmember Smith, all in favor, motion passed unanimously.**
2. Discussion and possible action on approval of commissioners for the Planning & Zoning Commission (term July 2021 through June 2023). At last night's Planning & Zoning meeting two additional members were approved (Brandon Carlson and Heinz Roesch). Members to be approved include Susan Moore, Chair, Trey Priour, Vice Chair, Brandon Carlson, Christine Anderson, Heinz Roesch, Loris Perkins, and Neil Neyens. **A motion was made by Councilmember Smith to approve the current Planning & Zoning Commissioners for the term July 2021 through June 2023 as recommended by the Planning & Zoning Commission seconded by Councilmember Barron, all in favor, motion passed unanimously.**
3. Discussion and possible action on approval of commissioners for the Blanco Historic Preservation Commission (term July 2021 through June 2023). Councilmember Divine spoke and suggested Council wait until the Historic Preservation Commission has had a chance to meet, review and consider new applications for approval. There are currently 6 approved commissioners. Discussed possibly staggering the terms of commissioners. **A motion was made by Councilmember Divine to postpone the appointment of Historic Preservation Commissioners until next month, seconded by Councilmember Smith, all in favor, motion passed unanimously.**

4. Discussion and possible action on approval of Resolution 2021-R-005 supporting City of Blanco's application to the Texas Department of Transportation's 2021 Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside (TA) Call For Projects (Blanco Wheels & Feet). Laura Swinson, President of Blanco Wheels & Feet spoke and explained that two applications made it to the second round (Blanco Avenue Project and Chandler Street Project) The applications are due on Monday and should be awarded in October. Councilmember Barron asked about the cost of the project and the transportation credits. City of Blanco would submit for reimbursements monthly, it's a 30-40-day process. City qualifies for credit toward their 20%. Funds come from toll roads. We will be covered unless we go over on the project budget and would need to start construction of the project within 3 years. City would request bids and part of contract can be contingent on staying on budget, and cover cash draws, Councilmember Smith asked Rodriguez for his comments on maintenance items. **A motion was made by Councilmember Barron to approve the Resolution 2021-R-005, City of Blanco's application to the Texas Department of Transportation's 2021 Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside (TA) Call For Projects, seconded by Councilmember Saucedo, all in favor, motion passed unanimously.**
5. Discussion and possible action ratifying proposal from City Hall Solutions Essentials/ Kelly Kuenstler regarding consultation and evaluation of staff and city structure (Councilmember Smith) Kuenstler said she is available if council has any questions. A motion was made by Councilmember Smith to approve the ratification of proposal from Kelly Kuenstler and include interim city administrator services as needed for the next 45 days. Attorney Bullock said he had legal advice to discuss in executive session. Councilmember Smith asked Mayor Lumpee to convene into executive session.

The City Council convened into executive session at 7:49 pm in accordance with the authority contained in the Texas Government Code, Section 1.05.

Closed executive session at 8:21 pm and returned to open session.

Councilmember Smith withdrew previous motion and made a motion to ratify the proposal from City Hall Solutions Essentials, Kelly Kuenstler regarding consultation and evaluation of staff and city structure, seconded by Councilmember McClellan, four in favor, one opposed (Councilmember Saucedo), motion passed.

6. Discussion and possible action on creation of ordinance for placement of trash receptacles on city road(s) or in public right-of-way(s) (Councilmember Smith) Councilmember Smith said he has been working with city staff regarding dumpster in right-of-way. Chief Rubin shared additional information about two statutes; Transportation Code Section 311.002 and Local Government Code 282.002 (ordinance is not necessary), proposes we contact resident and let them know they are in violation and ask them to move the dumpster, city has ability to ask to be removed. Two options can be taken to correct the issue: 1) resident can trim the trees and relocate the dumpster or 2) ask the dumpster company to stop leaving the dumpster in the right-of-way. Councilmember Smith thanked Chief Rubin for his assistance. **No Action Taken**
7. Discussion and possible action on water restrictions (drought) (Councilmember Divine). Councilmember Divine suggested the City follow the same water restriction guidelines as Canyon Lake. Bullock recommended if that is the wish of Council they should create and pass a resolution. **No Action Taken**

8. Discussion and possible action on proposed desired future conditions and proposed non-relevant aquifer classification (Groundwater Public Hearing) (Councilmember Divine) Councilmember Divine spoke regarding the upcoming public hearing being held by the Groundwater Management Area 9 Joint Planning Committee and their proposed desired future conditions including drawdown of 30 feet. There was much discussion between councilmembers. Councilmember Divine proposed the city express its opposition to the drawdown. Councilmember Barron said it's our water its only one water. Councilmember Divine would like the number to be lower. **A motion was made by Councilmember Divine to adopt a resolution (2021-R-006) of the City of Blanco, Texas, providing comments toward the Groundwater Management Area 9 Joint Planning to adopt desired future conditions; making findings of fact; and providing for related matters, seconded by Councilmember Barron, all in favor, motion passed unanimously.**
9. Discussion and possible action on Town Hall meeting regarding zoning co-sponsored with Hill Country Alliance and approval of \$1,000 one-time sponsorship for the forum (Councilmember Barron). Councilmember Barron spoke saying there has been much discussion lately regarding zoning and said there is a lot of misunderstanding about what zoning is, how it is important, and how it can be used. She went on to quote "Zoning is the single strongest regulatory tool municipalities have to steer the development in use of land". We have an opportunity to host forum with Hill Country Alliance and Matt Lewis of Simplecity.Design. The City fee is \$1,000, no charge to the residents. Hill Country Alliance to underwrite the remaining fee. 2-3 hours forum starting with a walking tour of the Blanco Square.

Hoping to defuse some of the anger and increase understanding. Katherine Romans, Executive Director, Hill Country Alliance spoke and said we are early in the planning process and would love to work with the City. Susan Moore, Planning & Zoning, Chair said she has been working on zoning for past two years. Everyone is concerned about their city, the water, overcrowding and how to control the growth. Susan said what Councilmember Barron has proposed is a great idea. The more information you have the better. Planning & Zoning appreciates the help of City Council. Councilmember Smith asked about the time frame of the meetings and said it would be beneficial to have the townhall forum before Planning & Zoning makes their final recommendation. Moore said they are planning to hold a public hearing the week of June 21, then vote on the zoning at the regular Planning & Zoning meeting in July and take to City Council in August. **A motion was made by Councilmember Barron that the City work with the Hill Country Alliance to support a town hall meeting in conjunction with Simplecity to discuss planning and zoning activities in small towns of the hill country and the City under write this workshop at a cost of \$1,000, seconded by Councilmember Smith, all in favor, motion passed unanimously.**
10. Discussion and possible action on request to reinstate sounding of Noon Whistle, on a regular Monday through Friday schedule. Ronnie spoke regarding the desensitizing of the emergency sound. New timer system has been upgraded from manual set up on a weekly timer. **Councilmember Smith made a motion to reinstate the sounding of the noon siren on a regular Monday-Friday schedule, effective tomorrow and continue until further action, seconded by Councilmember McClellan, all in favor, motion passed unanimously.**

At 8:59 pm Mayor Lumpee convened into executive session in accordance with the authority contained in the Texas Government Code, Section 551.071 (Consultation with City Attorney) and Section 1.05, Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct.

- 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).

Close executive session at 9:24 pm and returned to regular session.

Item #2 - **No action taken**

Adjournment

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

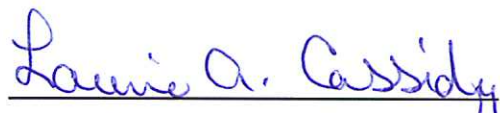
Meeting was adjourned at 9:25 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Rachel Lumpee, Mayor

ATTEST:



Laurie A. Cassidy, City Secretary

These minutes were approved on the 13 day of July, 2021.

