

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

**Meeting Minutes  
June 11, 2024**

A regular meeting of the City Council, City of Blanco, Texas was held on June 11, 2024, 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 Arnold, followed by roll call announcing a quorum was present. The Invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Ric Walters. Council members present: Mayor Arnold, Mayor Pro-Tem Mack-McClung and Council Members Swinson, Moses, Cargill, and Moore.

City staff present: Warren Escovy, City Administrator, Laurie Cassidy, City Secretary, and Interim Chief/Lt. Jerry Thornhill.

Mayor Arnold made the following announcement:

- 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Lavender Festival was a success

**Public Comments:**

- Trey Atchley, Blanco County resident, spoke regarding public safety and use of precious resources. He urged the Council to make public safety and staffing of Police Department a priority.
- Kenneth Welch, Blanco County resident, spoke 1) against the use of Certificates of Obligation, 2) Pecan Bottom Park, and 3) Transportation Committee, requests to be added to the Council agenda to update the Council on the progress and direction that TPAC is going regarding the considerations surrounding US-281.
- Retta Martin, City of Blanco resident, spoke regarding the Pecan Bottom Park and the Rock Wall which is in need of repair.
- Valerie Shoemaker, City of Blanco resident, spoke regarding the Pecan Bottom Park. She does not believe you have to spend a lot of money to make improvements to the park, just need something simple for the children to play on, the City needs a playground. \$2,200 donation was made to KBB specifically for the Pecan Bottom Park.

**PUBLIC HEARING: (Opened and closed at 6:13 pm)**

- Final Public Hearing for the CDBG Contract #CDV21-0456 Generator project at the Main Lift Station, Janell Foster, Langford Community Management Services. **No public Comments.**

**PROCLAMATIONS:**

**Mayor Arnold read the following Proclamations:**

1. Flag Day and Week Proclamation
2. Texas Wildlife Habitats Proclamation, honoring Sheryl Smith-Rodgers and James Hearn.

## PRESENTATIONS:

1. Blanco County Conservation Initiative, Bob Heinonen spoke to the Council in Bill Sisak's absence. He gave an overview of the history and best practices.
2. Capital Improvements & Asset Management Advisory Committee, Brandon Carlson gave the presentation with included current road conditions and rating chart from February 2022, water distribution system, and wastewater collection system, HR Green 2019 assessment, and Blanco CIP potential financial scenario.
3. New Police Officer Kaley Gassmann was sworn in.
4. Streetscape Committee update was presented by Eric Burkhart. He said an updated letter of agreement with Sue Ann Pemberton was signed yesterday. Budget projection, to be completed, design surveying engineering, close to one million dollars. Two-pronged effort, community engagement and education. Key word is preservation of Blanco. Mailouts are going out next week. Will be holding various events this year.

## Staff Presentations:

- Police Department, Acting Chief/Lt. Thornhill presented the May Monthly Report.

**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 Council Member, in which those items will be pulled for separate consideration.

1. Approval of Minutes from the May 14, 2024, Regular Meeting.
2. Approval of Minutes from the May 30, 2024, Special Meeting.

**A motion was made by Mayor Pro-Tem Mack-McClung to approve the consent agenda items one and two as amended (May 30, Old Business Item 1, Council Member Moses made the motion), seconded by Council Member Moses, all in favor, motion carried unanimously.**

## NEW BUSINESS: Consider, discuss, and take appropriate action on the following:

1. *(NB Item 4 moved up)* Consideration and Discussion (No Action) on a proposal from County Administration to move a helipad from Blanco High School to a location at Security State Bank. Mayor Pro-Tem Mack-McClung introduced Charles Riley and Tommy Weir to explore the idea of moving helipad from the current location at the Blanco High School to an alternative location near Security State Bank and Trust. The Council discussed. **No Action Taken.**
2. Consideration, Discussion, and Take Possible Action on Promotion of Interim Chief/Lt. Jerry Thornhill to Chief of Police. Warren Escovy, City Administrator spoke of all the hard work that Jerry Thornhill has done. Recommend Jerry Thornhill be promoted to Chief of Police. **A motion was made by Council Member Cargill to promote Jerry Thornhill to Chief of Police, seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Mack-McClung, all in favor, motion carried unanimously.**
3. Consideration, Discussion, and Take Possible Action on Approval of Cost Sharing Agreement between the City of Blanco and Akil Momin Regarding the Proposed Convenience Store and Gas Station. Warren Escovy, City Administrator spoke regarding a cost sharing agreement between the city and Neighbors Market. Build sewer line within 18 months and they agree to contribute \$95,000 to the cost. Staff recommends the Council direct staff to finish a cost sharing agreement with Neighbors Market. HR Green is completing the capacity study. **A motion was made by Council Member Swinson to direct the staff to finish a cost sharing agreement with Neighbors Market, seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Mack-McClung, motion carried 4-1 with Council Member Moore opposed.**

4. Consideration, Discussion, and Take Possible Action on Approval of Resolution 2024-R-014, Pecan Bottom Park (Mayor Arnold). Council Member Swinson recused herself and Council Member Moore recused himself from this item, they both own adjoining properties. The Council discussed. **No Action Taken** (work with Warren and bring back next month).
5. Consideration and Discussion (No Action) on Introduction to Street Lights and Signage inside the City. Chief Thornhill spoke regarding increasing street lighting 4<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> streets conduct a survey to increase street lighting for safety. Secondly, complete survey to access missing signage. Need a couple of residents input and asking for one council member to assist with this project along with the Gosnell's. Council Member Moses volunteered to assist with this project. **No action Taken.**

**OLD BUSINESS: Consider, discuss, and take appropriate action on the following:**

1. Consideration, Discussion, and Take Possible Action on Formation of Grants Committee. Warren Escovy spoke regarding the formation of Grants Committee. Vision of 4 to 5 people from different parts of town. Need most assistance with finding the correct grants that the City is qualified to apply for and focus on smaller grants. Larger grants we use Langford Grant Management Services. Next step is to create committee (will come up with names to be approved next month). **A motion was made by Council Member Moses to take action on formation of grant committee, seconded by Council Member Moore, all in favor, motion carried unanimously.**

**Closed regular meeting and convened into executive session at 7:35 pm.**

**Executive Session in accordance with Texas Government Code:** in accordance with the authority contained in the Texas Government Code, Sections 551.071, 551.072, and 551.074.

1. Texas Government Code Sections 551.071 (Consultation with City Attorney) and Section 1.05, Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct; Confer with City Attorney regarding City Water Agreements with Texas Water Company
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 Water Treatment Plant Project; Bids, Contract. Award and Notice to Proceed.
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 Review of Current Contract between City of Blanco and Tim Tuggey Law.

**Closed executive session at 8:45 pm and convened into regular meeting.**

**Adjournment:**


**A motion was made by Council Member Moore to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Council Member Cargill, all in favor.**

**The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 pm.**

Respectfully submitted,

  
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Mike Arnold, Mayor

ATTEST:

  
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Laurie A. Cassidy, City Secretary

These minutes were approved on the 9 day of July, 2024.

