

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

**Meeting Minutes
August 30, 2022, 6:00 pm**

A special meeting of the City Council, City of Blanco, Texas was held on August 30, 2022, 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 Barron, Council Members Smith, McClellan, Thraikill, and Divine.

City staff present: Warren Escovy, Laurie Cassidy, Sasha Ricks, and Chief Scott Rubin.

Mayor Lumpee made the following announcements:

- A new page has been added to our City website for the City of Blanco Highway 281 Task Force. We will continue to work diligently and be transparent with the process.
- Blanco High School will be having its homecoming week next week. The parade will take place on Wednesday at 6; the game against Comfort on Friday at 7:30. Go Panthers!
- Lights out Texas campaign is back for the full bird migration which will be between August 15- Nov. 30. Citizens are encouraged to turn off nonessential outdoor lighting from 11 pm to 6 am for the birds.
- The Aging Well at Home program will take place at Gem of the Hills on Aug. 31 from 12:30 to 1:30.
- The next "Reading between the Wines" program will be on Sept. 7 from 5:30-7 at the Blanco Library.
- Buggy Barn Museum and Pine Moore town will be hosting their annual law enforcement and first responders' appreciation ceremony on Sept. 10 at 11 am.

Public Comments:

- Pastor Carlos Cloyd, 61 Pecan Street, Blanco Texas spoke in opposition of the vape store location. He fully supports local businesses. He does not believe the vape store should be located so close to the churches, playground, and state park. There is a big concern over abuse of marijuana, vaping, and alcohol. Common sense not to have a store in this location on Main Street.
- Kat Staas, 400 John Price, Blanco, member of Methodist church, concerned about teen use of vape products. What steps will business take to ensure teens are not using these products? This is not in the best interest of Blanco residents.
- Susan Moore, Blanco resident spoke saying it is unwise to have the sale of vape products in close location to church, playground, and park. Children should not be exposed to these products.

Proclamation:

Mayor Lumpee read the Blanco Preparedness Month Proclamation.

Hearing on Appeal of Vested Rights Determination—Vapor Genius:

Mr. Tuggey, City Attorney explained the documents before Council tonight include, the Ordinance passed by Council, copy of letter from Vapor Genius lawyer requesting vested rights determination, copy of letter from City denying vesting rights, and copy of letter from Vapor Genius lawyer appealing City's vested rights determination. Mr. Eric Gomez, attorney for Vapor Genius spoke and introduced Mr. Paul Dunn, Owner of Vapor Genius. He spoke saying he hears the citizen concerns. His intentions and business history; in 2004 his mother passed away from emphysema and he found his son smoking on the roof. How can we move away from smoking? Switched to vaping as a better alternative. Expanded from there to CBD products to help people with other health issues. His stores checks ID on all persons under 25. The business is not here to get youth hooked on e-cigarettes. He wants to be a positive part of the community **(No Action Taken)**.

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

1. Consideration, Discussion, and Take Action on Approval of Insurance Contract in the amount of \$156,960.48 for Fiscal Year 2022-2023 Through Texas Municipal League (TML), Between Blue Cross Blue Shield and the City of Blanco (Sasha Ricks, Finance Director). Sasha Ricks presented PowerPoint presentation explaining the cost breakout received from TML Health. City will be receiving a cost savings of \$16,343.28 per year from current expense without having to use the 12% budgeted increase. Sasha introduced Derek from TML Health. Mayor Lumpee asked Sasha again if she is comfortable taking over the role of administrator of the health program, Sasha said yes. **A motion was made by Council Member Smith to approve the recommendation to enter into insurance contract in the amount of \$156,960.48 for fiscal year 2022-2023 through TML between Blue Cross Blue Shield and the City of Blanco, seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Barron, all in favor, motion carried unanimously.**
2. Consideration, Discussion, and Take Action on Approval of SCADA Upgrade/ Replacement for Blanco Distribution System at a Cost of \$151,820.00. Take Action on Approval of Inframark Funding the Project Through a Work Authorization. (Damon Berryman, Inframark). Damon Berryman said the system is over 20 years old and has reached its life expectancy. Mayor Pro-Tem Barron asked what the timeline is for getting this done? Damon said December for the microchip/IO card, but can start with smaller items first, have boxes built, electronics put in. Wastewater is done (except of lift station), this will complete the water system. Council Member Smith asked about Inframark funding, Damon said can do a work authorization and put up the funding, to be carried over a 3 year term with a cost of 20% interest. Mr. Escovy said the cost is \$151,710 plus the 20% or an additional \$30,342. Decision on Council's part is between use of existing reserve funds from City or pay additional interest fee to have Inframark fund. Vendor will request percentage of 20% upfront.

Going from analog antenna to cellular data. Company is out of Georgetown. The lowest Inframark will go is 15%. Warren will look at third party financing. Can City put the 20% down and look at other options? **A motion was made by Council Member Smith to approve the replacement of the SCADA system at a cost of \$151,710.00 and authorize Warren Escovy to initiate a down payment of no more than 50% from reserve funds and provide Council with options on funding of additional 50% of the cost, seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Barron, all in favor, motion carried unanimously.**

Closed special meeting at 6:43 pm and adjourned into executive Session.

Texas Government Code Section 551.071 (Consultation with City Attorney), Section 1.05, Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct to wit, Discussion with legal counsel regarding Vapor Genius vested rights appeal.

Closed executive session at 7:15 pm and moved into regular meeting.

No action was taken in Executive Session.

Adjournment:

A motion was made by Mayor Pro-Tem Barron to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Council Member Divine, all in favor.

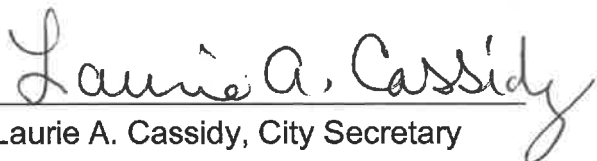
Meeting was adjourned at 7:16 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Rachel Lumpee, Mayor

ATTEST:



Laurie A. Cassidy, City Secretary

These minutes were approved on the 13 day of September, 2022.

