

**SPECIAL MEETING AND BUDGET WORKSHOP
OF THE GOVERNING BODY OF
THE CITY OF BLANCO**

**Meeting Minutes
August 31, 2021, 3:00 pm**

A special meeting and budget workshop of the City Council, City of Blanco, Texas was held on August 31, 2021, at 3:00 pm at the Byars Building, 308 Pecan Street, Blanco, Texas.

The meeting was called to order at 3:05 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 (via video conference), Councilmembers Barron, Smith, Divine and McClellan.

City staff present Kelly Kuenstler, Linda Coones, Laurie Cassidy, Ronnie Rodriguez, and Chief Rubin.

Mayor Lumpee made the following announcements: the City offices will be closed for Labor Day; Blanco County Covid cases is at 92 active as of August 30, 2021; CAPCOG has declared September as National Preparedness Month.

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. None

Mayor Lumpee moved New Business items up on the agenda before the Budget Workshop.

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

1. Discussion and Possible Action on Approval of Resolution 2021-R-009 to add Mayor, Mayor Pro-Tem, and Councilmember Keith J. McClellan to Texas Regional Bank (Kelly Kuenstler, Interim City Administrator). Ms. Kuenstler presented PowerPoint presentation. On December 8, 2020, Council approved a purchase of two police vehicles at an approved cost of \$67,570. The FY 2021 budget had \$30,000 for gates and fencing. This amount was to be reduced by \$17,000 towards the purchase of the vehicles. A budget amendment of \$17,000 was to be done to move gate and fencing expenses to vehicles. Texas Regional Bank, in order to complete the financing of new Police vehicles, has requested a City Resolution approving the Mayor and Mayor Pro-Tem as signors on the note. **A motion was made by Councilmember Barron to approve resolution 2021-R-009, with addition of Councilmember Keith J. McClellan's full name, seconded by Smith, all in favor, motion passed unanimously.**

2. Discussion and Possible Action on the Submission of a USDA Emergency Water Communities Assistance Grant and Accompanying Resolution 2021-R-010 (Kelly Kuenstler, Interim City Administrator). Ms. Kuenstler presented PowerPoint. Judy Langford asked to possibly write this USDA grant for the City and said she would rollover her costs into the Grant. This grant is for alternative water sources and would add a third water source for the City. Recommendation is that Council approve this resolution so that the process can move forward. Note on Resolution to change City Manager to City Administrator. **A motion was made by Councilmember Smith to approve Resolution 2021-R-010 with change from City Manager to City Administrator, seconded by Councilmember Barron, all in favor, motion passed unanimously.**
3. Discussion and Possible Action on the Submission of a PIF to the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) (Kelly Kuenstler, Interim City Administrator and Tom Turk, Freeland Turk Engineering Group). Application is due by 5:00 pm today. Kelly Kuenstler and Tom Turk did PowerPoint presentation. Submission of the PIF to include 1) Lift Station Project; 2) 9.2-million-gallon effluent holding pond; 3) start up water reuse system; and 4) four sanitary sewer replacement projects. **A motion was made by Councilmember Barron to submit application of Project Information Form (PIF) to the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) on behalf of the City as outlined by our City Engineer, Tom Turk, seconded by Councilmember McClellan, four (4) in favor, Councilmember Smith recused himself, motion passed.**
4. Discussion and Possible Action on Amendment to the City of Blanco's Water Conservation and Drought Contingency Plan (Kelly Kuenstler, Interim City Administrator and Tom Turk, Freeland Turk Engineering Group). Ms. Kuenstler spoke and presented slides on amendments to City's water conservation plan. Part of the PIF (discussed earlier) calls for reducing consumption of water. The purpose of this amendment is to add water reuse system as well as sustaining and ensuring a safe community water supply. Reclaimed water can be used for construction, to irrigate parks, athletic fields, and yards in the City. The City's goal is to reduce the water demand by one million gallons in five years, and up to two million gallons in 10 years by distributing the same amount of reclaimed water to Blanco customers. Councilmember Divine asked to add rainwater into the plan in the future. Councilmember Barron would like to discuss the plan in a future town hall meeting. **A motion was made by Councilmember Barron to adopt the City's Water Conservation and Drought Contingency Plan as amended with the addition to Section III, Specific, Quantified five and 10-year Targets and Goals, C. Development of a Water Reuse System, seconded by Councilmember Smith, all in favor, motion passed unanimously.**
5. Discussion and Possible Action on Passing Ordinance No. 2021-O-006, regarding Adoption of Open Records Policy and Rescinding Resolution 2020-R-008 (Kelly Kuenstler, Interim City Administrator). Ms. Kuenstler spoke regarding resolution passed in 2020. Brad said resolutions only set forth policy while ordinances enforce fees. State statute limits per requestor 36 hours annually. This ordinance will clean up and properly format what's allowed under state law.

A motion was made by Councilmember Barron to adopt Ordinance 2021-O-006 regarding Adoption of Open Records Policy and Rescinding Resolution 2020-R-008, seconded by Councilmember Divine, all in favor, motion passed unanimously.

Public Comments:

- Justin Pulliam, Fort Bend County, spoke via video conference regarding New Business item #5 Ordinance pertaining to open records requests, he stated he is against the passing of this ordinance.

Closed special meeting at 4:07 pm and open executive session.

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

1. 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).
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 and Sewer Line Extension Agreement.
3. Texas Government Code Section 551.071 (Consultation with City Attorney), Confer with City Attorney Regarding Possible Reuse Water Application and Possible Exchange of Reuse Water for Easement to Benefit City.

Closed executive session at 5:01 pm and open regular session.

No action taken on Executive Session Items 1 through 3.

Budget Workshop

1. Budget Discussion, Workshop #4.

A motion was made by Councilmember Smith to approve the 2022 holiday leave schedule as presented in Slide #28, with the note that Good Friday is a half day, seconded by Councilmember Divine, all in favor, motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Councilmember Smith to deny the request for additional positions, (3 additional police officers, 1 additional public works person, 1 additional finance person) with note, the City Administrator has the authority to hire contract labor, finance person at a cap of \$35,000.00 seconded by Councilmember Barron, all in favor, motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Councilmember Saucedo to approve the 2.2% COLA increase for all employees, seconded by Councilmember Divine, four in favor, Councilmember Smith opposed, motion passed.


A motion was made by Councilmember Smith to approve the salaries to market as outlined in the proposed budget, seconded by Councilmember Barron, four in favor, Councilmember Saucedo opposed, motion passed.

Adjournment

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

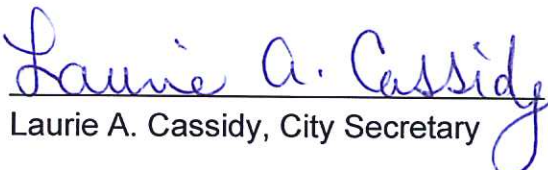
Meeting was adjourned a 6:53 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Rachel Lumpee, Mayor

ATTEST:



Laurie A. Cassidy, City Secretary

These minutes were approved on the 12 day of October, 2021.

