

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

**Meeting Minutes
September 13, 2022**

A regular meeting and public hearing of the City Council, City of Blanco, Texas was held on September 13, 2022, at 6:00 pm at the Gem of the Hills, 2233 US 281, 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, and Council Members Smith, McClellan, and Divine. Council Member Thrailkill was absent.

City staff present: Warren Escovy, Laurie Cassidy, Jonathan Wheeler, and Chief Scott Rubin.

Mayor Lumpee made the following announcements:

- Blanco County burn ban remains off at this time.
- The City of Blanco remains on Stage 2 water restrictions.
- The City of Blanco HWY 281 Task Force will have its first meeting this Friday at 11:30. The TxDOT in-person open house will be held at the high school cafeteria on Sept. 29 from 5-7 p.m. TxDOT will also have a virtual public meeting regarding the project from Sept. 29 at 5 p.m. to Oct. 14 at 11:59 p.m. The public meeting will provide an opportunity for the public to review and comment on project information and updates and proposed alternatives. The relief route study is separate from this project.
- I spoke with Blanco State Park and the gate at Bindseil Park will be back open in Oct. through March, but a Texas State Park Pass is required for entry through that gate and visits should be reported to the park office.
- The deadline for entries for Blanco County Friends of the Night Sky's Hill Country Night Sky song-writing contest is Sept. 15. On Oct. 2, BCFNS will be hosting a live performance of the songs submitted at Gem of the Hills at 6 p.m. Citizens will help chose the winner.
- The Chamber will be hosting a ribbon-cutting event for Gary Currier, Attorney/CPA on Thurs. Sept. 15 at 4 p.m.
- Hill Country Alliance along with Blanco county residents are hosting a Conservation Event at Gem of the Hills this Thursday from 6 -8:30 p.m.
- Gem of the Hills will have its first Forest Bathing event on Sept. 21 from 12:30 to 2:30
- Blanco Performing Arts will be hosting Artonic Quartet at 3 p.m. on Sept. 25 at the Uptown Blanco Ballroom.
- The Ladies State Chili Championship of Texas will be held at Yett Park, Sept. 16-19.
- Blanco Market Days will take place on Sept. 17 from 9 to 4 on the Courthouse lawn.
- The 33rd annual Blanco Classic Car Show will be held on Sept. 17 at the Blanco State Park. The gates will open at 8 a.m. and the awards ceremony will around 1 p.m.
- Blanco County Household Hazardous Waste Collection event is scheduled for Sat., Sept. 24 from 8 - 2.
- Twin Sisters Dancehall "Raise the Roof" cook-off and festival will be held Sept. 23-24
- The 23rd Annual Wild Game Dinner will be held on Oct. 1 at 4 p.m. at the Blanco County Show Barn in Johnson City.
- Old Blanco County Courthouse will be having its 32nd annual gala on Oct. 8.

- The next “Reading between the Wines” program will be on Oct. 9 from 5:30-7 at GOTH.
- The second annual Marigold Festival is right around the corner, Oct. 22-29.
- Please note that the city’s annual lighted holiday parade will be taking place the THIRD weekend of December this year, Dec. 17. This will also be the date for the Market Days in Dec.
- Lastly, I would like to thank all of our City Staff, Inframark, Commission/Committee volunteers, and most importantly our citizens for working together to better our City. I feel very fortunate to live and serve in such a wonderful community.

Public Comments:

- Jacob Ashley, resident at 617 9th Street, spoke regarding stop work order he received (zero foot setback), not happy with how situation was handled by the City permit process, seeking speedy and positive resolution.
- Nancy Arnold, resident at 1905 4th Street, spoke out against the new community compliance officer and the code ordinances stating multiple incidents. She went on to state a council member’s primary home is in Austin, not Blanco.
- Susan Moore, resident at 390 Blanco Ave spoke out against vaping and shared an article from the Mayo Clinic, Q and A on Vaping health risks for teens.
- Brian Davis, of Canyon Lake spoke out against vaping and shared information from an article titled “Vaping is now banned in public spaces across Houston”.
- Pastor Carlos Cloyd of the United Methodist Church said he is praying for Council and thanked them for their service. He spoke against vesting of the vape store citing the poor location. The Methodist church has served the area since 1883 and there are two other churches close by as well. He said he is not against small businesses; it is all about the location.
- Donald A Smyth, property owner at 1814 Brushy Top Trail spoke against vaping, store, stating it is in the wrong location, too close to access of young people.
- Sarah Knippa, resident at 916 9th Street, dressed up and clucked like a chicken.
- John Sone, business owner at 1725 S US 281 spoke regarding the administration building permit process, the City’s denial of his building permit request and his appeal.
- Laurie Cassidy, City Secretary shared information from the Texas Local Government Code, Section 22.032 Qualification of Members of Governing Body. (a) To be eligible for the office of mayor of the municipality, a person must be a registered voter and must have resided within the municipal limits for at least the 12 months preceding the election day.

Proclamation:

Mayor Lumpee read the Hill Country Night Sky Proclamation.

Closed regular meeting at 6:27 pm and open public hearing.

Public Hearing:

1. Voluntary Annexation of 4.09 Acre Property at Rocky Road Estates located in the Horace Eggleston Survey No. 24, Abstract No. 1, Blanco County, Texas

Warren Escovy said the applicant wants to revise his plan and will be back next month. No other comments.

Closed public hearing at 6:28 pm and opened regular meeting.

Staff Presentations:

- City Hall, Warren Escovy, City Administrator shared the following: the City is currently under Stage 2 water restrictions, Council and staff recently participated in the Blanco ISD Homecoming Parade, code enforcement is focused on such items as the tall grass and loose animals ordinance, administration is working on public safety, restriping to begin soon at 4th and Pecan Street, reminder on September 29, from 5-7 pm, TxDOT is holding an open house, come speak to representatives and they will give a presentation, focus on community improvement, City is looking at new grant opportunities since the community does need financial help, and water/sewer line close to getting council approval with developer.
- Police Department, Chief Rubin presented the August 2022 Monthly Statistics Report. Active shooter training in process, have one grant they are working on.
- Inframark, Damon Berryman said they are working on finalizing SCADA project, he shared noteworthy events, discussed the ongoing maintenance and repairs, and City equipment and facilities, wastewater operations, shared the wastewater effluent flows chart, water operations, irrigation operations, collection and distribution, health and safety, and personnel.

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 August 4, 2022, Special Meeting and Budget Workshop.
2. Approval of Minutes from the August 9, 2022, Regular Meeting.
3. Approval of Minutes from the August 21, 2022, Special Meeting and Public Hearing.
4. Approval of Minutes from the August 30, 2022, Special Meeting.
5. Approval of the Re-Appointment of Mayor Rachel Lumpee as CAPCOG General Assembly Representative.

Mayor Lumpee pulled item #6 from consent agenda and moved to new business, item #5.

A motion was made by Mayor Pro-Tem Barron to approve items one through five on the consent agenda as presented, seconded by Council Member Smith, all in favor, motion carried unanimously.

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

1. Consideration, Discussion, and Take Action on Approval of Financing Options of SCADA Upgrade/ Replacement for Blanco Distribution System at a Cost of \$151,820.00 (Warren Escovy, City Administrator). Warren Escovy gave an update on financing of SCADA. He is currently speaking with the bank regarding timing of loan, may be able to finance 100% if not at least finance 50% and put down other 50%. No update on timing per Damon Berryman – **No Action Taken.**

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

1. Consideration, Discussion, and Take Action on Appeal of Vested Rights – Vapor Genius. **Tim Tuggey, Attorney, requested to take item to Executive Session before taking action on the item. Mayor Lumpee moved item to end of meeting.**
2. Consideration, Discussion, and Take Action on Approval of Voluntary Annexation of 4.09 Acre Property at Rocky Road Estates located in the Horace Eggleston Survey No. 24, Abstract No. 1, Blanco County, Texas. – **Item Tabled to next month, no action taken.**

3. Consideration, Discussion, and Take Action on Formation of Council Chat Town Hall Meeting and Possible Setting of Date of First Town Hall Meeting. (Mayor Lumpee). Mayor Lumpee said she has had much interest in residents wanting to visit with Council and she would like to schedule a time every other month for a question and answer session with at least two council members . Council Member Smith asked if more could be present (yes). Council discussed various dates and times in October. Council Member Smith suggested a weekend and Council Member McClellan suggested they schedule the first one, see how successful it is and go from there. Location will be at the Byars Building. Mayor Pro-Tem Barron said 10:00 am or 1:00 pm. **A motion was made by Council Member Smith to initiate first town hall on Saturday, October 22, 2022, at 10:30 am, seconded by Council Member McClellan, all in favor, motion carried unanimously.**
4. Consideration and Discussion (No Action) on Amendment to Chapter 7 of the Code of Ordinances in Health and Sanitation for the maximum height of weeds and other vegetation and Amendment to Chapter 3 Animal Control Livestock (loose livestock) (Warren Escovy, City Administrator). Warren Escovy spoke regarding program we are looking at. Started reviewing codes, hired community compliance person to start cleaning up the City. Reviewing Chapter 3, Animal Control, and Chapter 7, Health and Sanitation. Started clean-up with feather and banner signs, then moved on to items such as tidiness of yards and unsightly violations. He said he appreciates the citizen's hard work. Said we need to enforce our rules evenly and if we don't like them, we should change them. Notice of violation is just a letter. A citation comes with a fee, no citations have been issued at this time. Council discussed grass height and loose animals. It was suggested Council hold a workshop to review all the ordinances. Warren said he will focus more on public safety. **No action taken.**
5. (Pulled from Consent Agenda) Approval of Appointment of Rodney Thraikill as City Council Liaison to the Blanco Water Reclamation Task Force facilitated by The Meadows Center for Water and the Environment at Texas State University. Mayor asked to table in Rodney's absents. **Council Member Smith moved to table this item in Council Member Thraikill's absence, seconded by Council Member Divine, all in favor, motion carried unanimously.**

Closed regular meeting at 7:17 pm and convened into executive session.

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 Section 551.071 (Consultation with City Attorney), Section 1.05, Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct: to wit, Discussion with legal counsel Regarding Potential Broadband Grant (Jack Twilley).
2. Texas Government Code Section 551.071 (Consultation with City Attorney), Section 1.05, Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct and 551.072 (Real Estate): to wit, Discussion with legal counsel to obtain legal advice related to possible reclaimed water contract between City and Chamaco Mio Investments, LLC.
3. Texas Government Code Sections 551.071 (Consultation with City Attorney), 551.072 (Real Estate) and Section 1.05, Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct, Confer with City Attorney regarding Proposed Public Improvement District (PID), Palmco, Inc.
4. Texas Government Code Sections 551.071 (Consultation with City Attorney), 551.072 (Real Estate) and Section 1.05, Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct; Confer with City Attorney regarding Pharr Paradise Utility Easement Agreement.

5. Texas Government Code Section 551.071 (Consultation with City Attorney) and Section 1.05, Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct and 551.072 (Real Estate). Confer with City Attorney regarding Canyon Lake Water SC (CLWSC); Water Valuation with West Water, City's interest undivided interest.
6. 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 to obtain legal advice related to appeal of vested rights determination—Vapor Genius.

Closed executive session at 8:46 pm and convened into regular meeting.

Items 1-5: No action taken.

Item 6: Discussion with legal counsel to obtain legal advice related to appeal of vested rights determination--Vapor Genius. **A motion was made by Mayor Pro-Tem Barron to extend the deadline for determination of vested rights to October 11, 2022, seconded by Council Member McClellan, motion carried 3-1, with Council Member Smith opposed.**

Mayor Lumpee announced a correction to her earlier announcements, the Blanco County burn ban is back on as of this morning.

Adjournment:

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

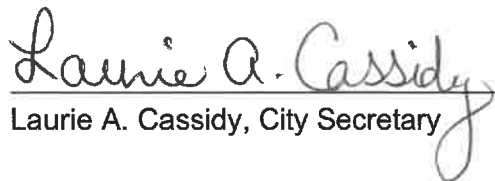
The meeting was adjourned at 8:47 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Rachel Lumpee, Mayor

ATTEST:



Laurie A. Cassidy, City Secretary

These minutes were approved on the 11th day of October, 2022.

