

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

**Meeting Minutes
October 29, 2024**

A special meeting of the City Council, City of Blanco, Texas was held on October 29, 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 Pro-Tem Mack-McClung, followed by roll call announcing a quorum was present. Council members present: Mayor Pro-Tem Mack-McClung and Council Members Swinson, Moses, Moore and Cargill. Mayor Arnold was absent. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor Pro-Tem Mack-McClung.

City staff present: Warren Escovy, City Administrator

Warren Escovy, City Administrator announced the next Coffee with the Mayor will be held on November 8, from 8:30 to 10:00 am, location unknown.

Mayor Pro-Tem Mack-McClung announced the meeting/mixer tomorrow night at the Byars Building, Comprehensive Master Plan Task Force, 5:30 to 7:00 pm. We have 26 volunteers thus far; all are welcome to attend.

Public Comments:

- Ken Welch, Blanco County resident spoke, asked about Q&A format, open dialogue, and would someone be taking notes.

WORKSHOP:

Retta Martin spoke regarding the CAMP Training she has attended in the past. It doesn't matter how you personally feel about an item, it should not be discussed between members. You should follow the ordinances, rules and laws.

Bill Depew asked about open forum. Council Member Swinson added her, and Mayor Pro-Tem Mack-McClung have been working on Message Board where all can share thoughts and ideas in an open forum. She said she can continue looking into this and can get with Warren regarding the Google settings. Tim Tuggey, Attorney added, it is a Public Message Board.

City Administrator:

- *Update on Water Plant* – November 6 testing will begin on the Water Plant and hopefully by end of week we will know if the plant is fully operational.
- *Update on minor road repair/potholes* – Received approval from the Council to purchase a used roller machine. First, Inframark plans to rent a roller to complete areas at 6th Street and also at Cherry Street, and other areas that have not been repaired yet.
- *Halloween on the Square* – Member of the City staff and Inframark will begin handing out candy around 5:30 pm.
- *Update on Series 2024A Certificate of Obligation* – At the next Council meeting, this will be discussed, Council needs to approve the funding for the Water Plant, Filter to Waste (FTW) funding (\$462,000). Additional funding is needed for purchase of ten fire hydrants (\$100,000), retaining wall at Town Creek (\$150,000), sewer line extension (\$600,000).
- *Gem of the Hills, Taco Cook Off* – Warren and Damon (Inframark) will be participating, November 9.

- *New Water Meter Installations* – Approximately 50 meters left, Inframark is working on a portion of these as well as completion of back fill and Ferguson is working on the balance to have them all completed within the next few weeks.
- *New Customer Portal* – Kick off staff training on November 12 with Jim Brown, H2O Analytics and hoping to roll out to water customers by the middle of November.
- *Code of Ethics* – Next month the Council will be reviewing a new Code of Ethics Policy

Police Department:

- *General Update on Staffing* – Currently have five full time officers including admin staff. Have made two conditional job offers, one person is currently in the Academy, the other is waiting on test results from TCOLE, this puts us at seven officers plus Nancy our Administrative Assistant. This leaves us with two open positions.
- *Update on Veterans Day Parade and the MG Register Car Show* – Spoke with MG Register car group and Terry Weeks from the VFW and they are willing to work together on the November 9 events. Constable Bussey and a couple of deputies from the Sheriff’s office will be assisting with the Parade and the Car Show in the morning.
- *Trunk or Treat on the Square* – The Police Department, along with Constable Bussey and deputies from the Sheriff’s office will be participating in the Trunk or Treat event and then transitioning over to the First Baptist Church Halloween events.

Council Member Cargill asked why Inframark and not Ferguson is working on the final meter installations. Warren said these meters had issues with size or extra work needed for the swap-out. Donna expressed concern with her new meter, waiting for the dirt to be filled back in, the plastic meter box sticks up out of the ground, worried about the pipes freezing. Warren said the repairs should be complete in the next few days.

Will the City be making repairs to 7th Street at Rocky Road, it’s a dangerous area with people transitioning from the Baptist Church up to the neighborhood. The Chief said Officer Donny Nance will be monitoring traffic control until repairs are complete.

Ken Welch discussed the proposed Code of Ethics Policy. He feels it is large, and some content does not apply to Blanco. Would like for it to be discussed at the next Council meeting and then brought back at a later meeting for a vote.

Council Discussion:

- *TPAC Committee and TXDOT plans* – Council Member Moore shared the next TPAC meeting is scheduled for this Thursday, October 31 at 10:30 am at the Byars Building. Currently have a committee of 11 people. TxDOT just announced their next Community Workshop #4 to be held in early 2025 and the TPAC Committee is in the process of sharing this information with residents. At the next TxDOT Community Workshop #4 they will share two relief routes; one previously presented and another revised from a previously presented option, as well as the No-Build (do nothing) alternative. Our belief is that TxDOT is working to “hug the property lines” instead of going through the middle of properties which has caused the delay in revealing the proposed route(s). We are ten years away from the relief route being built so in the meantime we are looking at speed limit, increased lanes, stop lights, and how to alleviate traffic issues we are experiencing now.

Ken Welch suggested having the Committees communicate with each other about what they are working on so everyone can work together.

- *Projects: Sewer line extension* - Bill Depew asked about the sewer extension project. What happens if we install the sewer line and then TxDOT comes along with their new relief route? He believes infrastructure inside the city is more critical than sewer lines further north of the city. Mayor Pro-Tem Mack-McClung explained many of the properties that were annexed ten years ago are still in need of city services and we need to fulfill our obligation, so this is considered critical infrastructure. If TxDOT does build the relief route they will need to take this into consideration.
- *2024A Certificates of Obligation* – Warren discussed in the future we may need to hold an election to issue bonds for larger project(s). At this time will use the Texas Water Development Board loan of \$3,390,000 with low interest rate of 2.77% plus grant funds of \$513,919 and Certificate of Obligation for smaller projects. CIAMAC is working on plan for larger project, long them over the next 20-25 years.

Ken Welch and others discussed open land in and around the City.

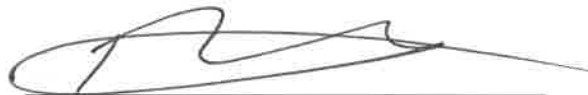
Wayne Gosnell spoke about the Comprehensive Master Plan Task Force and the Transportation (TPAC) Committee stating the Chairs of these two committees are City Council Members. How do we avoid the walking quorum during these meetings? Mayor Pro-Tem Mack-McClung said the City posts a notice of meeting if the foresee a possible quorum. The Council also tries to coordinate with each other to make sure they do not form a quorum without notice.

Regarding the sewer line on the North side of town, the major concern is with environmental. Hope the City reviews this project very closely (underground gas tanks) Paradise Creek/Valero/Neighborhood Market. City had this reviewed in the past. Warren shared no plans have been submitted. There is a water quality ordinance and a drainage ordinance. Half to two thirds of the property is in the 100 year flood plain. Nothing has been done to date. Discussed car wash and if the City could support an additional car wash and also if the property was zoned correctly for a car wash.

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 7:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Bobby Mack-McClung, Mayor Pro-Tem

ATTEST:

Laurie A. Cassidy
 Laurie A. Cassidy, City Secretary

These minutes were approved on the 12 day of November, 2024.

