

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

**Meeting Minutes
December 10, 2024**

A regular meeting of the City Council, City of Blanco, Texas was held on December 10, 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 Rev. Bryn Caddell. 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 Chief Jerry Thornhill.

Mayor Arnold made the following announcements:

- The Lighted Christmas Parade will be held on December 21, 2024 at 6:00 pm.
- The Blanco County Burn Ban is on and expires January 14, 2025 at noon.

Public Comments:

- None

AD-HOC COMMITTEE PRESENTATIONS:

CIAMAC Bond Presentation, OJ Armstrong, Chair

Objective to establish a sustainable maintenance program for City infrastructure and emergency repairs, develop sustainable processes to manage future growth and viable infrastructure plan. 30-year program. Addresses long-term planning, financing options and executable action items for elected Council members, allows flexibility for project selections, establish timelines for design, construction and funding, and provides a roadmap for seamless execution of an ever-changing landscape to provide utility services in a growth corridor. CIAMAC recommends 1) A 10-year bond authorization Program, 2) This Bond Program is the first phase of a long-term program to update the entire water, wastewater, and street infrastructure to the fullest extent that the City can afford.; and 3) Rescind a 1987 ordinance allocating a ½ penny of sales tax to subsidize ad valorem taxes.

Staff Presentations:

1. City Hall, Warren Escovy, City Administrator, shared the following, Laurie Cassidy, City Secretary was awarded at \$500 scholarship toward her TRMC recertification, 2024A Certificates of Obligation projects to be discussed tonight, water plant progress, pumps, need \$40,000 additional funds, utility billing customers portal system is online, meter program almost finished, 15 remaining “problem” meters that Inframark is completing, billing issue, complete form and contact city office for assistance, roller has been ordered and is on the way.
2. City Hall, Dana Bundick, Interim Finance Director was absent from the meeting.
3. Police Department, Chief Thornhill presented the November 2024 monthly report and said thank you all for supporting the Good Sam Center.

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 November 12, 2024, Regular Meeting and Public Hearing
2. Approval of Minutes from the November 26, 2024, Special Meeting.

A motion was made by Council Member Moore to approve the consent agenda items one and two as presented, seconded by Council Member Swinson all in favor, motion carried unanimously.

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

1. Consideration, Discussion, and Take Possible Action on Approval of Ordinance approving policy for Tik-Tok ban on govt-issued phones. Attorney Tim Tuggey said this falls in line with Statewide ban, going to supreme court, statewide agencies ban on Tik-Tok. Prepare Ordinance for January. **No action taken.**
2. Consideration, Discussion, and Take Possible Action on Selection of City Engineer for City Administrator to Negotiate Contract. Warren Escovy, City Administrator shared we received four RFQ's from Freeland Turk, HR Green, Schaumburg & Polk, Inc, (SPI), and Atlas Design. Scoring out of 100 points maximum per person with four people scoring (total of 400 points): Atlas 231, HR Green 258, SPI 312, and Freeland Turk-no score. **A motion was made by Mayor Pro-Tem Mack-McClung to authorize City Administrator to negotiate contract (amended by Moses) to include monthly allotment to assist CIAMAC, seconded by Council Member Moses, all in favor, motion carried unanimously.**
3. Consideration, Discussion, and Take Possible Action on Selection of IT Services Provider for City Administrator to Negotiate Contract (Warren Escovy, City Administrator). The City received three bids; Tech-on-Purpose was disqualified due to not being CIJS certified. Two other bids were received from VC3 and Hill Country IT. Chief Thornhill checked all references, VC3 has a large number of representatives to support the City and comes highly recommended. **A motion was made by Council Member Moses to authorize the City Administrator to negotiate IT Services Contract with VC3, seconded by Council Member Moore, all in favor, motion carried unanimously.**
4. Consideration, Discussion, and Take Possible Action on approval of proposed Certificate of Obligation Series 2024A Project List, with associated budgeted levels for each with cost figures. A Certificate of Obligation of \$1.5 million was awarded at the Tuesday, November 12, 2024 Council meeting. The remainder of the funds (about \$1,000,000) needs to be approved by the Council. The projects will be paid for through our debt service (I&S) fund. **\$600,000** (\$505,000 after reimbursement) for **sewer line** from 15th Street to north City limits line minus \$95,000 reimbursement from Neighbors Market., **Retaining wall** for Town Creek about \$150,000 (an estimate has been received by Dirt works), **Portable generator** - \$50k (for Cielo water system and Pittsburg lift station), **Generator (permanent) at PD-\$2SK, 10 Fire hydrants-** \$100k, **Dowdy and 14th to 281Sewer line:** \$40,000 to NOT exceed \$115,000 If you bare out the numbers and extend an additional 1100' along Dowdy you're looking at a construction cost of \$84,770 and probably needing \$30,000 for engineering plan set. **\$945,000 total obligation** (with the reimbursement) of the remaining \$1,000,000. The Council discussed these citywide projects.

A motion was made by Council Member Mack-McClung to move forward with the plan for sewer line extension city services (from 15th Street to north City limits line minus \$95,000 reimbursement from Neighbors Market)(\$505,000 after reimbursement) to include Dowdy and 14th to 281 sewer line (\$40,000 to NOT to exceed \$115,000) and authorize the City Administrator to negotiate cost sharing and impact fees with property owners, and to approve the following projects Retaining Wall for Town Creek at \$150,000, Portable Generator for Cielo water system and Pittsburg lift station at a cost of \$50,000, Generator (permanent) at the Police Department (\$25,000), and 10 Fire Hydrants (\$100,000.00) at a total cost not to exceed \$945,000, seconded by Council Member Swinson, motion carried 3-0 with Council Members Moses and Moore abstained from vote.

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

- 1. Consideration, Discussion, and Take Possible Action on Approval of Ordinance 2024-O-012, Amendments to the current Sign Ordinance 2011-392. The Council discussed. A motion was made by Council Member Cargill to approve Ordinance 2024-O-012 Adoption of new Sign Ordinance as amended, seconded by Council Member Moore, all in favor, motion carried unanimously.**
- 2. Consideration, Discussion, and Take Possible Action on Approval of Ordinance 2024-O-013 Adoption of Ethics Policy. The Council discussed and Attorney Tim Tuggey thanked Council Member Moses. A motion was made by Council Member Moses to approve the adoption of the Ethics Policy by approving Ordinance 2024-O-013, seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Mack-McClung, all in favor, motion carried unanimously.**

Closed regular meeting at 7:56 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) 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.
2. Texas Government Code Sections 551.071 (Consultation with City Attorney) and Section 1.05, Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct; Consultation with City Attorney regarding Economic Development Project.
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 Pending Legal Matters.

Closed executive session at 9:16 pm and convened into regular meeting.:

Adjournment:

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

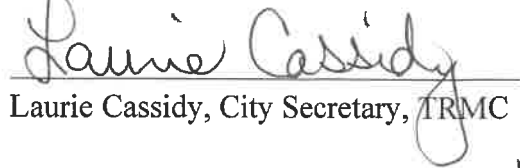
The meeting was adjourned at 9:16 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Mike Arnold, Mayor

ATTEST:



Laurie Cassidy, City Secretary, TRMC

These minutes were approved on the 14 day of January, 2025.

