

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

**Meeting Minutes
November 26, 2024**

A special meeting of the City Council, City of Blanco, Texas was held on November 26, 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 Mike Arnold, followed by roll call announcing a quorum was present. Council members present: Mayor Mike Arnold, Mayor Pro-Tem Mack-McClung and Council Members Swinson, Moses, Moore and Cargill. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor Arnold.

City staff present: Warren Escovy, City Administrator, Chief Jerry Thornhill, and Laurie Cassidy, City Secretary.

Announcements: None

Public Comments:

- Courtney Trent, Blanco County (ETJ) resident, spoke regarding the TxDOT bypass. She also shared her experience as an ETJ resident, concerned with rumors that the Mayor is not a City of Blanco resident, as may be the case with others on council while she herself has no vote and cannot run for office. Concerned with word on the two routes being considered by TxDOT and hearing conflicting stories regarding the routes.

WORKSHOP:

City Administrator:

- *Update on Water Treatment Plant* – FTW, on point to be fixed close to operational. Next week Bactee, testing water through TCEQ. Plant is working, pending TCEQ water testing and TWDB approval.
- *Discussion on Series 2024A Certificate of Obligation, Projects to Consider* – Received \$1.5 million. At the next Council meeting, the Council will need to decide how to spend the remaining funds.

Police Department:

- *General Update on Staffing* – Six full time officers, seventh officer onboarding after December 10th, one officer at the academy. Target is 9 full time sworn, plus reserve officer and admin.

Council Discussion:

- *PSI Water Meter Project* – 20-30 remaining meters. Customer Portal, 400 meters remain to be backfilled by Damon's crew.
- *Discussion of pothole and minor road repairs* – Hired contractor to complete the first phase of repair project. Roller has been ordered and Damon's crew will begin work on Phase 2.
- *Code of Ethics* – Bobby Mack read through and sent comments to Tim Tuggey. He will be updating and sending it out for final review and approval at the December 10th meeting. More streamlined version. All council comments are welcome to be submitted to Tim.

- *Preview of the December agenda items* – Warren shared, new business items, Tic-Toc ban on govt. issued phones, selection of engineering services, and IT services contracts. Old Business, sign ordinance (being cleaned up), rain gutters at Bindseil Park, and approval of Ethics Policy. Also, CIAMAC will be doing a presentation on bond election, list of projects with amounts (\$2.5 mil/year in 6–8-year project).

Bobby Mack shared information regarding economic development, hierarchy of needs structure, and bottom starts with infrastructure, followed by talent, real estate/site, amenities/quality of life and incentives. Growth over time (without raising taxes) new residents and businesses.

Texas Runs on Water, adult winner was Heather Steel, artwork was shown at meeting and Autumn S. (youth winner). Hays County has exemption for rainwater collection. Surrounding cities do \$5,000 rebate for large storage.

Endorse exemption General Law, get out of ETJ exemptions with other small cities, current legislation, get their attention. Suzanne B., rural reporter.

Questions from the Public:

Ken Welch, spoke regarding review of personal policy. He also shared what do's and don'ts should apply to everyone.

Friday at 6:00 pm, lighting of the Courthouse square and Bindseil Park.

Stephane Wright said Retta Martin asked about where we are on funding Streetscape project(s). Economic Development, safe sidewalks for walkers, strollers, etc. Warren discussed with Retta today and he will be reviewing options. Bobby mentioned lack of a plan. Couple of donors pledged a total of \$60,000 if they could see a plan. Need construction ready plans. The first part of the plan is the engineering study that needs to be paid for. Need a grant or private donation for this. A lot of progress has been made. GLO grant is in process, they received a large number of applications and are currently reviewing them.

Committee lunch/mixer to collaborate ideas and goings on, starting in January 2025.

Ken Welch, last meeting, are there any updates on latest TxDOT meeting(s), Dennis Moore Jr shared not wanting to have frontage roads, they want it to be a true relief route. US 281 widening going on, not funded yet. Do evaluation on Blanco right now on speed, lights, etc., and will provide report to the city within the next few weeks. No build is still an option. Mr. Palmer said, if they are not interested in frontage roads, it does not matter where the route ends up and he does not want development along the route. Does it matter to the city? Need another one on one TxDOT meeting like the one held at Twin Sisters. Smaller group setting to be able to receive better feedback.

Gary Currier, water question, 5 year plan. We will look in it.

Closed Regular Meeting at 7:10 pm and adjourned 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 Pending Legal Matters.

Closed Executive Session at 8:11 pm and adjourned into Regular Meeting.

Adjournment:

A motion was made by Council Member Moore to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Council Member Cargill, all in favor.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:11 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Mike Arnold, Mayor

ATTEST:



Laurie A. Cassidy, City Secretary

These minutes were approved on the 10 day of December, 2024.



