

AUGUST 17, 2021

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL

CITY OF BELLVILLE

Chapter 551 of the Texas Government Code allows a meeting to which the public does not have access in certain limited instances. The Council may consult with their attorney regarding pending or contemplated litigation. The Council may have a closed meeting to deliberate the purchase, exchange, lease or value of real property. An open session is not required to consider evaluation, discipline, or dismissal of an employee unless there is a specific complaint or charge against an officer or employee and the employee or officer wants an open session. The purpose of the agenda is to give notice to the public about the item that will be considered. If any item on the agenda falls within the exceptions to the open meeting law, the Council has the right to adjourn the open session and convene a closed meeting. However, no action may be taken in an executive session. The Council will reconvene in open session before taking any action on an agenda item.

1. 5:00 P.M. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor James Harrison called the meeting to order at 5:01 p.m.

2. INVOCATION AND PLEDGES OF ALLEGIANCE

Alderman Wayne Browning led all in prayer and Pledges of Allegiance.

3. CERTIFICATION OF A QUORUM

Present-to-wit: Mayor James Harrison, Aldermen Garrett Dornon, Clay Kistler, Arlie Kendrick, Wayne Browning, Alderwoman Ashley Slater; thereby a quorum was established. Also present were City Administrator Shawn Jackson, City Attorney Charley Smith and City Secretary Betty Hollon.

4. CONSIDERATION TO ADOPT AGENDA

The motion was made by Alderman Browning and seconded by Alderman Kendrick to adopt the Agenda for the Regular Meeting of August 17, 2021 as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

5. CONSIDERATION TO APPROVE MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

The motion was made by Alderman Kendrick and seconded by Alderman Browning to approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of July 20, 2021 and the Special Meeting of August 3, 2021 as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

6. CITIZEN'S FORUM *(Any public comment that is made on an item that is not on the posted final agenda will only be heard by the City Council. No formal action, discussion, deliberation, nor comment will be made by the Council.)*

Peggy Holloway spoke during Agenda Item 11.

7. REPORT OR REQUEST(S) FROM CITY ADMINISTRATOR/DEPARTMENT HEADS

City Administrator Shawn Jackson presented copies of Chapter 3-Code of Ordinances and the proposed budget to Council and reported budget workshops will begin next week, Personnel Policy Manual is near completion, and the architect contract for the police department will be ready for approval at the September meeting.

8. QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS FROM MAYOR/ COUNCIL MEMBERS/CITY ATTORNEY
(DISCUSSION IS LIMITED TO STATEMENTS OF POLICY OR STATEMENTS OF FACTUAL MATTERS, OR THE REQUEST THAT A MATTER BE PLACED ON THE NEXT MEETING'S AGENDA)

Alderwoman Slater informed Council she has a proposed hotel ordinance to be on next month's agenda. Alderman Kistler inquired on striping on N. Holland and unevenness at railroad crossing by Newman's Bakery. Alderman Dornon commented importance of using local subcontractors for the new police department and thanked Commissioner Lamp for their partnership on the Hacienda ditch project. Alderman Kendrick apologized for missing the EDC workshop and inquired on status of quiet zone.

Alderman Browning commented on tree trimming and mentioned maintenance needed at lift stations. Alderman Browning also had several budget comments. Mayor Harrison informed all of the informative TML meeting he attended on August 13th in Sugarland.

9. PRESENTATION BY BELLVILLE ISD SUPERINTENDENT IN REGARDS TO PROJECTS ON THE SQUARE AND SCHOOL BOND PROPOSAL

Superintendent Nicole Poenitzsch made presentation to Council regarding BISD projects on the square and upcoming school bond proposal.

10. CONSIDERATION TO PROPOSE A TAX RATE FOR 2021 NOT TO EXCEED .3020 AND TO SET A PUBLIC HEARING ON THE PROPOSED TAX RATE AND ANY RELATED ACTION NECESSARY

The motion was made by Alderman Dornon and seconded by Alderman Kendrick to propose a tax rate for 2021 not to exceed .3020 and to set a public hearing for September 7th at 5:00 p.m. Voting aye were Aldermen Dornon, Kendrick, Browning, Alderwoman Slater. Voting nay was Alderman Kistler. Motion carried.

11. CONSIDERATION OF CHANGE IN TRAFFIC PATTERNS TO ALLEVIATE TRAFFIC CONGESTION ON STATE HIGHWAY 36 TO O'BRYANT PRIMARY SCHOOL INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, RESTRICTING TRAFFIC ON E. YAUPON, E. AUSTIN BETWEEN S. FRONT AND S. LIVE OAK AND S. LIVE OAK BETWEEN S. FRONT AND E. AUSTIN STREET TO "THROUGH TRAFFIC ONLY" BETWEEN THE HOURS OF 7:30 A.M. AND 9:00 A.M. AND 2:00 P.M. AND 4:00 P.M. WHEN SCHOOL IS IN SESSION AND ANY RELATED ACTION NECESSARY

Peggy Holloway of Shady Acres Daycare spoke regarding school traffic in front of her business and her concerns. Chief Smalley spoke of the traffic problem on Hwy 36 during morning and afternoon pickups at schools. Signage will be a necessity and possibly an officer to help with traffic. The motion was made by Alderman Dornon and seconded by Alderman Kendrick to continue the trial period not to exceed 35 days with the understanding we will continue communication with the businesses, residents, and school district regularly and authorize the police chief/city administrator to tweak or make changes to the plan and we come back at the next regular council meeting or sooner to confirm a final plan. Motion carried unanimously.

12. CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING PROFESSIONAL SERVICE PROVIDER FOR AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT PROGRAM AND ANY RELATED ACTION NECESSARY

RFP's were received from Langford Community Management, GrantWorks, 7th Echelon, and Tacit Growth Strategies. After tabulating, it was recommended to go with GrantWorks. The motion was made by Alderman Kendrick and seconded by Alderman Browning to appoint GrantWorks the Professional Service Provider for the American Rescue Plan Act Program. Motion carried unanimously.

13. DISCUSSION REGARDING JEFFERSON CEMETERY AND ANY RELATED ACTION NECESSARY

Alderman Browning led discussion regarding this item. The founders of Bellville are buried in this cemetery. Jefferson Cemetery is outside city limits and Attorney Smith advised we find out who owns or who is in charge and try to work with them to clean up; possibly reach out to Sheriff Brandes or the Historical Society for help.

14. ADJOURNMENT

The motion was made by Alderman Browning and seconded by Alderman Kendrick to adjourn at 6:45 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.