

September 17, 2019

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL

CITY OF BELLVILLE

1. 5:30 P.M. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor James Harrison called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

2. INVOCATION AND PLEDGES OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor James Harrison led all in prayer and Pledges of Allegiance.

3. CERTIFICATION OF A QUORUM

Present-to-wit: Mayor James Harrison, Aldermen Douglas Lottridge, Clay Kistler and Arlie Kendrick, Alderwomen Cassie Janish and Donna Jacob; thereby a quorum was established. Also present were City Attorney Charley Smith, City Administrator Shawn Jackson, and City Secretary Betty Hollon.

4. CONSIDERATION TO ADOPT AGENDA

The motion was made by Alderman Lottridge and seconded by Alderman Kendrick to adopt the Agenda for the Regular Meeting of September 17, 2019 as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

5. CONSIDERATION TO APPROVE MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

The motion was made by Alderman Lottridge and seconded by Alderman Kendrick to approve the Minutes of the Special Meeting of August 15, 2019 and Minutes of Regular Meeting of August 20, 2019 and Minutes of Special Meeting of September 3, 2019 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.)*

Citizens were allowed 3 minutes for comments. Those speaking were Reva Loesch regarding high water prices, Neville Remmert regarding library budget, Theresa Hackney regarding auditing of meters, and Ken Elliott regarding high water rates.

7. 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 Jacob questioned the drastic increase of utility bills and recommended an audit and asked if more information could be put on the monthly bills informing customers of changes. Alderwoman Jacob also inquired on junk property on Strauss Street, missing fence in Bell Oaks Subdivision on Hwy. 36, Water Department samples, and Recycle Department picking up inside and outside city limits. Alderman Kendrick questioned the holdup on the S. Mechanic water line project and possible extension and mentioned the urgent need of repair to the fire hydrant that was hit by an 18-wheeler on E. Glenn and N. Mechanic. Alderman Lottridge informed everyone approximately 200 Strategic Vision surveys have been returned and inquired on accuracy of software that produces monthly bills. Alderman Kistler suggested a workshop be held regarding Open Records/Open Meetings and would like IT Specialists to review City hardware and software. Alderwoman Janish inquired on traffic light by Newman's Bakery and commented on the increase of traffic on Hwy. 36.

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

City Administrator Shawn Jackson informed everyone that Fall Clean-Up begins Saturday, September 21<sup>st</sup>, Bending Oaks Drive will be paved within the next two weeks and auditors will be at the City beginning November 11<sup>th</sup>.

9. DISCUSSION REGARDING AIRPORT LEASE AND ANY RELATED ACTION NECESSARY

Mr. Matt Riefkohl of the Airport Board spoke to Council regarding airport. The motion was made by Alderwoman Jacob and seconded by Alderman Kendrick to fund the lease contract for one year. The City would only be responsible for windsocks and lights. Alderman Lottridge and Kistler were concerned about this decision and wanted to get more

information regarding landowner's property tax and preferred to table at this time to allow the gathering of more information. Alderwoman Jacob commented the landowner has made no effort to honor the current contract. Mayor Harrison called for the vote. Voting aye were Alderwoman Jacob, Alderman Kendrick and Alderwoman Janish. Voting nay were Alderman Lottridge and Alderman Kistler. Motion carried. City Attorney Charley Smith will draft a new lease with the new terms.

10. DISCUSSION REGARDING APPENDIX A OF CODE OF ORDINANCES FEE SCHEDULE SEC. A7.003 WATER SERVICE AND ANY RELATED ACTION NECESSARY

Cathy Ezell informed Council the new tiered rates for water was passed on September 18, 2018 with an effective date of October 1, 2018. Alderman Kendrick felt the new rates were a struggle for many to pay and felt like we were price gouging citizens in Bellville. He would rather see contractors be charged higher rates for water being used outside the city limits and not punish Bellville residents for trying to keep Bellville beautiful and maintain their yards. Alderman Lottridge suggested regular reviews of the rates. No action taken.

11. CONSIDERATION TO AMEND APPENDIX A OF CODE OF ORDINANCES FEE SCHEDULE A7.007 GARBAGE COLLECTION WITH REPUBLIC SERVICES AND ANY RELATED ACTION NECESSARY

The motion was made by Alderman Lottridge and seconded by Alderman Kistler to abide by the obligations under our contract with Republic Services and approve the 3.7% CPI increase effective October 1, 2019. Residential inside city limit rates will increase from \$15.00 monthly to \$15.55 monthly. Outside city limit rates will increase from \$22.50 monthly to \$23.34 monthly, additional garbage services in the fee schedule will also increase. Motion carried unanimously.

12. CONSIDERATION TO AMEND APPENDIX A OF CODE OF ORDINANCES FEE SCHEDULE A7.000 UTILITY RATES AND CHARGES SECTION A7.001 CONNECTION, DISCONNECTION OR SERVICE CALLS; DEPOSITS AND ANY RELATED ACTION NECESSARY

The motion was made by Alderwoman Jacob and seconded by Alderman Kendrick to approve the recommended increase on utility deposits for new customers and delinquent accounts. Motion carried unanimously.

13. CONSIDERATION TO RENEW CONTRACT WITH BBG CONSULTING, INC. FOR PROFESSIONAL INSPECTIONS AND SERVICES AND ANY RELATED ACTION NECESSARY

The motion was made by Alderman Kendrick and seconded by Alderwoman Janish to renew the contract with BBG Consulting, Inc. Motion carried unanimously.

14. CONSIDERATION OF INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT WITH AUSTIN COUNTY PRECINCT 1 AND ANY RELATED ACTION NECESSARY

The motion was made by Alderman Lottridge and seconded by Alderman Kistler to approve the Interlocal Agreement for Road Maintenance with Austin County Precinct 1. Motion carried unanimously.

15. CONSIDERATION OF CONTRACT WITH EDC FOR FINANCIAL SERVICES AND ANY RELATED ACTION NECESSARY

Garrett Dornon with the Bellville EDC presented the Interlocal Agreement for Accounting Services to Council. The motion was made by Alderman Kistler and seconded by Alderman Lottridge to have the City do the clerical books of the EDC. Mayor Harrison called for the vote. Voting aye were Alderman Kistler and voting nay were Alderwoman Jacob, Alderwoman Janish and Alderman Kendrick. Alderman Lottridge abstained from the vote. Motion failed.

16. CONSIDERATION TO AWARD BID FOR INSURANCE FOR PROPERTY, CASUALTY, LIABILITY & WORKER'S COMP AND ANY RELATED ACTION NECESSARY

Two bids were received for property, casualty, liability and worker's comp insurance. (1) Texas Municipal League - \$116,424.98 and (2) Lynn Kiecke Lackey & Eason-\$97,988.00 The motion was made by Alderman Lottridge and seconded by Alderwoman Jacob to award the bid to Lynn Kiecke Lackey & Eason. Motion carried unanimously.

17. CONSIDERATION OF ENTERPRISE FLEET MANAGEMENT MASTER EQUITY LEASE AGREEMENT AND ANY RELATED ACTION NECESSARY

The motion was made by Alderman Lottridge and seconded by Alderman Kistler to approve the Master Equity Lease Agreement with Enterprise Fleet Management with the two mandatory amendments and without the Maintenance Agreement for the lease of 3 police vehicles. Motion carried unanimously.

18. CONSIDERATION OF CRIME STOPPERS CONTRACT AND ANY RELATED ACTION NECESSARY

Cindy Kendrick with Crime Stoppers asked Council for \$600.00 in upcoming budget. Attorney Smith questioned whether a General Law City can do this. The motion was made by Alderman Lottridge and seconded by Alderman Kistler to

include this item in the new budget and Attorney Smith will proceed to determine if a contract is necessary or what is needed to make this happen. Motion carried unanimously.

19. CONSIDERATION OF 2018-2019 BUDGET AMENDMENTS AND ANY RELATED ACTION NECESSARY

The motion was made by Alderman Lottridge and seconded by Alderman Kistler to approve the 2018-2019 budget amendments as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

20. CONSIDERATION TO ADOPT 2019-2020 FISCAL YEAR BUDGET AND ANY RELATED ACTION NECESSARY

Discussion was held regarding proposed 2019-2020 Fiscal Year Budget. The motion was made by Alderman Lottridge and seconded by Alderman Kistler to approve the 2019-2020 Budget with the added 3 leased Police Dept. vehicles and Crime Stoppers expense. Mayor Harrison called for the vote. Voting aye were Alderman Kistler and Alderman Lottridge. Opposed were Alderman Kendrick, Alderwoman Janish and Alderwoman Jacob. At 9:05 p.m. Mayor Harrison called for a 10 minute recess. The meeting reconvened at 9:20 p.m. The Mayor then asked for a recess until 4:00 p.m. tomorrow (Wednesday). Mayor Harrison reconvened meeting at 4:00 p.m. on Wednesday, September 18<sup>th</sup>. The motion was made by Alderman Lottridge and seconded by Alderman Kistler to accept the budget with the \$7,000 budget cuts recommended by City Administrator Shawn Jackson and including the leasing of 3 Police Dept. vehicles, adopting .302 tax rate and added Crime Stopper's expense. Mayor Harrison called for the vote. Those voting aye were Alderman Kistler and Alderman Lottridge. Opposed were Alderwoman Jacob, Alderman Kendrick and Alderwoman Janish. Motion failed. Mayor Harrison then called for a 24-hour recess at 4:08 p.m.

21. CONSIDERATION TO ADOPT 2019 TAX RATE AND ANY RELATED ACTION NECESSARY

22. ADJOURNMENT