The City of Liberty
City Council
Special Called Meeting
~ Minutes ~

1829 Sam Houston
Liberty, TX 77575
www.cityofliberty.org

Dianne Tidwell
City Secretary
(936) 336-3684

Thursday, April 22, 2010 | **6:00 PM** | **City Council Chambers**

I. CALL TO ORDER

The Meeting was called to order on April 22, 2010 at the City Council Chambers, 1829 Sam Houston, Liberty,TX at 6:00 PM by Mayor Carl Pickett.

Attendee Name	Present	Absent	Late	Arrived
Carl Pickett	þ	¨	¨	
Dennis Beasley	þ	¨	¨	
Diane Huddleston	¨	þ	¨	
Mike McCarty	þ	¨	¨	
Al Simonson	þ	¨	¨	
Louie Potetz	þ	¨	¨	
Frank Jordan	þ	¨	¨	

II. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF GUESTS AND VISITORS / PUBLIC COMMENT

Mayor Pickett welcomed guests and visitors, opening the floor for public comment to those individuals wishing to address the Council regarding non-agenda items. There were no comments from the audience.

Mayor Pickett reported on the following:
1) The 2nd Annual Fire Department Muster and BBQ Lunch will begin at 9 a.m. on April 24th, and
2) thanked the Chamber of Commerce for sponsoring the Annual Bosses/Administrative Assistants Luncheon held in the Liberty Center on April 21st.

III. PRESENTATIONS / REPORTS

A. Information Item (ID # 1649)

Backflow Prevention Program Update - E. McCreight & R. Hood

COMMENTS - Current Meeting:

Robbie Hood, Neighborhood Services Director and Earl McCreight, Water-Wastewater Operations Manager, were present to report on the status of the Backflow Cross Connection Program. Mr. Hood reported that since February they have been visiting businesses and providing education on the need for backflow prevention, receiving positive feedback.

Mr. McCreight stated that they had inspected approximately fifty businesses on Hwy. 90, and only two were in need of a Reduced Pressure Zone Valve (RPZ) for high health risks. Mr.

McCreight further stated once the business owners understood the need for back siphon protection, each has been very cooperative.

B. Information Item (ID # 1655)

Financial Report - March 2010 - N. Herrington

COMMENTS - Current Meeting:

Finance Director Naomi Herrington began her report by stating that she had compiled a report of all the FEMA project worksheets for Council review, at their leisure.

Ms. Herrington reported on the March financials (for 6 months ending March 31, 2010) beginning with the General Fund. Revenues in the GF are at 53% of the total projected revenues for the current fiscal year, and the total expenditures of all departments in the GF are at 52% of the total projected expenditures for the current fiscal year. Cash in bank for General Fund operations is approximately $1.2 million, property tax revenues are at 95% of the budgeted property tax collections of $1.4 million, and sales tax is at 41.78% of the budgeted sales tax collections of $2 million, approximately 8% below budgeted figures. Ms. Herrington further reviewed the status of the funds for water, electric and garbage.

City Manager Gary Broz reiterated that he had previously implemented several directives to staff to include a hiring freeze and had placed controls on spending by directing staff to cut overtime, and expenditures over $500 must be approved prior to purchase. Mr. Broz also mentioned that management will be re-advertising the sale of the old Police Department building on San Jacinto Street.

IV. REGULAR AGENDA

A. Regular Session

1. Council Action 2010-38

Consider Award of Bid for Group Dental and Medical Insurance.

COMMENTS - Current Meeting:

Mr. Jim Hall, the City's insurance consultant was present to discuss with Council proposals received for the City's group dental and medical insurance. Mr. Hall named the various proposers and suggested changes to the insurance plan to cut costs. Discussed was raising the co-pay, raising the deductible, and no longer covering an employee's spouse, if insurance was offered at their place of employment.

Ms. Kathy Langston, Health First (PHCS Network) and Mr. Julian Fontana, Texas Municipal League Employee Benefits (United Healthcare), were present for discussion relating to the various proposals.

Lengthy discussion was held regarding administrative costs, contracts, stop loss coverage, pre-existing conditions, dental and vision coverage, out of network costs, wellness programs, prescription programs, federally mandated mental health and drug addiction assistance, and numerous related insurance topics.

After lengthy discussion of the above issues, Council asked City Manager Gary Broz his recommendation, in which he responded that he would like to see the City change to the Texas Municipal League and no longer require the services of Mr. Hall.

Council took a brief recess from 8:10 - 8:20 p.m.

After several motions and seconds that resulted in a tie-vote, the first to change to TML, and the second to retain Health First, two additional motions were made, each died for lack of a second. After further discussion, a motion was made to award the bid for the City's group dental and medical insurance to the Texas Municipal League.

Various proposed changes to the employee health insurance plan will be discussed at a later date.

RESULT:	**APPROVED [4 TO 2]**
MOVER:	Mike McCarty, Frank Jordan
SECONDER:	Dennis Beasley, Al Simonson
AYES:	Carl Pickett, Dennis Beasley, Al Simonson, Frank Jordan
NAYS:	Mike McCarty, Louie Potetz
ABSENT:	Diane Huddleston

2. Council Action 2010-39

Consider Award of Bid for Group Life Insurance.

COMMENTS - Current Meeting:

After brief discussion, a motion was made to change from Ft. Dearborne to Mutual of Omaha for life insurance coverage at two times the employee's annual salary.

RESULT:	**APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]**
MOVER:	Dennis Beasley, Councilperson
SECONDER:	Frank Jordan, Councilperson
AYES:	Pickett, Beasley, McCarty, Simonson, Potetz, Jordan
ABSENT:	Diane Huddleston

3. Council Action (ID # 1652)

Consider Approval of a Tax Abatement Agreement Between the City of Liberty and Owners of the Proposed Holidiay Inn Express.

COMMENTS - Current Meeting:

This item will be presented at a future meeting.

RESULT:	**NO ACTION TAKEN**

B. Executive Session

Deliberation Regarding Economic Development Negotiation. Gov. Code §551.087
Consultation With Attorney. Gov. Code §551.071
Meeting Concerning Municipally Owned Utility. Gov. Code §551.086

1. Discussion of possible economic prospect, Trinity Garden Apts.
2. Discussion of Boomerang Tube, LLC Electric Rate Contract.

At 9:05 p.m., Mayor Pickett closed the open meeting and opened the Executive Session as authorized above.

C. Reconvene into Regular Session

At 9:59 p.m., Mayor Pickett closed the Executive Session and reconvened the open meeting.

1. Council Action (ID # 1653)

Consider Any Action, as Discussed in the Executive Session, Regarding the Trinity Garden Apartments.

RESULT:	**NO ACTION TAKEN**

2. Council Action (ID # 1654)

Consider Any Action, as Discussed in the Executive Session, Regarding an Electric Rate Contract with Boomerang Tube, LLC.

COMMENTS - Current Meeting:

City Attorney Randy Gunter stated there was no action required on this agenda item.

V. ADJOURNMENT

Motion To: Adjourn

COMMENTS - Current Meeting:

There being no further business before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 10:00 p.m.

RESULT:	**APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]**
MOVER:	Louie Potetz, Councilperson
SECONDER:	Al Simonson, Councilperson
AYES:	Pickett, Beasley, McCarty, Simonson, Potetz, Jordan
ABSENT:	Diane Huddleston

____
Carl Pickett, Mayor

ATTEST:

____
Dianne Tidwell, City Secretary