



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

Tuesday, April 22, 2014

6:00 PM

City Council Chambers

I. CALL TO ORDER

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
Carl Pickett	Mayor	Present	
Diane Huddleston	Mayor Pro Tem	Present	
Dennis Beasley	Councilperson	Present	
Frank Jordan	Councilperson	Present	
Louie Potetz	Councilperson	Present	
Libby Simonson	Councilperson	Present	
David Arnold	Councilperson	Present	
Gary Broz	City Manager	Present	
Dianne Tidwell	City Secretary	Present	
Randy Gunter	City Attorney	Present	

II. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF GUESTS AND VISITORS / PUBLIC COMMENT

Public Comment is reserved for members of the public who would like to address the City Council regarding agenda and non-agenda items. Please be aware that, under Texas Law, the Council may not deliberate or take any action during Citizen's comments for items not on the agenda. In some situations, City Staff may be able to respond to the public comment with a factual statement or clarification. The City Council may have the item placed on a future agenda for action or refer the item to Management and Staff for study or conclusion.

Mayor Pickett welcomed guests and visitors, opening the floor for public comment to those individuals wishing to address the Council. The following comments were offered:

- 1) Police Chief Billy Tidwell reported on Public Safety Telecommunicator's Week, expounding on the duties and importance of this profession and that dispatchers are an integral part of the organization's success, also introducing several dispatchers in the audience, and
- 2) Chief Tidwell also reported on the "Got Drugs" free collection day that will be held on Saturday, April 26, 2014 at the Liberty Police Department. This event provides citizens with an avenue to turn in unused, expired or unwanted prescription medications for safe disposal.

III. PRESENTATIONS / REPORTS

1. Information Item (ID # 2983)

Shred-It Day - Councilperson Huddleston

COMMENTS - Current Meeting:

Councilperson Huddleston reported that the next "Shred-It" Day will be held on Saturday, May 3, 2014, in the City Hall parking lot from 9:00 a.m. until Noon. Ms. Huddleston reported that this occasion is always well attended, as this event provides a way in which citizens may dispose of sensitive documents.

IV. REGULAR AGENDA

A. Regular Session

1. Council Action (ID # 2984)

Consider a city-wide wireless network and telephone system linking all City facilities together, and take any action deemed necessary.

COMMENTS - Current Meeting:

City Manager Gary Broz reported on a project to link all City facilities together by use of a City-wide wireless network and new phone system. Mr. Broz and IT Systems Administrator, Melody Fisher met with several vendors who made presentations on various options to accomplish these goals. Lengthy discussion was held regarding a handout of the various possibilities and related costs, to include wide area network connectivity by use of the Cloud, wireless network, third party fiber and City owned fiber. Further discussion included a comparison of monthly costs, maintenance costs, phone system purchase prices, one-time costs, etc.

Council directed management to obtain additional cost options for interconnection of city facilities. With construction of the new Police Department facility to be completed by mid-August, the purchase of a phone system is critical for that building, and an opportune time to purchase a complete city-wide phone system, as the City's current system is antiquated. Management was directed to return with cost options for a city-wide phone system that will be interconnected at some time in the future.

2. Resolution 2014-7

Consider a Resolution authorizing support and acceptance of a Texas Department of Transportation grant for the Click It or Ticket Selective Traffic Enforcement Project.

COMMENTS - Current Meeting:

Chief Tidwell reported on a grant from the Texas Department of Transportation, in which funds are available from the Comprehensive Selective Traffic Enforcement Program (S.T.E.P.). These funds would allow for Liberty Police Department officers to work overtime during off-duty hours to conduct traffic enforcement during the "Click It or Ticket", Seat Belt Safety campaign. 100% of the grant funding for the project is provided by the Texas Department of Transportation.

A motion was made to approve grant funding in the amount of \$3593.22 from the Texas Department of Transportation for the Click It or Ticket Selective Traffic Enforcement Project (S.T.E.P.) for traffic enforcement overtime within the Liberty Police Department.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Dennis Beasley, Libby Simonson
AYES:	Pickett, Huddleston, Beasley, Jordan, Potetz, Simonson, Arnold

3. Council Action 2014-20

Consider purchase of playground equipment for the Liberty Municipal Park, and take any action deemed necessary.

COMMENTS - Current Meeting:

City Manager Gary Broz reported that Council had previously discussed using Sam Rayburn Municipal Power Agency surplus funds for various proposed projects, to include new playground equipment. Mr. Broz reviewed a slideshow of the current playground equipment at the City's various parks and their state of disrepair. Mr. Broz reported that \$50,000 in SRMPA funds had been allotted for this project, along with a \$10,000 grant from the Daniels Trust.

Mr. Broz stated that various playground equipment had been researched and presented photos of new equipment. Lengthy discussion ensued regarding type of equipment, materials and construction, durability, costs, safety and other related topics.

A motion was made to replace the wooden playground equipment at the Liberty Municipal Park with new equipment to be purchased from The PlayWell Group, which includes installation, wood chip ground surface, and playground border for a total cost of \$43,159.00.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Louie Potetz, Councilperson
SECONDER:	David Arnold, Councilperson
AYES:	Pickett, Huddleston, Beasley, Jordan, Potetz, Simonson, Arnold

V. WORK SESSION

1. Work Session (ID # 2987)

Discussion of current and future goals, objectives and action plans.

COMMENTS - Current Meeting:

City Manager Gary Broz reviewed previous handouts of current projects, major challenges and a needs list. Mr. Broz requested that Council provide direction for particular areas of focus for the upcoming fiscal year.

Comments began with a lengthy discussion regarding drug issues. Police Chief Billy Tidwell responded to Council's concerns to include undercover officers, drug dogs, repeat drug offenders, condemnation of dilapidated motels, and other related topics. Additional discussion included surveillance/security equipment, locating quality applicants, employee retention, police academy, and possibly contracting with employees for a specified number of years. Mr. Broz stated that the Fire Department also has issues with finding qualified applicants and employee retention.

Chief Tidwell continued by clarifying information on the Police Department's monthly reports, and based on Council's direction, would restructure the reports to more clearly measure specific information. Chief Tidwell further stated that the national average of clearance rates for Part 1 crimes (murder, rape, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, larceny, auto theft) is approximately 22%. Each law enforcement agency's Uniform Crime Report is sent to the Texas Department of Public Safety, who in turns sends the State report to the FBI. Chief Tidwell reported the Liberty Police Department's clearance rate for Part 1 crimes in 2013, was 46%, having exceeded the national average in each Part 1 crime category.

Council consensus was to make Public Safety Goal #1 on the list of Goals, Objectives and Action Plans. As a result of these discussions, it was also decided that Goal #2 should be Personnel Investment.

Additional goals and objectives will be discussed at a future meeting.

ATTACHMENTS:

- Goals Objectives & Action Plans (DOCX)

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Motion To: Adjourn

COMMENTS - Current Meeting:

There being no further business before the Council, Mayor Pickett adjourned the meeting at 7:56 p.m.

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Carl Pickett, Mayor

ATTEST:

Dianne Tidwell, City Secretary