



The City of Liberty City Council

Regular Meeting

~ Minutes ~

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

April Gilliland
City Secretary
936-336-3684

Tuesday, October 12, 2021

6:00 PM

City Council Chambers

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order on October 12, 2021 at the City Council Chambers, 1829 Sam Houston St., Liberty, Texas at 6:00 PM by Mayor Carl Pickett.

A.

Attendee Name	Present	Absent	Late	Arrived
Mayor Carl Pickett	X			
Mayor Pro Tem Diane Driggers	X			
Council Member Dennis Beasley		X		
Council Member Libby Simonson	X			
Council Member David Arnold	X			
Council Member Chipper Smith	X			
Council Member Neal Thornton	X			

II. INVOCATION

Invocation was given by Pastor Glen Leatherman, First Baptist Church, Liberty, Texas.

III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The pledge to the American Flag was led by Fire Chief Brian Hurst and the pledge to the Texas Flag was led by Police Chief Gary Martin.

IV. 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. There were no comments.

V. PRESENTATIONS / REPORTS**A. Trinity River National Wildlife Refuge - Jr Ranger Program**

Ms. Laurie Lomas Gonzales of the Trinity River National Wildlife Refuge brought the Junior Ranger Program to speak before the Council. Junior Rangers Kayleya Shirkey, Nolan McDonald, Hutton Evans, Logan McNeil, Landry Lemelle, Andy Gonzales and Jake Gonzales gave speeches on the ways the City could help promote and incorporate native plants into the surrounding landscapes to help rebuild the community's monarch butterfly population.

B. Lifesaver Award

This agenda item was passed on and will be presented at a future meeting to be determined.

C. Divine Integrity Group Home

Ms. Keshia Pickney of Divine Integrity Group Home spoke to the Council regarding what services they will be providing for the local foster care system. When the group home opens December 1, 2021, they will be able to house up to 16 girls, ranging from the ages of 10-18 years. The home will provide a 24-hour service for the girls living at the home. They will offer Community Outreach, mental and physical abuse counseling, and education through the Liberty Independent School District.

D. City Manager's Report - City Manager Tom Warner - Topics include Shred Event, Street Rehab Program, Golf Course, Airport, Flood Insurance, Chamber of Commerce, and Employee Christmas Dinner.

City Manager Tom Warner reported on the following updates:

- Shred Event to be held Saturday October 23
- Street Rehabilitation Program
- Golf Course
- Airport
- National Flood Insurance program
- Liberty County Chamber of Commerce
- Annual Christmas Festivities
- Avon Moore's retirement
- COVID-19 numbers
- Electric Projects

E. Finance Report - Assistant City Manager / CFO Naomi Herrington

Assistant City Manager / CFO Naomi Herrington reported on the City's financials as of August 31, 2021.

F. Department Reports

Monthly reports are submitted by the various departments and are attached to the agenda for the Council's review and any questions the Council may have. The Code Enforcement and Golf Course reports were discussed briefly as questions were asked regarding timelines for

abatements and the Golf Course renovation schedule.

G. Sam Rayburn Municipal Power Agency - Mayor Pickett

Mayor Pickett, President of the Sam Rayburn Municipal Power Agency, stated that the next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 19th in Livingston and it is an open meeting if anyone was interested in attending to learn more about the Agency. The Agency paid off its debt balance on October 1, 2021 and is currently debt free.

H. Mayor, Council and Staff Comments

There were no comments made at this time.

VI. CONSENT AGENDA

All consent items listed are considered to be routine by the City Council and will be enacted by one motion. There will be no separate discussion of these items unless a Council Member so requests, and if such a request is made, the item will be removed from the Consent Agenda and considered in a normal sequence on the agenda.

The motion was made by Council Member Simonson to approve all items on the consent agenda and seconded by Council Member Thornton. The motion passed 6 to 0 with all present voting yes and Council Member Beasley being absent.

A. Minutes Approval

1. 09.14.2021 Minutes
2. 09.28.2021 Minutes

B. A RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LIBERTY, TEXAS, A HOME RULE MUNICIPALITY EXISTING UNDER THE LAWS OF THE STATE OF TEXAS, APPROVING APPOINTMENTS AND REAPPOINTMENTS TO THE LIBERTY MUNICIPAL LIBRARY BOARD.

VII. REGULAR AGENDA

A. Regular Session

1. **A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF LIBERTY, TEXAS, AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO SUBMIT A GRANT APPLICATION TO THE TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY AFFAIRS TO RESPOND TO AND PREPARE FOR PANDEMICS, SUCH AS COVID-19, AND RETAIN AN ARCHITECT TO DESIGN THE PROJECT AND A GRANT MANAGEMENT FIRM TO ASSIST THE CITY THROUGH THE GRANT PROCESS.**

The motion was made by Council Member Simonson to approve the resolution authorizing the City Manager to submit a grant application to the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs to respond to and prepare for pandemics, such as COVID-19, and retain an architect to design the project and a grant management firm to assist the City through the grant process. The motion was seconded by Council Member Driggers. The motion passed 6 to 0, with all present members voting yes and Council Member Beasley being absent.

2. A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF LIBERTY, TEXAS, AWARDING THE WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT CLEANING PROJECT BID TO SCRANTON ROBOTICS USA, INC.

The motion was made by Council Member Simonson to approve the resolution awarding the wastewater treatment plant cleaning project bid to Scranton Robotics USA, Inc. The motion was seconded by Council Member Smith. The motion passed 6 to 0, with all present members voting yes and Council Member Beasley being absent.

B. Executive Session

At 6:54 p.m., Mayor Pickett closed the open meeting and opened the Executive Session as authorized by Title 5, Chapter 551 of the Texas Government Code.

1. Texas Government Code §551.074 - Personnel Matters.

- To deliberate the appointment, employment, evaluation, reassignment, duties, discipline, or dismissal of a public office or employee.

1. City Manager
2. Electrical Supervisor

2. Texas Government Code §551.071 - Private Consultation with Attorney

- To seek advice regarding contemplated / pending litigation

C. Reconvene into Regular Session

At 8:13 p.m., Mayor Pickett closed the Executive Session and reconvened the open meeting.

1. Consider and Take Action on the City Manager as discussed in Executive Session

A motion was made by Council Member Simonson to keep City Manager Tom Warner and to give him the same salary increase as the employees and make it Retro Active as of October 1, 2021. The motion was seconded by Council Member Thornton. The motion passed 6 to 0, with all present members voting Yes and Council Member Beasley absent.

2. Consider and Take Action on Electrical Supervisor as discussed in Executive Session.

No action was taken.

3. Consider and Take Action on Contemplated / Pending Litigation discussed in the Executive Session.

No action was taken.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

A. Motion To: Adjourn

With no further business to discuss, Mayor Pickett adjourned the meeting at 8:15 p.m.

Carl Pickett, Mayor

ATTEST:

April Gilliland, City Secretary