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, June 25, 2019 | **6:00 PM** | **City Council Chambers**

I. CALL TO ORDER

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
Carl Pickett	Mayor	Present	
Diane Huddleston	Mayor ProTem	Present	
Dennis Beasley	Council Member	Present	
Libby Simonson	Council Member	Present	
David Arnold	Council Member	Present	
Chipper Smith	Council Member	Present	
Neal Thornton	Council Member	Absent	
Tom Warner	City Manager	Present	
Chris Jarmon	Asst. City Manager	Present	
Naomi Herrington	Asst. City Manager	Present	
April Gilliland	Adm. Secretary	Present	
Brandon Davis	City Attorney	Present	

II. INVOCATION

An Invocation was not given.

III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

This agenda item was passed on.

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

1. Information Item (ID # 4489)

City Manager's Report - City Manager T. Warner

COMMENTS - Current Meeting:

City Manager Tom Warner reported on the following:

- Various city-related bills resulting from the 86th Legislative Session, including S.B. 2 (property tax increases), H.B. 347 (unilateral annexations), and H.B. 2439 (building code products or materials).
- Sales tax collections for the City have increased by approximately 4% for the first two quarters of 2019.
- Charter Review Commission is scheduled to meet August 7.
- HVAC and Lighting Project is scheduled to begin the week of June 24.
- Reported on various wastewater and sewer line projects.

ATTACHMENTS:

- City Manager's Report June 25 2019 (DOCX)

2. Information Item (ID # 4490)

Finance Report - May, 2019 - Asst. City Manager N. Herrington

COMMENTS - Current Meeting:

Asst. City Manager/Finance Director Naomi Herrington reviewed the various City funds and the status of each.

3. Information Item (ID # 4491)

Mayor, Council and Staff Comments

COMMENTS - Current Meeting:

Reported by various City employees were:

- Asst. City Manager Chris Jarmon reported that on June 27, the Summer Reading Program entertainment for the Library will be Space Center Houston.
- City Manager Tom Warner reported on the July 3 Fireworks Celebration, Burgers in the Park for employees will be rescheduled to July, and a Softball Game is planned for October, between the Police and Fire Departments.
- Fire Chief Brian Hurst reported that the Department will hold a BBQ Fundraiser on July 13, at Brookshires.

VI. REGULAR AGENDA

A. Regular Session

1. Ordinance 2019-18

CONSIDER ADOPTION OF AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF LIBERTY, TEXAS APPROVING THE RATES PROPOSED BY CENTERPOINT ENERGY RESOURCES CORP., d/b/a CENTERPOINT ENERGY ENTEX AND CENTERPOINT ENERGY TEXAS GAS ("CENTERPOINT" OR "COMPANY") COMPANY'S GAS RELIABILITY INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAM ("GRIP") FILING MADE WITH THE CITY ON MARCH 28, 2019; FINDING THAT THE MEETING COMPLIES WITH THE OPEN MEETINGS ACT; MAKING OTHER FINDINGS AND PROVISIONS RELATED TO THE SUBJECT, DECLARING AN EFFECTIVE DATE; AND DISPENSING WITH THE REQUIREMENT OF SECTION 3.10 OF THE HOME RULE CHARTER THAT ALL ORDINANCES BE READ ON TWO SEPARATE DAYS.

COMMENTS - Current Meeting:

Mayor Pickett read the caption of the Ordinance into the record as follows:

"AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF LIBERTY, TEXAS APPROVING THE RATES PROPOSED BY CENTERPOINT ENERGY RESOURCES CORP., d/b/a CENTERPOINT ENERGY ENTEX AND CENTERPOINT ENERGY TEXAS GAS ("CENTERPOINT" OR "COMPANY") COMPANY'S GAS RELIABILITY INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAM ("GRIP") FILING MADE WITH THE CITY ON MARCH 28, 2019; FINDING THAT THE MEETING COMPLIES WITH THE OPEN MEETINGS ACT; MAKING OTHER FINDINGS AND PROVISIONS RELATED TO THE SUBJECT, DECLARING AN EFFECTIVE DATE; AND DISPENSING WITH THE REQUIREMENT OF SECTION 3.10 OF THE HOME RULE CHARTER THAT ALL ORDINANCES BE READ ON TWO SEPARATE DAYS."

City Manager Tom Warner reported on the City's previous action, on April 9, to suspend the proposed CenterPoint rate increase for 45 days to allow additional time for review by the Lawton Law Firm. The Lawton Law Firm has completed their review and it has been determined that CenterPoint's filing meets the requirements of the GRIP (rate adjustment) statute.

A motion was made to adopt the Ordinance, as presented.

ATTACHMENTS:

- CenterPoint-2019 GRIP East Texas Letter re Approval Ord (2019.06.10) (PDF)

RESULT:	**ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]**
MOVER:	Dennis Beasley, Council Member
SECONDER:	David Arnold, Council Member
AYES:	Pickett, Huddleston, Beasley, Simonson, Arnold, Smith
ABSENT:	Neal Thornton

2. Resolution 2019-9

Consider and take action on the second, and final, reading of a Resolution approving a budget amendment to the Liberty Community Development Corporation (LCDC) Fiscal Year Budget ending September 30, 2019, in the amount of $50,589.60, to fund a portion of the salaries and benefits of those employees working on behalf of the LCDC.

COMMENTS - Current Meeting:

This was the second and final reading of a Resolution authorizing a Liberty Community Development Corporation (LCDC) Budget Amendment to transfer funds from LCDC, to the City's General Fund, to subsidize a portion of the salary and benefits of the two City employees that assist with economic development. The transfer of funds will contribute 60%, and 20%

respectively, for the Assistant City Manager and the Administrative Secretary. The Resolution was read in its entirety.

A motion was made to approve the Resolution.

ATTACHMENTS:

- LCDC Budget (PDF)

RESULT:	**APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]**
MOVER:	Diane Huddleston, Mayor ProTem
SECONDER:	David Arnold, Council Member
AYES:	Pickett, Huddleston, Beasley, Simonson, Arnold, Smith
ABSENT:	Neal Thornton

3. Resolution 2019-10

Consider and take action on the second, and final, reading of a Resolution approving a budget amendment to the Liberty Community Development Corporation (LCDC) Fiscal Year Budget ending September 30, 2019, in the amount of $20,500.00 for advertising and membership fees to economic development related organizations.

COMMENTS - Current Meeting:

This was the second and final reading of a Resolution authorizing a Liberty Community Development Corporation (LCDC) Budget Amendment approving the appropriation of funds for advertising and membership and dues in economic development organizations, in the amount of $20,500. The Resolution was read in its entirety.

A motion was made to approve the Resolution.

RESULT:	**APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]**
MOVER:	Dennis Beasley, Council Member
SECONDER:	Diane Huddleston, Mayor ProTem
AYES:	Pickett, Huddleston, Beasley, Simonson, Arnold, Smith
ABSENT:	Neal Thornton

4. Resolution 2019-11

Consider and take action on the second, and final, reading of a Resolution approving a budget amendment to the Liberty Community Development Corporation (LCDC) Fiscal Year Budget ending September 30, 2019, in the amount of $35,887.00, to increase the transfer to the Liberty Municipal Golf Course to fund various expenditures.

COMMENTS - Current Meeting:

This was the second and final reading of a Resolution authorizing a Liberty Community Development Corporation (LCDC) Budget Amendment approving the appropriation of funds for various necessary repairs and purchases at the Liberty Municipal Golf Course, in the amount of $35,887. The Resolution was read in its entirety.

A motion was made to approve the Resolution.

RESULT:	**APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]**
MOVER:	Dennis Beasley, Council Member
SECONDER:	Diane Huddleston, Mayor ProTem
AYES:	Pickett, Huddleston, Beasley, Simonson, Arnold, Smith
ABSENT:	Neal Thornton

5. Council Action 2019-51

Consider approval of award of contract for emergency repairs to the sanitary sewer line on Bowie Street between Cos and Martin Luther King Drive.

COMMENTS - Current Meeting:

City Manager Tom Warner reported on the need for emergency repairs to the sanitary sewer line on Bowie Street, between Cos and MLK Drive. Bids were solicited, with three bids received. Two of the bids were "no bids" and the third was submitted by Texas Pride Utilities in the amount of $183,319.00.

After brief discussion, a motion was made to award the contract for the emergency repairs on Bowie Street, between Cos and MLK Drive, to Texas Pride.

RESULT:	**APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]**
MOVER:	Libby Simonson, Council Member
SECONDER:	David Arnold, Council Member
AYES:	Pickett, Huddleston, Beasley, Simonson, Arnold, Smith
ABSENT:	Neal Thornton

VII. WORK SESSION

1. Work Session (ID # 4497)

Discussion regarding electric utility payment assistance.

COMMENTS - Current Meeting:

Lengthy discussion was held regarding the City's previous electric utility bill assistance program, the Greater East Texas Community Action Program (GETCAP). This program no longer accepts the City's terms of the agreement, as have been accepted in many previous years. Further discussion included examples of different programs used by other cities and contacting U.S. Congressman Brian Babin to seek assistance from his office with GETCAP.

ATTACHMENTS:

- GETCAP Memo to Council June 2019_ (DOCX)

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Motion To: Adjourn

COMMENTS - Current Meeting:

There being no further business before the Council, Mayor Pickett adjourned the meeting at 7:32 p.m.

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Carl Pickett, Mayor

ATTEST:

Dianne Tidwell, City Secretary