



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, May 26, 2020

6:00 PM

City Hall - Liberty Center

I. CALL TO ORDER

Those individuals listed in the Call to Order were physically present in the Liberty Center. The public was not yet allowed entrance into the meeting, due to COVID-19.

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
Carl Pickett	Mayor	Present	
Diane Driggers	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	Present	
Tom Warner	City Manager	Present	
Chris Jarmon	Asst. City Manager	Present	
Naomi Herrington	Asst. City Manager	Present	
Dianne Tidwell	City Secretary	Present	
Brandon Davis	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 those participating in the meeting through telephone or video conference, and introduced other Staff members present.

III. REGULAR AGENDA

A. Executive Session

Tx. Gov. Code §551.072 - Deliberation Regarding Real Property.

- To deliberate the purchase, exchange, lease or value of real property.

At 6:04 p.m., Mayor Pickett closed the open meeting and opened the Executive Session as authorized above.

B. Reconvene into Regular Session

At 6:35 p.m., Mayor Pickett closed the Executive Session and reconvened the open meeting.

C. Regular Session

1. Work Session (ID # 4787)

City Council will convene a Work Session for discussion of the Liberty Municipal Golf Course.

COMMENTS - Current Meeting:

A work session was held regarding the Municipal Golf Course, beginning with a PowerPoint presentation by City Manager Tom Warner. The discussion revolved around the future course of action for the course, being whether to honor the original commitment of retaining the course for five (5) years or to sell. The recently proposed Golf Course Master Plan calls for \$4.5 million in improvements, or variations thereof.

Council deemed that as a result of the state of the economy, due to the Coronavirus pandemic, it is not prudent at this time to consider an expenditure of that size.

Following lengthy dialogue, consensus of the Council was to honor the original commitment, complete additional clean-up of the course and facilities, with minimal expenditures.

ATTACHMENTS:

- PP-LIBERTY MUNICIPAL GOLF COURSE-May 2020 (PPTX)
- GC-Att #1-National Golf Foundation (PDF)
- GC-Att #2 - 9-Hole & Short Courses (PDF)
- GC-Att #3 - Golf Property Analysts (PDF)
- GC-Att #4 - Aren't Enough Golfers (PDF)
- GC-Att #5 - Memorial Park Golf Course Reopens (PDF)

2. Resolution 2020-15

Consider a Resolution authorizing the purchase of equipment for the Liberty Municipal Golf Course.

COMMENTS - Current Meeting:

City Manager Tom Warner explained that the Golf Course is in need of various equipment for maintenance of the course. This equipment, if approved, would be purchased through the Houston-Galveston Area Council Cooperative Purchasing Program (BuyBoard), except for the greens aerator. Proposed purchases are for a greens aerator, top dresser, large utility vehicle,

175 gallon sprayer, and a finish mower.

After brief discussion, a motion was made to approve the purchase of the equipment from Cambridge Funds, for a total cost of \$121,608.89.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Diane Driggers, Mayor ProTem
SECONDER:	Libby Simonson, Council Member
AYES:	Pickett, Driggers, Beasley, Simonson, Arnold, Smith, Thornton

3. Resolution (ID # 4783)

First Reading of a Resolution ratifying a Liberty Community Development Corporation FY20 Budget Amendment for \$24,850.

COMMENTS - Current Meeting:

City Attorney Brandon Davis read the first reading of the Resolution, in its entirety, ratifying the Liberty Community Development Corporation's approval of a Liberty Community Development Corporation FY20 Budget Amendment, in the amount of \$24,850.

RESULT:	NO ACTION TAKEN
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4. Resolution (ID # 4784)

Consider and take action of Second and Final Reading, of a Resolution ratifying a Liberty Community Development Corporation FY20 Budget Amendment for \$24,850.

COMMENTS - Current Meeting:

Discussion was held regarding the proposed LCDC FY20 Budget Amendment to increase the transfer to the Golf Course, in the amount of \$24,850. Following discussion, Council consensus was instead to pay for the transfer from the Cambridge Fund. This item will be brought before Council at the next meeting, with a new Resolution reflecting the correct fund from which to pay the transfer.

RESULT:	NO ACTION TAKEN
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5. Ordinance 2020-18

CONSIDER ADOPTION OF AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LIBERTY, TEXAS AMENDING THE CITY'S FISCAL YEAR 2019-2020 BUDGET; PROVIDING FOR 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 COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LIBERTY, TEXAS AMENDING THE CITY'S FISCAL YEAR 2019-2020 BUDGET; PROVIDING FOR 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 proposed budget amendment, due to the need to increase the number of full-time positions at the Golf Course from four (4) to five (5). The part-time Greens Keeper position will become a full-time position. This will provide the Golf Course with five (5) full-time employees and three (3) part-time employees, for a \$12,000 impact to the current budget. Following brief discussion, a motion was made to adopt the Ordinance approving the budget amendment for FY20.

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

6. Resolution (ID # 4781)

Consider a Resolution cancelling the City's Annual July 3rd Fireworks Display, due to COVID-19.

COMMENTS - Current Meeting:

A lengthy discussion was held regarding the City's annual fireworks display, additional activities normally held, and current COVID-19 restrictions. A motion was made, not to cancel the fireworks display, but to hold the display as planned, without the extra activities, following social distancing requirements, provided the Governor makes allowances for these type displays.

RESULT:	DEFEATED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Libby Simonson, Council Member
SECONDER:	Dennis Beasley, Council Member
AYES:	Pickett, Driggers, Beasley, Simonson, Arnold, Smith, Thornton

7. Resolution 2020-16

Consider a Resolution authorizing the City Manager to execute documents related to the Cares Act Coronavirus Relief Fund.

COMMENTS - Current Meeting:

City Manager Tom Warner reported on Coronavirus Relief Funds (CRF) distributed through the U.S. Health and Human Services Department (HHS) and Texas Department of Emergency Management (TDEM), as part of the CARES Act. Mr. Warner explained that local entities are to execute the grant and certify their eligibility in order to receive funds. The City has currently received \$25,000 from HHS and eligible to receive up to \$536,250 from TDEM.

A motion was made to authorize the City Manager to execute all CARES Act related documents.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Libby Simonson, Council Member
SECONDER:	Dennis Beasley, Council Member
AYES:	Pickett, Driggers, Beasley, Simonson, Arnold, Smith, Thornton

IV. ADJOURNMENT

Motion To: Adjourn

COMMENTS - Current Meeting:

There being no further business before the Council, Mayor Pickett adjourned the meeting at 8:06 p.m.

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Carl Pickett, Mayor

ATTEST:

Dianne Tidwell, City Secretary