



The City of Liberty City Council

Special Called Meeting

~ Minutes ~

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

April Gilliland
City Secretary
936-336-3684

Wednesday, January 20, 2021

12:00 PM

City Hall - Liberty Center

I. CALL TO ORDER

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	Late	12:02 PM
Chipper Smith	Council Member	Present	
Neal Thornton	Council Member	Present	
Tom Warner	City Manager	Present	
Naomi Herrington	Assistant City Manager / CFO	Present	
Chris Jarmon	Assistant City Manager	Present	
Brandon Davis	City Attorney	Present	
April Gilliland	City Secretary	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. There were no comments

III. REGULAR AGENDA

At 12:02 p.m., Mayor Pickett closed the open meeting and opened an Executive Session pursuant to authorization by Title 5, Chapter 551 of the Texas Government Code.

A. Regular Session

At 12:14 p.m., Mayor Pickett closed the Executive Session and reconvened the open meeting.

1. Ordinance 2021-1

Consider an ordinance adding Section 13.09 of the Code of Ordinances imposing a lien against real property of utility customers for delinquent bills.

COMMENTS - Current Meeting:

The Texas Local Government Code allows cities to perfect a lien on the real property of any real property owner that fails to pay City provided utility services, including, but not limited to, water, wastewater, solid waste and electricity. The lien for delinquent utility bill shall not apply to any category of real property specifically exempted from such a lien by the Texas Local Government Code. Currently, when a real property owner leaves a property without paying their utility bill, the City's only recourse is to turn the account over to a collection agency. By placing a lien on the property, this gives the City one more opportunity to collect on the delinquent bill.

Motion was made to adopt the ordinance adding Section 13.09 of the Code of Ordinances imposing a lien against real property of utility customers for delinquent bills.

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

2. Resolution 2021-5

Consider a resolution retaining the firm of Lloyd Gosselink to assist the City in negotiating a contract for utility service.

COMMENTS - Current Meeting:

The City currently has an engagement letter with Lloyd Gosselink to provide legal services on an as needed basis. The terms of engagement vary depending on the services required. Lloyd Gosselink has agreed to provide legal services to the City during contract negotiations for utility service to local customer. The billing for their effort would be based on their current hourly rates and is not anticipated to exceed \$7,500.00

Motion was made to approve a resolution retaining the firm of Lloyd Gosselink to assist the City in negotiating a contract for utility service.

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

IV. ADJOURNMENT

A. Motion To: Adjourn

COMMENTS - Current Meeting:

There being no further business before the Council, Mayor Pickett adjourned the meeting at 12:18 p.m.

Carl Pickett, Mayor

ATTEST:

April Gilliland, City Secretary