



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, January 25, 2022

6:00 PM

City Council Chambers

I. CALL TO ORDER

The Meeting was called to order on January 25, 2022 in the City Council Chambers, 1829 Sam Houston, Liberty, Texas at 6:03 p.m. by Mayor Carl Pickett.

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. 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. Tommy Tousha, Jr. Vice Commander of VFW post # 5621 spoke with council regarding the community involvement and activities the VFW post participates in throughout the year. Mr. Tousha also mentioned that the VFW post #5621 gave out \$8,547 in scholarships to kids in the community in 2021. Janis Holt, Candidate for State Representative - HD18 introduced herself to the Council. City Manager Tom Warner talked about the rescue of a citizen from a house fire in Ames by two of the City of Liberty patrol officers, Kyle Cornelius and Jacob Cantu, along with Fire Chief Brian Hurst who were among the first to respond.

III. 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.

A motion was made by Council Member Beasley 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 Simonson being absent.

A. Minutes Approval

1. 1.11.2022 Council Minutes

IV. REGULAR AGENDA

A. Regular Session

1. AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF LIBERTY, TEXAS, AUTHORIZING PARTICIPATION WITH OTHER ENTERGY SERVICE AREA CITIES IN MATTERS CONCERNING ENTERGY TEXAS, INC. AT THE PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION OF TEXAS IN 2022; AUTHORIZING THE HIRING OF LAWYERS AND RATE EXPERTS; AUTHORIZING THE CITY'S PARTICIPATION TO THE FULL EXTENT PERMITTED BY LAW AT THE PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION OF TEXAS; FINDING THAT THE MEETING COMPLIES WITH THE OPEN MEETINGS ACT; AND DECLARING AN EFFECTIVE DATE

A motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Driggers to approve the Ordinance authorizing the City's participation with other Entergy Service area cities in matters concerning Entergy Texas, Inc. The motion was seconded by Council Member Beasley. The Motion passed 6 to 0 with all present voting yes and Council Member Simonson being absent.

2. AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LIBERTY, TEXAS ORDERING A GENERAL MUNICIPAL ELECTION TO BE HELD ON THE 7TH DAY OF MAY, 2022 FOR THE PURPOSE OF ELECTING A MAYOR AND THREE COUNCILMEMBERS; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE;

UNA ORDENANZA DEL CONCEJO MUNICIPAL DE LA CIUDAD DE LIBERTY, TEXAS, QUE ORDENA LA CELEBRACIÓN DE UNAS ELECCIONES MUNICIPALES GENERALES PARA EL DÍA 7 DE MAYO DE 2022 CON EL PROPÓSITO DE ELEGIR UN ALCALDE Y TRES CONCEJALES; QUE DISPONE UNA FECHA DE ENTRADA EN VIGOR;

A motion was made by Council Member Thornton to approve the Ordinance ordering a General Municipal Election to be held on May 7, 2022. The motion was seconded by Council Member Smith. The motion passed 6 to 0 with all present voting ayes and Council Member Simonson being absent.

B. Work Session

1. Discussion of SwampSmoke Restaurant Proposal and 380 Agreement.

Assistant City Manager Chris Jarmon presented the background for the SwampSmoke restaurant proposal. Showing photos of the current photos of the property and the project. Mr. Chad Finch presented to the Council his business plan and project goals.

2. Discussion of the 2022 Liberty Jubilee

Ms. Emily Cook spoke to the Council about the community being in favor of having the Jubilee. City Manager Tom Warner gave a presentation on the past Jubilee expenses and the pros and

cons of having the Jubilee for 2022. After a lengthy discussion, it was mutually decided to have the 2022 Liberty Jubilee as scheduled on March 25 & 26, 2022.

C. Second Reading - 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; SAID RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AN AWARD AND DISBURSEMENT OF LIBERTY COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION FUNDS FOR AN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT GRANT TO SWAMPSMOKE, LLC.

A motion was made by Council Member Beasley to approve the resolution authorizing an award and disbursement of Liberty Community Development Corporation funds for an economic development grant to SwampSmoke, LLC. The motion was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Driggers. The motion passed 6 to 0 with all present voting ayes and Council Member Simonson being absent.

D. Executive Session

At 7:20 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 §551.071 - Private Consultation with Attorney.

- To seek advice regarding contemplated /pending litigation.

E. Reconvene into Regular Session

At 8:01 p.m., Mayor Pickett closed the Executive Session and reconvened the open meeting.

V. ADJOURNMENT

A. Motion To: Adjourn

With no further business to discuss, Mayor Pickett adjourned the meeting at 8:02 p.m.

Carl Pickett, Mayor

ATTEST:

April Gilliland, City Secretary