



The City of Liberty City Council

Regular Meeting

~ Minutes ~

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

Dianne Tidwell
City Secretary
(936) 336-3684

Tuesday, May 12, 2009

6:00 PM

City Council Chambers

I. CALL TO ORDER

The Meeting was called to order on May 12, 2009 at the City Council Chambers, 1829 Sam Houston, Liberty, TX at 6:05 PM by Mayor Carl Pickett.

II. INVOCATION

The Invocation was given by Pastor Michael Booze, St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church.

III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was given by Jenni and Janna Whitehead, Liberty High School Seniors.

IV. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF GUESTS AND VISITORS / PUBLIC COMMENT

Mayor Pickett welcomed guests and visitors, opening the floor for public comment to those individuals wishing to address the Council, regarding non-agenda items.

Mayor Pickett reported on the following items:

1. Fire Department Muster held on Saturday, May 2nd,
2. Groundbreaking Ceremony at the Liberty Municipal Airport on Wednesday, May 20th, 10:30 a.m. for construction of airport improvements, to include runway lighting, and drainage improvements, and
3. Great job by the Water Department in responding to recent water system issues.

Councilperson Huddleston reported on a Shred-It Day to be held on Saturday, May, 30, 9 a.m.-Noon.

Mrs. Morse asked if there might be a better way of notifying citizens in an emergency event, such as the recent boil water notice. City Manager Ron Wood responded that it was placed on the radio, in the media, and flyers were placed in places where large groups might assemble. He thanked Mrs. Morse and stated he would look for ways to improve the notification process.

V. PRESENTATIONS / REPORTS

1. Information Item 2009-23

Proclamation - Motorcycle Safety & Awareness Month

COMMENTS - Current Meeting:

Mayor Pickett read a proclamation proclaiming Motorcycle Safety and Awareness Month. This proclamation was at the request of the Texas Motorcycle Safety Coalition.

ATTACHMENTS:

- Attachment #1 - Motorcycle Safety Month 09 (DOC)

2. Information Item 2009-30

Oath of Office to be Administered to Newly Appointed Police Chief.

COMMENTS - Current Meeting:

Judge Bobby Rader issued the Oath of Office to newly appointed Police Chief Billy Tidwell. This oath was for ceremonial purposes only, as Chief Tidwell formally took the Oath on April 27th prior to his first day of employment on May 4, 2009.

3. Information Item 2009-24

Employee Recognition - Mayor Carl Pickett

COMMENTS - Current Meeting:

Mayor Pickett presented a plaque to Lt. Ricky Skarpa, in appreciation for 34 years of dedicated service to this community, and for his commitment to the Liberty Police Department serving twice as Interim Police Chief.

4. Information Item 2009-26

WM - Waste Watch Program - Joe W.

COMMENTS - Current Meeting:

Joe Vidovich, Waste Management Southern Group, Corporate Security Director, made a presentation regarding the Waste Watch Program. This program involves training refuse drivers in being observant of and reporting suspicious events while on their routes.

5. Information Item 2009-25

Waste Management Services - Terry Woodson

COMMENTS - Current Meeting:

Terry Woodson, Municipal Marketing Manager for Waste Management made a presentation on the various recycling options available to the City of Liberty.

Option 1 -	Curbside Garbage Collection -	1 x week
	Curbside Recycling Collection -	1 x week
Option 2 -	Curbside Garbage Collection -	2 x week
	Curbside Recycling Collection -	1 x week
Option 3 -	Curbside CART Collection -	1 x week
	Curbside Recycling Collection -	1 x week
Option 4 -	Drop Off Recycling Collection	

A lengthy discussion ensued regarding the details of garbage collection, bin sizes, recycling codes, curbside vs. drop off recycling, costs, public education for these services, and other related issues.

6. Information Item 2009-27

Sam Rayburn Municipal Power Agency - Mayor Pickett

COMMENTS - Current Meeting:

Mayor Pickett commented on the most recent meeting of the Sam Rayburn Municipal Power Agency, held on April 28, 2009. A copy of the minutes of the meeting of February 24, 2009, were distributed to Council.

7. Information Item 2009-28

Financial Report - Naomi Herrington

COMMENTS - Current Meeting:

The financial report was passed on.

8. Information Item 2009-29

Humphreys Cultural Center Expansion Project Draw Down - Ron Wood

COMMENTS - Current Meeting:

A brief discussion was held regarding the status of construction on the Cultural Center Expansion Project and the status of draw-downs. The paid-to-date amount to the contractor is \$117,000.00; with 5.31% project completion. Council directed management to conduct monthly inspections on this project.

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.

A. Minutes Approval

1. Tuesday, April 14, 2009
2. Wednesday, April 22, 2009

VII. REGULAR AGENDA**A. Regular Session****1. Resolution 2009-8**

Canvass Returns of the City of Liberty General Election Held on May 9, 2009, and Take Action on a Resolution for Same.

COMMENTS - Current Meeting:

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

"A RESOLUTION CANVASSING THE RETURNS AND DECLARING THE RESULTS OF A GENERAL ELECTION HELD ON SATURDAY, MAY 9, 2009."

Motion was made to declare the following candidates elected to the City Council:

Dennis Beasley

Al Simonson

Diane Haywood Huddleston

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Mike McCarty, Mayor Pro-Tem
SECONDER:	Frank Jordan, Councilperson
AYES:	Pickett, Beasley, Huddleston, McCarty, Simonson, Potetz, Jordan

2. Information Item 2009-31

Oath of Office to be Administered to Newly Elected Officials.

COMMENTS - Current Meeting:

Judge Bobby Rader issued the Oath of Office to newly elected officials: Dennis Beasley, Al Simonson, and Diane Haywood Huddleston.

ATTACHMENTS:

- Attachment #2 - Oath of Office Form (DOC)

3. Council Action 2009-30

Elect a Mayor Pro Tem.

COMMENTS - Current Meeting:

Motion was made to elect Councilperson McCarty as Mayor Pro Tem.

RESULT:	APPROVED [6 TO 0]
MOVER:	Diane Huddleston, Councilperson
SECONDER:	Dennis Beasley, Councilperson
AYES:	Pickett, Beasley, Huddleston, Simonson, Potetz, Jordan
ABSTAIN:	Mike McCarty

4. Council Action 2009-31

Consider Approval of Participation with the State Historical Preservation Office in Developing a Narrative and Pictorial History of the Power Plant Facility.

COMMENTS - Current Meeting:

Ms. Amy Barnes, FEMA Region 6 was present, to address Council, as a result of a project submitted to FEMA for the reimbursement of the demolition of the Power Plant facility, which was heavily damaged during Hurricane Ike. When FEMA allocates funds for this type project, an environmental review must be completed. As part of this assessment, the building was identified as eligible for the National Register of Historic Places for its historic character as an example of a public works building funded by the federal government in the 1930's. For the City of Liberty, this means that the building is being negatively impacted by the demolition. FEMA has to take additional steps before being able to fund the demolition of the building and this is done through negotiation of a Memo of Agreement; working in conjunction with the State Historical Preservation Office and the Governor's Division of Emergency Management.

Brad Patterson, State Historical Preservation Office states that he would normally urge reconsideration to try and save a building, but this building is severely damaged with no alternative, except for demolition. Lengthy discussion was held regarding the process of developing a narrative and pictorial history of this building.

100% of the cost should be submitted as part of this process, but only the normal FEMA share for this disaster of 75% would be reimbursed, if 100% of the cost is found to be eligible.

City Manager Ron Wood recommended that Council give authorization for management to proceed with the Memo of Agreement to move forward with this project.

Motion was made to participate in the project as presented.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Mike McCarty, Mayor Pro-Tem
SECONDER:	Dennis Beasley, Councilperson
AYES:	Pickett, Beasley, Huddleston, McCarty, Simonson, Potetz, Jordan

5. Council Action 2009-32

Consider Approval of a Proposal for Medical and Dental Insurance.

COMMENTS - Current Meeting:

Mr. Jim Hall was present to discuss with Council proposals

received for Medical and Dental Insurance. After further discussion of no changes in coverage, stop smoking programs, wellness initiatives, and other related issues, a motion was made to approve the following:

- Renew with Health First for medical and dental coverage (formerly TriSurant)
- Purchase Stop Loss Aggregate - switch from previous provider to Mutual of Omaha
- Renew with Ft. Dearborn for life insurance coverage - 2 x employee annual salary - \$5000 death benefit for retirees
- Renew transplant coverage, and
- Adopt the 4-rate structure funding level which will produce an annual contribution of \$1,373,080.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Frank Jordan, Councilperson
SECONDER:	Mike McCarty, Mayor Pro-Tem
AYES:	Pickett, Beasley, Huddleston, McCarty, Simonson, Potetz, Jordan

6. Council Action 2009-33

Consider Appointments to the Planning and Zoning Commission.

COMMENTS - Current Meeting:

Motion was made to reappoint Bill Takach and Kim Anderson to the Planning & Zoning Commission.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Frank Jordan, Councilperson
SECONDER:	Diane Huddleston, Councilperson
AYES:	Pickett, Beasley, Huddleston, McCarty, Simonson, Potetz, Jordan

7. Council Action 2009-34

Consider Appointments to the Liberty Community Development Corporation.

COMMENTS - Current Meeting:

Motion made to reappoint Ron Wood, Mike McCarty and Robert Ward to the Liberty Community Development Corporation Board of Directors.

RESULT: APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER: Dennis Beasley, Councilperson
SECONDER: Louie Potetz, Councilperson
AYES: Pickett, Beasley, Huddleston, McCarty, Simonson, Potetz, Jordan

8. Council Action 2009-35

Consider Authorizing the City Manager to Seek Requests for Qualifications for Architectural and Design Services for a New Liberty Bell Tower.

COMMENTS - Current Meeting:

Motion was made to authorize the City Manager to seek Requests for Qualifications for architectural and design services for a new Liberty Bell Tower.

RESULT: APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER: Diane Huddleston, Councilperson
SECONDER: Mike McCarty, Mayor Pro-Tem
AYES: Pickett, Beasley, Huddleston, McCarty, Simonson, Potetz, Jordan

9. Ordinance 2009-8

Consider an Ordinance Amending the Fiscal Year 2008-2009 Budget, Providing for Additional Personnel.

COMMENTS - Current Meeting:

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

"APPLYING ADJUSTMENTS FOR AMENDING THE FISCAL YEAR 2008-2009 BUDGET AND FINANCIAL PLAN FOR THE CITY OF LIBERTY IN THE ADMINISTRATION DEPARTMENT OF THE GENERAL FUND."

This item relates to additional personnel being employed within the Administration Department. City Manager Ron Wood stated that this is specific to a Finance Director and back-up personnel for payroll, accounts payable, and the billing department. Mr. Wood further stated the proposed amendment is for \$28,400 for the balance of the fiscal year, for both positions. Proposed salary is \$24,000 for the back-up personnel and \$63,000 for Finance Director. Annual cost of these positions, is \$29,692 and \$74,160, respectively, for a total of \$103,852.00.

After lengthy discussion including duties, responsibilities, financial reports, and other related issues, a motion was made to adopt the budget amendment, authorize the employment of a clerical position.

RESULT: ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER: Dennis Beasley, Councilperson
SECONDER: Frank Jordan, Councilperson
AYES: Pickett, Beasley, Huddleston, McCarty, Simonson, Potetz, Jordan

10. Council Action 2009-36

Consider Approval of Compensation to be Paid to the Election Officials for the May 9, 2009 General Election.

COMMENTS - Current Meeting:

Motion was made to approve compensation due election officials for the May 9, 2009 General Election, in the amount of \$1405.00.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Dennis Beasley, Councilperson
SECONDER:	Diane Huddleston, Councilperson
AYES:	Pickett, Beasley, Huddleston, McCarty, Simonson, Potetz, Jordan

11. Council Action 2009-37

Consider Setting the Date, Time and Location for a City Council and Staff Work Session to Set Goals, Objectives and Action Plans.

COMMENTS - Current Meeting:

Motion was made to hold a council and staff work session to set goals, objectives, and action plans for Tuesday, June 2, 2009, 6:00 p.m., in the City Council Chambers.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Dennis Beasley, Councilperson
SECONDER:	Al Simonson, Councilperson
AYES:	Pickett, Beasley, Huddleston, McCarty, Simonson, Potetz, Jordan

12. Work Session 2009-6

Web Site Design / A-1 Tel-Com, Inc.

COMMENTS - Current Meeting:

Matt Lanier, A-1 Tel-Com, Inc. was present to report on the status of the new web site design. Discussed was design templates, functionality within the site, photos, streaming video, links, content, timelines, and other related items. Mr. Lanier stated that he expects to have the site complete in 5-6 weeks.

VIII. COUNCIL MEAL

Council shared an evening meal.

IX. ADJOURNMENT**1. Motion To: Adjourn****COMMENTS - Current Meeting:**

There being no further business before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 9:50 p.m.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Dennis Beasley, Councilperson
SECONDER:	Frank Jordan, Councilperson
AYES:	Pickett, Beasley, Huddleston, McCarty, Simonson, Potetz, Jordan

Carl Pickett, Mayor

ATTEST:

Dianne Tidwell, City Secretary