



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, December 12, 2023

6:00 PM

City Council Chambers

I. CALL TO ORDER

This meeting was called to order on December 12, 2023 in the City Council Chambers, 1829 Sam Houston Street, Liberty, Texas at 6:02 p.m. by Mayor Carl Pickett.

Attendee Name	Present	Absent	Late	Arrived
Mayor Carl Pickett	X			
Mayor Pro Tem Chipper Smith	X			
Council Member Dennis Beasley	X			
Council Member Libby Simonson	X			
Council Member John Hebert, Jr.	X			
Council Member Tommy Brents	X			
Council Member Ed Seymour	X			

II. INVOCATION

Invocation was given by Pastor Jason Coward from Freedom Church, Liberty, Texas.

III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge to the American Flag was led by Public Works Director Damon Jones and the pledge to the Texas Flag was led by Police Chief Gary Martin.

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. No comments were made.

V. PRESENTATIONS / REPORTS

A. City Manager's Report - City Manager Tom Warner - Topics include, 2024 Fire Hydrant Replacement Project, Golf Course, Water Leak Repair Schedule, 2024 Street Rehabilitation Project, and Electrical Projects.

City Manager Tom Warner offered the following updates:

- 2024 Fire Hydrant Replacement Program
- Golf Course
- Water leaks
- 2024 Street Rehabilitation Program - Proposed street list
- Electrical Projects

Council asked questions regarding Layl, Mizell and McGuire street repairs.

B. Finance Report - Assistant City Manager/CFO Naomi Herrington

Assistant City Manager / CFO Naomi Herrington reported on the City's financials as of October 31, 2023.

C. Department Reports

Monthly reports are submitted by departments and are attached to the agenda for the council to review and to comment on or ask questions that they may have. No questions were asked.

D. Sam Rayburn Municipal Power Agency - Mayor Pickett

Mayor Pickett, President of the Sam Rayburn Municipal Power Agency, stated that the meeting for SRMPA is held on the third Tuesday of each month in Livingston. The meeting for December has been moved to Wednesday, December 20, 2023 in Livingston.

E. Mayor, Council and Staff Comments

City Manager Tom Warner stated that there would be no special meeting for December. Mr. Warner also reminded the Council of the Employee Dinner on Thursday, December 14, 2023, and that City offices would be closed December 25 & 26, 2023 and January 1, 2023, for the holidays. A shred/E-cycle event has been scheduled for January 6, 2023. Council Member Simonson thanked the City staff for the work done with the Christmas Parade and activities, but suggested more trash cans be put out. Council Member Hebert asked about the power outage that happened on November 15, 2023. Mayor Pickett wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

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 motion was made by Council Member Beasley to approve all items on the consent agenda and seconded by Council Member Simonson. The motion passed 7 to 0 with all present voting yes.

A. Minutes Approval

1. November 14, 2023

VII. REGULAR AGENDA

A. Regular Session

1. **A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LIBERTY, TEXAS, AUTHORIZING THE SUBMISSION OF A CONTRACT AMENDMENT REQUEST FOR THE TEXAS COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT FUND CONTRACT BETWEEN THE CITY OF LIBERTY AND THE TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**

(TDA), CONTRACT NUMBER CDV21-0052.

The City was awarded a 2021 Texas Community Development Block Grant (TxCDBG) contract with the Texas Department of Agriculture for street improvements on Layl Drive. The Engineer's Estimate of Probable Cost exceeds the amount of grant funds available. As a result, an amendment to the performance statement is required to modify the limits of the proposed street improvements from what was listed in the original grant agreement.

A motion was made by Council Member Simonson to approve the resolution authorizing the submission of a contract amendment request for the Texas Community Development Fund Contract between the City of Liberty and the Texas Department of Agriculture contract number CDV21-0052 and seconded by Council Member Brents. The motion passed 7 to 0 with all present voting yes.

2. 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, APPROVING AN INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT WITH HARDIN ISD FOR USE OF THE LIBERTY MUNICIPAL GOLF COURSE.

The Hardin Independent School District (HISD) has approached the City about using the Municipal Golf Course for their golf team. The proposed agreement provides HISD's golf program with the ability to use the Liberty Municipal Golf Course. The agreement provides for unlimited range balls and free green fees all day Tuesday – Thursday and after 3pm Friday – Sunday. HISD would pay the city \$1,000.00 for use of the Golf Course over a 12-month period.

A motion was made by Council Member Simonson to approve the resolution approving an interlocal agreement with Hardin ISD for use of the Liberty Municipal Golf Course and seconded by Council Member Seymour. The motion passed 7 to 0 with all present voting yes.

B. Executive Session

At 6:45 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

Discussion with attorney regarding contemplated/pending litigation and/or regarding matters protected by attorney/client privilege.

2. Texas Government Code §551.072 - Deliberation Regarding Real Property

Discussion regarding real property.

3. Texas Government Code §551.074 - Personnel Matters.

To deliberate the appointment, employment, evaluation, reassignment, duties, discipline, or dismissal of a public officer or employee.

4. Texas Government Code §551.087 - Deliberation Regarding Economic Development Negotiations.

Discussion regarding economic development negotiations.

C. Reconvene into Regular Session

At 8:29 p.m., Mayor Pickett closed the Executive Session and reconvened the open meeting.

1. Consider and take possible action on legal matters discussed in executive session.

No action was taken.

2. Consider and take action on real estate matters discussed in executive session.

A motion was made by Council Member Simonson to authorize the City Manager to negotiate and execute an Airport Business Hangar Land Lease Agreement with TCH Holdings, LP and seconded by Council Member Seymour. The motion passed 7 to 0 with all present voting yes.

3. Consider and take possible action on personnel matters discussed in the executive session.

A motion was made by Council Member Simonson to appoint John Hebert to the SRMPA Board of Directors, upon the resignation of Naomi Herrington and seconded by Council Member Brents. The motion passed 7 to 0 with all present voting yes.

4. Consider and take possible action on economic development matters discussed in executive session.

No action was taken.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

A. Motion To: Adjourn

With no further business to discuss, Mayor Pickett adjourned the meeting at 8:31 p.m.

Carl Pickett, Mayor

ATTEST:

April Gilliland, City Secretary