



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, February 11, 2025

6:00 PM

City Council Chambers

I. CALL TO ORDER

This meeting was called to order on February 11, 2025, in the City Council Chambers, 1829 Sam Houston Street, Liberty, Texas at 6:00 p.m. by Mayor John Hebert.

A.	Attendee Name	Present	Absent	Late	Arrived
	Mayor John Hebert, Jr.	X			
	Mayor Pro Tem Libby Simonson	X			
	Council Member Dennis Beasley		X		
	Council Member Tommy Brents	X			
	Council Member Ed Seymour	X			
	Council Member Ross Ward	X			
	Council Member Debbie Dugger	X			

II. INVOCATION

The invocation was given by Assistant City Manager Chris Jarmon.

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 Fire Chief Brian Hurst.

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 Hebert welcomed guests and visitors, opening the floor for public comment to those individuals wishing to address the Council. Ms. April Carrol requested to speak to the Council about the street rehabilitation of John, Jessica and Fourth streets. Mr. Bruce Bell requested to speak to the Council regarding the ball parks and lighting.

V. PRESENTATIONS / REPORTS

1. 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, ACCEPTING THE FISCAL YEAR 2023-2024 ANNUAL AUDIT REPORT AS PRESENTED BY BROOKS WATSON & CO., P.C., LLC.

Texas Local Government Code 103.001 requires that a municipality shall have its financial records and accounts audited annually and shall have an annual financial statement prepared based on the audit. An audit will check the accuracy of records, compliance with accounting methods, and the soundness of financial practices, including internal controls. Mike Brooks of Brooks Watson & Company, P.C., LLC presented the Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Annual Audit Report and reviewed the following with the Council:

Overview of the Audit Process

Components of the Annual Financial Report

Independent Auditor's Report

Financial Highlights

City Revenues - Governmental Activities

City Expenses - Governmental Activities

Statement Revenues, Expenditures & Changes in Fund Balance

Schedule of Revenues, Expenditures & Changes in Fund Balance (Budget & Actual)

Statement Revenues, Expenditures & Changes in Net Position

TMRS Pension Liability

Other Reports and Questions

A motion was made by Council Member Brents to approve the resolution accepting the Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Annual Audit Report as presented by Brooks Watson & Co., P.C., LLC and seconded by Council Member Ward. The motion passed 6 to 0 with all present voting yes.

A. City Manager's Report - City Manager Tom Warner - Topics include - McGuire Road Project, Lakeland Street Repairs, Park Master Plan, Reclosure Installation, Cambridge Fund, Street Rehabilitation Program, Water Line Leaks and Electrical Projects.

City Manager Tom Warner reported on the following updates:

- McGuire Road Project
- 2024 Street Rehabilitation Program
- Park Master Plan
- Reclosures
- Cambridge Fund
- Water Leaks
- Electrical Projects

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

December 31, 2024, financials were included in the agenda for the Council to review. The Financial report presentation was passed on in lieu of the Annual audit being presented.

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. City Manager Tom Warner presented a video from the police department. Council Member Tommy Brents asked about bandit signs and Council Member Debbie Dugger asked about the park restroom repairs.

D. Sam Rayburn Municipal Power Agency - Mayor Hebert

Mayor Hebert, Board Member of the Sam Rayburn Municipal Power Agency, stated that the meeting for SRMPA is held on the third Tuesday of each month in Livingston. There was no meeting held in January 2025.

E. Mayor, Council and Staff Comments

Mayor Hebert thanked City Manager Tom Warner for a job well done and wished him the best in his retirement.

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 Simonson to approve all items on the consent agenda and seconded by Council Member Brents. The motion passed 6 to 0 with all present voting yes.

A. Minutes Approval

1. January 14, 2025

B. 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, AUTHORIZING THE REIMBURSEMENT OF THE CITY MANAGER'S RELOCATION EXPENSES.

C. 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, AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO APPLY FOR AND ACCEPT FUNDING FROM THE TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND TO EXECUTE ALL DOCUMENTS RELATED TO THE PREPARATION AND COMMISSIONING OF AN 18B OBSTRUCTION SURVEY AT THE LIBERTY MUNICIPAL AIRPORT.

E. 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, AWARDED THE BID FOR THE 2025 ANNUAL SUBSTATION MAINTENANCE TO DASHIELL CORPORATION.

VII. REGULAR AGENDA

D. 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, AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASE OF TWO (2) LIBERTY POLICE DEPARTMENT VEHICLES.

This agenda item was removed from the Consent Agenda for further discussion. The purchase of two (2) vehicles will replace two 2020 Dodge Durango's that have been taken offline. Three bids were requested from dealerships on the state police vehicle contract - Chastang Ford, Parkway Chevrolet and Silsbee Ford. Chastang Ford returned a bid of \$84,750.00 for a Ford Explorer and \$81,636.00 for an F150 Pickup for a total of \$166,386. Parkway Chevrolet submitted a bid of \$69,090.70 per unit for a Chevrolet Tahoe for a total bid of \$138,181.40. Silsbee Ford did not submit a bid.

A motion was made by Mayor Hebert to approve the resolution authorizing the purchase of Two (2) Liberty Police Department Vehicles and seconded by Council Member Simonson. The motion passed 6 to 0 with all present voting yes.

A. Regular Session

2. **AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LIBERTY, TEXAS ORDERING A GENERAL ELECTION TO BE HELD ON THE 3RD DAY OF MAY, 2025 FOR THE PURPOSE OF ELECTING THREE COUNCIL MEMBERS; AUTHORIZING A JOINT ELECTION AGREEMENT AND ELECTION SERVICES CONTRACT BY AND BETWEEN THE CITY OF LIBERTY, THE LIBERTY INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT, ANY OTHER CONTRACTING ENTITIES AND THE LIBERTY COUNTY CLERK OFFICE; PROVIDING FOR EARLY VOTING; PROVIDING FOR PUBLICATION AND NOTICE OF ELECTION; ESTABLISHING OTHER PROCEDURES FOR CONDUCT OF THE ELECTION; PROVIDING A SEVERABILITY CLAUSE; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**

This Ordinance calls for an election to be held on May 3, 2025, for the purpose of electing three (3) City Council Members. Those Council Members whose terms expire in May are: Council Members Dennis Beasley, Debbie Dugger and Libby Simonson.

Additionally, City Council is requested to authorize the Mayor to execute an Election Services Contract with the Liberty County Clerk's Office.

A motion was made by Council Member Seymour to adopt the Ordinance ordering a general election to be held on May 3, 2025, for electing three Council Members, authorizing a joint election and election services contract with the Liberty County Clerk's Office and any other contracting entities and seconded by Council Member Brents. The motion passed 6 to 0 with all present voting yes.

3. **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 AND RATIFYING THE EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR AN EMERGENCY REPAIR TO THE SANITARY SEWER LINE BETWEEN LAKELAND DRIVE AND TEXAS STREET.**

The sanitary sewer line between Lakeland and Texas that serves Lakeland from Royal to north of Grand, Canfield, Sue and Robbie Streets failed at several locations. The failures resulted in sewer blockages affecting several residences. The emergency repairs included pipe bursting 883 feet of 8-inch sewer line between Lakeland and Texas, the installation of two new manholes, and the removal of two existing manholes and installation of new sewer taps. The cost of repairs was \$61,435.00

A motion was made by Council Member Simonson to approve the resolution approving and ratifying the expenditure of funds for an emergency repair to the sanitary sewer line between Lakeland Drive and Texas Street and seconded by Council Member Brents. The motion passed 6 to 0 with all present voting yes.

B. Executive Session

At 7:12 p.m., Mayor Hebert 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 8:07 p.m., Mayor Hebert closed the Executive Session and reconvened the open meeting.

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

No action was taken.

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

- Property at 1100 Trinity

A motion was made by Council Member Simonson to approve the purchase of property located at 1100 Trinity for \$15,000 and seconded by Council Member Ward. The motion passed 6 to 0 with all present voting yes.

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

No action was taken.

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

No action was taken.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

A. Motion To: Adjourn

With no further business to discuss, Mayor Hebert adjourned the meeting at 8:09 p.m.

John Hebert, Jr., Mayor

ATTEST:

April Gilliland, City Secretary