



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

Tuesday, February 25, 2025

6:00 PM

City Council Chambers

I. CALL TO ORDER

This meeting was called to order on February 25, 2025 in the City Council Chambers, 1829 Sam Houston Street, Liberty, Texas at 6:00 p.m. by Mayor John Hebert.

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. 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. Sarah Norwood requested to speak to the Council regarding the Police Department and the homeless community incidents in the downtown area.

III. REGULAR AGENDA

A. Regular Session

- 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, ADDING BRYAN KENDRICK AS A SIGNATORY ON ALL CITY OF LIBERTY BANK ACCOUNTS.**

Due to the retirement of City Manager, Tom Warner, we need to add the New City Manager, Bryan Kendrick, as a signer on our depository accounts with First Liberty Bank. This Resolution will allow Tom Warner, Bryan Kendrick, Naomi Herrington and April Gilliland to be authorized signers on all accounts.

A motion was made by Council Member Brents to approve the resolution, adding Bryan Kendrick as a signatory on all City of Liberty bank accounts and seconded by Council Member Simonson. 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, DECLARING EQUIPMENT AS SURPLUS AND ORDERING AN ONLINE AUCTION.

The City is in possession of various vehicles and equipment that are no longer in good working order. The attached list of items to be declared surplus, if approved, will be sold in an online auction, at a future date to be determined. These items will be sold to the highest bidder, and the auction will be conducted by Rene Bates Auctioneers, Inc.

A motion was made by Council Member Simonson to approve the resolution declaring Equipment as surplus and ordering an online auction and seconded by Council Member Seymour. The motion passed 7 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, AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO SIGN A LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE PORT OF LIBERTY.

The Trinity River Authority (Authority) of Texas has been working with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), the Port of Liberty Commissioners, the Chambers-Liberty Counties Navigation District, the City of Liberty, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and Liberty County to develop a long-range vision plan for the Port of Liberty. As the Authority is close to finalizing the Port of Liberty Vision Plan, they are gathering support letters from the project stakeholders. The Authority will act as the non-Federal primary sponsor for the feasibility study. The Authority will contribute necessary financial support, provide staff and consultant resources, and coordinate stakeholder and community understanding and engagement. The Authority expects potentially complex solutions will be identified through the feasibility study and is committed to thoroughly pursuing and implementing a long-term plan to re-open the Port of Liberty.

A motion was made by Council Member Seymour to approve the resolution authorizing the Mayor to sign a letter of support for the Development of the Port of Liberty and seconded by Council Member Ward. The motion passed 7 to 0 with all present voting yes.

B. Work Session

1. Discussion of Future Plans for the Jubilee

Mayor Hebert began the work session by providing an overview of how Jubilee started and how it has evolved. He discussed various aspects, including expenses, attendance, entertainment, vendors, and more. The session then opened for comments from the council, staff, and the public. Several citizens suggested ideas such as combining the Jubilee with the Christmas parade or keeping them as separate events, changing the date to avoid conflicting with Faux Real Trade Days, and increasing community support and volunteer involvement. Others emphasized the need for more advertising and bigger-name entertainment acts. There was also a call to focus on specific aspects of the event, such as entertainment, children's activities, or vendors. A consensus emerged that the event needs to be refocused in order to improve. A suggestion to survey the community to determine their vision for the festival was made. After a lengthy discussion, the work session concluded.

C. Executive Session

At 7:16 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.

D. Reconvene into Regular Session

At 8:31 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.
No action was taken.
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.

IV. ADJOURNMENT

A. Motion To: Adjourn

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

John Hebert, Jr., Mayor

ATTEST:

April Gilliland, City Secretary