



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, April 8, 2025

6:00 PM

City Council Chambers

I. CALL TO ORDER

This meeting was called to order on April 8, 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 Mayor John Hebert.

III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge to the American Flag and the pledge to the Texas Flag was led by Mayor John Hebert.

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. No public comments were made.

V. PRESENTATIONS / REPORTS

A. Bikers Against Child Abuse (BACA) Heroes Weekend Proclamation

Bikers Against Child Abuse (B.A.C.A.) Chapter representatives were present to receive a proclamation for B.A.C.A Heroes Weekend from April 25-28, 2025, that was read aloud and presented by Mayor Hebert.

B. City Manager's Report - City Manager Bryan Kendrick - Includes various updates of interest to our community.

City Manager Bryan Kendrick reported on the following updates:

- Website Redesign Update
- Frontier Waste Services
- Liberty Jubilee Survey
- McGuire Road Project
- Park Master Plan
- Electrical Reclosers
- 2024 Street Rehabilitation Program
- Water Leaks

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

Assistant City Manager / CFO Naomi Herrington reported on the City's financials as of February 28, 2025.

D. 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.

E. Sam Rayburn Municipal Power Agency - Mayor Hebert

Mayor Hebert, Board Member of the Sam Rayburn Municipal Power Agency, stated that the last meeting for SRMPA was a normal business meeting. The next meeting will be held on April 15, 2025, in Livingston.

F. Mayor, Council and Staff Comments

Mayor Hebert asked if there were any comments. None were made.

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 Ward. The motion passed 6 to 0 with all present voting yes.

A. Minutes Approval

1. March 11, 2025

VII. REGULAR AGENDA**A. Regular Session**

1. **AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 3.08.032 OF THE CITY OF LIBERTY CODE OF ORDINANCES, RESTRICTING MOBILE HOMES AND MANUFACTURED HOMES WITHIN THE CITY OF LIBERTY; AND ESTABLISHING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**

Owners of certain properties located south of FM 160 in between Private Road 1160 and Private Road 16001 in the City of Liberty have applied for a variance to the Manufactured Home Ordinance in order to allow the placement of manufactured homes.

A motion was made by Council Member Simonson to adopt the Ordinance amending Section 3.08.032 restricting mobile homes and manufactured homes within the City of Liberty and seconded by Council Member Beasley. The motion passed 6 to 0 with all present voting yes.

2. AN ORDINANCE APPROVING AMENDMENTS TO THE CITY OF LIBERTY'S FISCAL YEAR 2024 – 2025 BUDGET.

Chief Hurst made a presentation to the City Council in March regarding the need for more employees. We would like to amend the 2024-2025 budget to allow for the hiring of three (3) additional fire department employees and purchasing of gear necessary for the additional employees.

A motion was made by Council Member Simonson to adopt the Ordinance approving amendments to the City of Liberty's Fiscal year 2024-2025 Budget and seconded by Council Member Beasley. The motion passed 6 to 0 with all present voting yes.

3. AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE VACATING AND ABANDONMENT OF AN UNIMPROVED PORTION OF THE COS STREET RIGHT-OF-WAY.

An unimproved portion of Cos Street right-of-way exists and is located to the west of Texas Avenue. The abutting property owner requested the City of Liberty to vacate and abandon a portion of this right-of-way. The unimproved portion is not needed for public roadway purposes, and it is in the City's public interest to abandon this portion of the Cos Street right-of-way.

A motion was made by Council Member Simonson to adopt the Ordinance authorizing the vacating and abandonment of an unimproved portion of the Cos Street Right-of-way and seconded by Council Member Dugger. The motion passed 5 to 1 with Council Member Seymour voting no.

4. A RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LIBERTY, TEXAS, AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO SIGN A QUITCLAIM DEED CONVEYING THE CITY'S INTEREST IN 0.026 ACRES DESCRIBED HEREIN TO KATHGAR LLC

With the adoption of the ordinance abandoning a portion of Cos Street right-of-way, Kathgar, LLC desires to purchase the property from the City since they are the adjoining landowner. The proposed purchase total is \$3,511.

A motion was made by Council Member Simonson to approve the resolution authorizing the Mayor to sign a quitclaim deed conveying the City's interest in 0.026 acres to Kathgar, LLC and seconded by Council Member Ward. The motion passed 5 to 1 with Council Member Seymour voting no.

5. 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 PROCEED WITH THE PROCESS OF MAKING THE STREETS IN THE RAVEN HILL SUBDIVISION PUBLIC STREETS

The property owners of Raven Hill Subdivision requested the City to take on the responsibility for the maintenance of the roads within the subdivision. The property owners have signed a petition requesting the City to accept the private streets as public streets. The property owners agree to have the streets surveyed, and a title search performed on the property prior to the dedication of the streets. The property owners also agreed to remove the gate from the subdivision entryway in exchange for the city maintaining the streets.

A motion was made by Mayor Hebert to approve the resolution authorizing the City Manager to proceed with the process of making the streets in the Raven Hill Subdivision Public Streets and seconded by Council Member Seymour. The motion passed 6 to 0 with all present voting yes.

6. 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 THE PURCHASE OF MOBILE DATA TERMINALS FOR THE POLICE DEPARTMENT

The Liberty Police Department has been using digital ticket writers at the cost of \$14,400 per year. Chief Ashe has requested that we implement Mobile Data Terminals (MDTs) that will give us more capability in the vehicle and will save us over \$3,200 per year. The initial cost of the setup of ten (10) MDTs will be \$71,821, solely sourced through our current vendor, Tyler Technologies. The laptops will be purchased with seized funds. We would then cancel our subscription for the digital ticket writers.

A motion was made by Council Member Simonson to approve the resolution approving the purchase of mobile data terminals for the Police Department and seconded by Council Member Beasley. The motion passed 6 to 0 with all present voting yes.

7. 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 REPLACEMENTS AND REPAIRS TO THE HUMPHREYS CULTURAL CENTER

The Humphreys Cultural Center includes the Liberty municipal Library and the Humphreys-Burson Theater. The Cultural Center needs repairs for electrical and HVAC issues.

A motion was made by Council Member Ward to approve the resolution approving the replacement and repairs to the Humphreys Cultural Center and seconded by Council Member Dugger. The motion passed 6 to 0 with all present voting yes.

B. Executive Session

At 7:13 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 §551.074 - Personnel Matters.**
To deliberate the appointment, employment, evaluation, reassignment, duties, discipline, or dismissal of a public officer or employee:
 - A.) Regarding Chief of Police
- 3. Texas Government Code §551.087 - Deliberation Regarding Economic Development Negotiations.**
Discussion regarding economic development negotiations.

C. Reconvene into Regular Session

At 8:18 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 personnel matters discussed in the executive session.
 - A.) Regarding the appointment of Chief of Police.

A motion was made by Council Member Ward to hire Richard Ashe as the Police Chief and seconded by Council Member Seymour. The motion passed 6 to 0 with all present voting yes.

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

CONSIDER APPROVING 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 A DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT WITH LIBERTY RANCH, LLC

A motion was made by Council Member Simonson to approve the resolution approving a development agreement with Liberty Ranch, LLC and seconded by Council Member Dugger. The motion passed 6 to 0 with all present voting yes.

CONSIDER APPROVING 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 A PUBLIC IMPROVEMENT MAINTENANCE AGREEMENT FOR THE LIBERTY RANCH DEVELOPMENT

A motion was made by Council Member Simonson to approve the resolution approving a public improvement maintenance agreement for the Liberty Ranch Development and seconded by Council Member Beasley. The motion passed 6 to 0 with all present voting yes.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

A. Motion To: Adjourn

With no further business to discuss, Mayor Hebert adjourned the meeting at 8:20 p.m.

John Hebert, Jr., Mayor

ATTEST:

April Gilliland, City Secretary