



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, January 13, 2015

6:00 PM

City Council Chambers

I. CALL TO ORDER

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
Carl Pickett	Mayor	Present	
Diane Huddleston	Mayor Pro Tem	Present	
Dennis Beasley	Councilperson	Present	
Frank Jordan	Councilperson	Present	
Louie Potetz	Councilperson	Present	
Libby Simonson	Councilperson	Present	
David Arnold	Councilperson	Present	
Gary Broz	City Manager	Present	
Dianne Tidwell	City Secretary	Present	
Randy Gunter	City Attorney	Present	

II. INVOCATION

The Invocation was led by Liberty resident Mr. Jacob Stewart.

III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge to the American and Texas flags was led by Liberty High School Seniors Vanessa Perez and Weston Russell.

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. There were no comments from the audience.

City Manager Gary Broz reported that there is a Texas Municipal League Region XVI Meeting scheduled for Thursday, January 21st, sponsored by the City of Dayton.

Fire Chief Fred Collins reported that:

- the Department's Christmas Angel Tree Program provided gifts for 248 underprivileged children
- The Fireman's Banquet will be held on Saturday, January 31st in the Liberty Center.

Mayor Pickett reported on the following:

- The Chamber of Commerce Annual Awards Banquet will be held on Thursday, February 26th,
- The Methodist Men's Banquest will be held on Thursday, February 19th, Harris County Judge Ed Emmitt will be the speaker
- The Rotary Club Annual Fish Fry will be held on Friday, January 16th.

V. PRESENTATIONS / REPORTS

A. Information Item (ID # 3185)

Project Updates - City Mgr. Gary Broz

COMMENTS - Current Meeting:

City Manager Gary Broz reported on the following projects:

- Town Hall Meeting to be held on January 26th to discuss the Street Project and related drainage issues
- City has received 65 applications for the Police Chief position, to be narrowed down to 10 for interviews
- Community Development Block Grant application submitted for rehabilitation of sanitary sewer lines in the Layl Subdivision
- Street Project moving along well
- Property tax revenues coming in
- Liberty Jubilee is March 27th and 28th.

B. Information Item (ID # 3186)

Charter Review Commission

COMMENTS - Current Meeting:

City Secretary Dianne Tidwell reported that appointments to the Charter Review Commission are made in January of each odd-numbered year. Ms. Tidwell continued by stating that the Commission is comprised of five City residents whose term of office is six months. Ms. Tidwell stated that an item will be placed on the January 27th Council Agenda to approve appointments to this Commission.

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.

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

A. Minutes Approval

1. Tuesday, December 09, 2014

VII. REGULAR AGENDA

A. Regular Session

1. Council Action 2015-3

Consider approval of a bid received for Tax Resale Property described as Liberty Inner Blocks, Block 49, Tract 20.

COMMENTS - Current Meeting:

City Attorney Randy Gunter stated that this tax sale property has a Central Appraisal District value of \$24,610.00. Ms. Jessica Thompson has made an offer of \$3,700.00 for this property that has been off of the tax rolls since 2011. \$3,676.00 would be divided amongst the taxing entities, specifically \$783.36 to the City of Liberty.

A motion was made to accept the bid of \$3,700.00 for the tax resale property described as Liberty Inner Blocks, Block 49, Tract 20.

ATTACHMENTS:

- Tax Resale Property Info (PDF)

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

2. Resolution 2015-1

Consider a Resolution requesting financial assistance from the Texas Water Development Board, authorizing the filing of an application for financial assistance; and making certain findings in connection therewith.

COMMENTS - Current Meeting:

City Manager Gary Broz reported on an application to the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) requesting financial assistance for four water related projects. Those projects include one Clean Water Project that addresses lines, manholes, and water reuse. The three remaining Drinking Water Projects include a new elevated storage tank, Trinity Water Plant Upgrade, and the North Well Upgrade which includes additional lines. Total projected cost of all projects is \$13,462,900.00. The application to the TWDB is for the Planning and Design Phase of each project, for a cost of \$1,346,290.00. City Manager Gary Broz reviewed the various projects. A motion was made to approve submission of an application to the TWDB for financial assistance.

ATTACHMENTS:

- Affidavit re Application - 2015 Liberty WWSS Rev Bond-1 (DOC)

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

3. Council Action 2015-4

Presentation and discussion by Interim Police Chief Gary Martin regarding traffic on Hwy. 146 North, and take any action deemed necessary.

COMMENTS - Current Meeting:

Interim Police Chief Gary Martin addressed Council regarding traffic issues on Hwy 146, between the Bypass and the city limits. Mr. Martin reported on the number of accidents on this roadway in comparison with those accidents occurring on Hwy. 90. The number of accidents on Highway 146 are much higher. Discussed were traffic counts, a speed survey, possible reduction of accidents by use of a center turn lane, and other related issues. A letter has been sent to TxDOT by Mr. Martin regarding the City's concerns. After lengthy discussion, Mr. Martin also reported that TxDOT would be conducting a traffic/speed study in this area during the month of February. Council also directed City Manager Gary Broz to draft a letter in regard to the City's issues and in support of the study.

RESULT: NO ACTION TAKEN

4. Council Action 2015-5

Consider a nomination for a vacancy on the Liberty County Central Appraisal District Board of Directors, and take any action deemed necessary.

COMMENTS - Current Meeting:

City Manager Gary Broz reported that the Central Appraisal District Board of Directors is requesting a nomination, from the various taxing entities, to a vacant position on that Board. This position has become vacant due to the death of one of its members, Mr. Kevin Ladd. Brief discussion was held regarding the qualifications and duties of the office. A nomination will need to be made at the February Council Meeting, as the nomination must be submitted to the CAD Board by February 21, 2015.

ATTACHMENTS:

- CAD Appt. - Vacancy (PDF)

RESULT: NO ACTION TAKEN

B. Executive Session

Government Code §551.071

Private Consultation with Attorney on subjects/matters authorized by law:

1. Pending/Contemplated Litigation - R. Carter v. City of Liberty, Liberty County District Court, Cause No. CV1408902.
2. Pending/Contemplated Litigation - Liberty Municipal Airport.

At 6:59 p.m., Mayor Pickett closed the open meeting and opened the Executive Session as authorized above.

C. Reconvene into Regular Session

At 7:29 p.m., Mayor Pickett closed the Executive Session and reconvened the open meeting.

1. Council Action 2015-1

Consider and take action, if any, on Ron Carter v. City of Liberty, Liberty County District Court, Cause Number CV1408902.

RESULT: NO ACTION TAKEN

2. Council Action 2015-2

Consider and take action, if any, on possible litigation involving the Liberty Municipal Airport.

RESULT: NO ACTION TAKEN

VIII. ADJOURNMENT**A. Motion To:** Adjourn**COMMENTS - Current Meeting:**

There being no further business before the Council, Mayor Pickett adjourned the meeting at 7:30 p.m.

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Carl Pickett, Mayor

ATTEST:

Dianne Tidwell, City Secretary