



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, January 12, 2021

6:00 PM

City Hall - Liberty Center

I. CALL TO ORDER

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
Carl Pickett	Mayor	Present	
Diane Driggers	Mayor ProTem	Present	
Dennis Beasley	Council Member	Present	
Libby Simonson	Council Member	Present	
David Arnold	Council Member	Present	
Chipper Smith	Council Member	Present	
Neal Thornton	Council Member	Present	
Tom Warner	City Manager	Present	
Naomi Herrington	Assistant City Manager / CFO	Present	
Chris Jarmon	Assistant City Manager	Present	
Brandon Davis	City Attorney	Present	
April Gilliland	City Secretary	Present	

II. INVOCATION

There was no Invocation at this meeting.

III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge to the American and Texas Flags were led by police Chief Gary Martin and Fire Chief Brian Hurst, respectively.

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.

V. PRESENTATIONS / REPORTS

A. Information Item (ID # 4986)

City Manager's Report - City Manager Tom Warner - Topics include 2020 Pandemic & other Issues, COVID-19, Police Department, and Sales and Use Tax.

COMMENTS - Current Meeting:

City Manager Tom Warner reported on current City activities and projects as listed below:

- 2020 Pandemic
- Rise in COVID-19 patients
- Acquisition of eighteen body cameras for the PD
- City's Sales and Use Tax
- Electric Infrastructure Projects

ATTACHMENTS:

- City Manager's Report January 12 2021 (DOCX)

B. Information Item (ID # 4987)

Finance Report - Assistant City Manager / CFO - Naomi Herrington

COMMENTS - Current Meeting:

Assistant City Manager / CFO Naomi Herrington reported on the City's financials as of November 2020.

C. Information Item (ID # 4988)

Department Reports

COMMENTS - Current Meeting:

City Manager Tom Warner stated that the monthly reports, submitted by the various departments, were presented for Council's review. Mayor Pickett asked for clarification on some of the abbreviations in the Code Enforcement report.

ATTACHMENTS:

- Code Enforcement Monthly Report - December 2020 (DOCX)
- Fire Department December 1 to December 31, 2020 (XLS)
- Inspections - December 2020 - Monthly Report (PDF)
- Library Monthly Report (PDF)
- Police Department 12-2020 (XLS)
- Public Works Monthly Report - December 2020 (DOCX)
- Golf Course Monthly Report (December 2020) (PDF)

D. Information Item (ID # 4989)

Sam Rayburn Municipal Power Agency - Mayor Pickett

COMMENTS - Current Meeting:

Mayor Pickett, President of the Sam Rayburn Municipal Power Agency, stated that the Agency's next meeting would be held the following week on Tuesday, January 19, 2021.

E. Information Item (ID # 4990)

Mayor, Council and Staff Comments

COMMENTS - Current Meeting:

Mayor Pickett expressed Council's condolences to Council Member Beasley for the recent passing of his wife Debbie. He also stated that with the rise in the COVID-19 cases that Coffee with the Mayor for January has been cancelled and will be assessed on a month to month basis.

City Secretary April Gilliland reported on the May 1, 2021 Election and that there are 3 council member positions up for election - Libby Simonson, Diane Driggers, and Dennis Beasley. The filing period of an application for a place on the ballot is January 13 - February 12, 2021. Candidate packets are ready for pickup or on the City's website.

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, Council Member
SECONDER:	Libby Simonson, Council Member
AYES:	Pickett, Driggers, Beasley, Simonson, Arnold, Smith, Thornton

A. Minutes Approval

1. Tuesday, December 08, 2020
2. Wednesday, December 16, 2020

VII. REGULAR AGENDA**A. Regular Session****1. Council Action 2021-3**

Discussion regarding the wearing of face masks at City Facilities.

COMMENTS - Current Meeting:

The discussion of City employee's wearing face masks while in close proximate to public visitor's during working hours. Signs are posted on each facility letting the public know that

face masks are required to enter each facility. Council expressed that they would like to see City Employees wear face masks in areas where social distancing and or protective shields could not be used to minimize the spread of COVID. The Governor's order for people to wear face masks is not enforceable, as it states that law enforcement can not arrest, detain or confine a person for not wearing a mask.

RESULT: NO ACTION TAKEN

2. Resolution 2021-1

Consider a resolution rejecting all bids for annual lawn maintenance services.

COMMENTS - Current Meeting:

On December 3, 2020 bids were received for lawn maintenance services at various City facilities. The annual cost of the existing contract is \$109,740.00. Since the contract has expired, Public Works prepared bid documents with the same conditions and frequency as the current contract. The two bids received were in the amounts of \$288,461.20 and \$300,211.40, or \$178,721.20 higher than the current cost. City staff is looking at other alternatives for lawn maintenance services. In the interim, the existing contractor is willing to work on a month to month basis.

Motion was made to reject all bids for the annual lawn maintenance services.

ATTACHMENTS:

- Lawn maintenance bid tab (PDF)

RESULT: APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER: Libby Simonson, Council Member
SECONDER: Neal Thornton, Council Member
AYES: Pickett, Driggers, Beasley, Simonson, Arnold, Smith, Thornton

3. Resolution 2021-2

Consider a Resolution approving the selection of professional services provider to assist the City in submitting 2021-2022 Community Development Block Grant applications and authorizing the City Manager to begin contract negotiations.

COMMENTS - Current Meeting:

These services were solicited to assist with the application and administration of the 2021-2022 Texas Community Development Fund of the Texas Community Development Block Grant Program. This program is a part of the Texas Department of Agriculture - Office of Rural Affairs (TDA).

The grant administration service provider will assist the City from the time the grant is prepared until the completion of construction. The City received only one proposal for administrative services, from Public Management, Inc.

The City will be applying for such funding to support public infrastructure improvements in the City. If the City is awarded a grant, the administrative services provider fee will be paid from the grant.

Motion was made to select Public Management, Inc as the Professional Services Provider for the 2021-2022 Texas Community Development Block Grant Program.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Libby Simonson, Council Member
SECONDER:	Diane Driggers, Mayor ProTem
AYES:	Pickett, Driggers, Beasley, Simonson, Arnold, Smith, Thornton

4. Resolution 2021-3

Consider approval of the designation of certain vehicles and equipment as surplus property.

COMMENTS - Current Meeting:

The City is the owner of various vehicles and equipment that are no longer in good working order. The attached list of items to be declared surplus, if approved, and then will be sold in an online auction in February 2021. These items will be sold to the highest bidder and the auction will be conducted by Rene Bates Auctioneers, Inc. The auction is a way for the City to recoup monies from the sale of these items.

Motion was made to approve the designation of certain vehicles and equipment as surplus property.

ATTACHMENTS:

- Auction list 2021 (PDF)

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Diane Driggers, Mayor ProTem
SECONDER:	Chipper Smith, Council Member
AYES:	Pickett, Driggers, Beasley, Simonson, Arnold, Smith, Thornton

5. Resolution 2021-4

Consider a resolution awarding a three-year contract to Comcast in the amount of \$17,821.80 to be the Library's E-Rate service provider.

COMMENTS - Current Meeting:

E-Rate is a grant program of the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) that has been around over 20 years. It assists libraries by providing funding for Internet-related costs that benefit the public. The Library received its first E-Rate grant three years ago and we received an 80% discount for our expenses. The proposed contract is for three-years at \$17,821.80 for the entire three-years with 80% of the expenses reimbursed by E-Rate. E-Rate will reimburse 80% of the costs; the remaining 20% are provided for in the Library's operating budget.

Motion was made to award a three-year contract to Comcast in the amount of \$17,821.80 to be the Library's E-Rate service provider.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Libby Simonson, Council Member
SECONDER:	Dennis Beasley, Council Member
AYES:	Pickett, Driggers, Beasley, Simonson, Arnold, Smith, Thornton

B. Work Session**1. Work Session (ID # 4996)**

Discussion in regards to the 2021 Jubilee

COMMENTS - Current Meeting:

Discussion was held regarding the 2021 Jubilee, due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Topics of discussion included the increased number of hospitalizations, the increase number of confirmed cases in the county and surrounding areas, other events being held in the area and how to avoid activities or events where people tend to congregate.

Council concurs that with the amount of people that attend Jubilee it is in the best interest of the citizens not to have the 2021 Jubilee to slow the spread of the COVID-19 Virus.

All other events will be reviewed on a case by case basis.

C. Executive Session**Tx. Gov. Code §551.071 - Private Consultation with Attorney.**

- To seek advice regarding contemplated / pending litigation.

Tx. Gov. Code §551.087 - Deliberation Regarding Economic Development Negotiations.

- To deliberate commercial or financial information received from a business prospect.

At 7:29 p.m., Mayor Pickett closed the open meeting and opened the Executive Session as authorized above.

D. Reconvene into Regular Session

At 8:32 p.m., Mayor Pickett closed the Executive Session and reconvened the open meeting.

1. Council Action 2021-1

Consider action as discussed in the Executive Session during consultation with Attorney.

COMMENTS - Current Meeting:

No action was taken

RESULT: NO ACTION TAKEN

2. Council Action 2021-2

Consider and take action, if any, on Economic Development Negotiations, as discussed in the Executive Session.

COMMENTS - Current Meeting:

No action was taken.

RESULT: NO ACTION TAKEN

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

A. Motion To: Adjourn

COMMENTS - Current Meeting:

With no further business to discuss Carl Pickett adjourned the meeting at 8:34 p.m.

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Carl Pickett, Mayor

ATTEST:

April Gilliland, City Secretary