

**REGULAR MEETING  
OF THE GOVERNING BODY OF  
THE CITY OF BLANCO**

**Meeting Minutes  
January 10, 2023**

A regular meeting and public hearing of the City Council, City of Blanco, Texas was held on January 10, 2023, at 6:00 pm at the Gem of the Hills, 2233 US 281, Blanco, Texas.

The meeting was called to order at 6:01 pm by Mayor Pro-Tem Connie Barron, followed by roll call (Laurie Cassidy) announcing a quorum was present. The Invocation was led by Pastor Carlos Cloyd and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor Pro-Tem Barron. Council members present: Mayor Pro-Tem Barron, and Council Members McClellan and Thrailkill. Mayor Lumpee and Council Members Smith and Divine were absent.

City staff present: Warren Escovy, Laurie Cassidy, Sasha Ricks, and Chief Scott Rubin.

Mayor Pro-Tem Barron made the following announcement: the City offices will be closed Monday, January 16 in honor of Martin Luther King, Jr.

**Public Comments:**

- Laura Swinson, resident at 1407 Loop 163, spoke of her desire to serve on the City Council. She has participated in the formation of the Capital Improvements Committee, served on the 281 Overlay Committee, the Planning & Zoning Commission, and Blanco Wheels and Feet. She will listen to the citizens and consider their concerns when making decisions.
- Mike Arnold, 818 Pecan Street, spoke saying he wants to set the record straight regarding these falsehoods and lies, first with abolishing the police department, not true, he has the upmost respect for the Chief, has asked some tough questions, will keep asking tough questions, but he backs the blue. Second, that he wants to fire Warren Escovy, nothing could be further from the truth. Even though he takes home 10% of the city budget as a pay package, he's worth every penny. Mr. Arnold said he looks forward to working with him, would cut expenses, raise revenues. Finally, regarding doing away with all regulations and ordinances, get the red tape off the backs of our citizens and rebuild Blanco strong. If you have something you want to talk about, call.
- Ryan Moses, resident, spoke saying he has great deal of respect for the Council members. He expressed his willingness to serve with Council. He feels Council should leave the seat vacant and let the candidates run for election, allowing the citizens to decide.

**Presentation:**

Craig Cunningham spoke regarding issuance of a tax note (gap financing) to assist with financing of the Lift Station project. A Tax Note is a short term financing obligation that cannot mature beyond seven years from the issue date. It can be secured by ad valorem taxes, other available revenue, or a combination of both. No voter approval or publication of intent is required to obtain a tax note. It can be refinanced with General Obligation Refunding Bonds, Certificates of Obligation, or revenue bonds issued for refinancing purposes. The first two years of the note would be interest only and principal and interest will kick in the third year, the reason for this is the TWDB loan should kick in by the third year. Waiting for the current audit to be completed (by end of February) and then get things going by April 2023.

**Staff Presentations:**

- City Hall, Warren Escovy, City Administrator discussed the City's Development Procedures, Special Use Permits, Rezoning, and Platting Procedures. Water and sewer line acceptance near 281 and north side is close to final approval and use as City infrastructure. Pavement restoration services beginning soon, using funds from ARPA, the most damaged, most traveled streets will be repaired first. Meeting with Titan Milling to begin marking streets on Friday. Expect to begin work towards the end of the month and should take about two weeks to complete. Financials, quarterly reports to be posted on-line this week. Investment report to be posted to the City website quarterly beginning in April.
- Police Department, Chief Rubin presented the December 2022 Monthly Statistics Report. He also gave an update on the new radar trailer which has arrived in the City. Beginning next week, the trailer will be moved around the City to gather trip counts, high speed, low speed, etc. PD has ongoing staffing issues and are currently 2 officers down with one officer still in training, so still running only one officer per shift. Annual report coming next month. Applied for shield grant last month and City was just awarded the grant.

**Consent Agenda:** *The following items may be acted upon in one motion.* No separate discussion or action is necessary unless requested by the Mayor or a Council Member, in which those items will be pulled for separate consideration.

1. Approval of Minutes from the December 13, 2022, Regular Meeting and Public Hearing.
2. Approval of Minutes from the December 20, 2022, Special Meeting.
3. Approval of Resolution 2023-R-001 TxDOT Gateway Sign.

**A motion was made by Council Member Thraikill to approve items one through three on the consent agenda as presented, seconded by Council Member McClellan, all in favor, motion carried unanimously.**

**Old Business: Consider, discuss, and take appropriate action on the following:**

1. Consideration, Discussion, and Take Possible Action on Approval of an Election Services Contract between the City of Blanco and the Blanco County Elections Officer for the May 6, 2023, Uniform Election and Related Services. **A motion was made by Council Member Thraikill to table item to next council meeting when full council is present, seconded by Council Member McClellan, all in favor, motion carried unanimously.**

2. Consideration, Discussion and Take Possible Action on Single City Council Position Vacancy and Related Holdover Status. **A motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Barron to table item to next council meeting when full council is present, seconded by Council Member Thraikill, all in favor, motion carried unanimously.**
3. Consideration, Discussion, and Take Possible Action on Approval of Updates to the Personnel Policy (Sasha Ricks, Finance Director). Deserves a line by line review of the items. Sasha Ricks can present next month - **A motion was made by Council Member Thraikill to table item to next council meeting when full council is present, seconded by Council Member McClellan, all in favor, motion carried unanimously.**

**New Business: Consider, discuss, and take appropriate action on the following:**

1. Consideration, Discussion and Take Possible Action Concerning Award of the Contractor Bid to M&C Fonseca Construction Co., Inc. for Repairs to Lift Station. Warren Escovy and Bradley Loehr, P.E. spoke and shared background on lift station project. Main lift station has been in existence for a very long time. Two lift stations pump into sewer main. The new location is elevated out of the floodplain (SCADA, monitoring of sewer system). M&C Fonseca have done approximately 12 different projects with BEFCO, have the equipment and knowledge to complete the project. December 31, 2023 is the estimated completion date. Project cost is \$1,437,847.00. **A motion was made by Council Member Thraikill to award the bid to M&C Fonseca Construction Co., Inc. for repairs to the lift station, seconded by Council Member McClellan, all in favor, motion carried unanimously.**

Consideration, Discussion and Take Possible Action on Possible Amendment to Ordinance 2022-O-005 Short-Term Rentals. Warren Escovy spoke on the STR Ordinance. Once you create an ordinance and go through the process you find ways to make improvements. All new STR's currently require review and approval by the Planning & Zoning Commission and City Council for approval. This is a 6-8 week process. *Recommendation:* If a proposed STR permit 1) will not result in STRs operating in more than 10% of the dwelling units in the surrounding block, neighborhood, or similar geographic areas, and 2) otherwise meets the objective criteria in the ordinance, then the City Administrator be given discretion to grant the STR permit without further review from Planning & Zoning Commission and City Council. In the event of a denial by the Administrator, appeal rights to the Planning & Zoning Commission and City Council would stay in place. The council would like to err on the side of public notice. The STR permit fee is \$300 per year. This fee covers administrative costs to monitor the program. **A motion was made by Council Member McClellan to table item, and expand on considerations, seconded by Council Member Thraikill, all in favor, motion carried unanimously.**

2. Consideration, Discussion and Take Possible Action on Approval of Fundview Customer Portal for Utilities and Court Online Payments at a Cost of \$3,400.00. **A motion was made by Council Member Thraikill to table item to next council meeting when full council is present, seconded by Council Member McClellan, all in favor, motion carried unanimously.**

Closed regular meeting at 6:58 pm and convened into executive session.

**Executive Session in accordance with Texas Government Code:** in accordance with the authority contained in the Texas Government Code, Sections 551.071, 551.072, and 551.074.

1. Texas Government Code Sections 551.071 (Consultation with City Attorney), 551.072 (Real Estate) and Section 1.05, Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct; Confer with City Attorney regarding Pharr Paradise Utility Easement Agreement.
2. Texas Government Code Section 551.071 (Consultation with City Attorney) and Section 1.05, Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct and 551.072 (Real Estate). Confer with City Attorney regarding Canyon Lake Water SC (CLWSC); Water Valuation with West Water, City's interest undivided interest.
3. Texas Government Code Section 551.071 (Consultation with City Attorney) and Section 1.05, Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct; Confer with City Attorney regarding City Council Possible Vacancy Created By Absence Of Council Member Divine At Three Consecutive Regular Meetings Of City Council Of The City Of Blanco.
4. Texas Government Code Section 551.074 (Personnel Matters) to deliberate the appointment, employment, evaluation, reassignment, duties, discipline, or dismissal of City Administrator.

Closed executive session at 7:49 pm and convened into regular meeting.

**Items 1-4: No Action Taken**

**Adjournment:**

**A motion was made by Council Member McClellan to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Council Member Thrailkill, all in favor.**

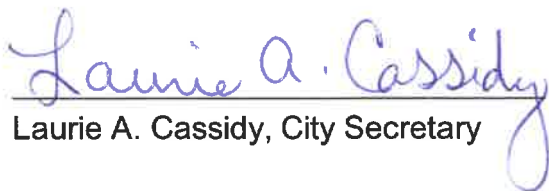
**The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 pm.**

Respectfully submitted,



Connie Barron, Mayor Pro-Tem

ATTEST:



Laurie A. Cassidy, City Secretary



These minutes were approved on the 14 day of February, 2023.