

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

**Meeting Minutes  
February 7, 2023**

A special meeting of the City Council, City of Blanco, Texas was held on February 7, 2023, at 6:00 pm at the Byars Building, 300 Pecan Street, Blanco, Texas.

The meeting was called to order at 6:01 pm by Mayor Rachel Lumpee, followed by roll call (Laurie Cassidy) announcing a quorum was present. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor Lumpee. Council members present: Mayor Lumpee, Mayor Pro-Tem Barron, and Council Members McClellan, Smith and Thraikill. Council Member Divine was absent.

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

Mayor Lumpee made the following announcements:

- The City of Blanco and Waste Connections will be holding a curbside cleanup on Saturday, February 11th; residents should place their items at the curb by 7 a.m. A maximum of four cubic yards of acceptable residential bulky items will be collected.
- Utility bills were mailed out on Jan. 25, but the ice storm caused delays with mail at the Post Office. Bills should be arriving in mailboxes soon and are still due on the 10th.
- Gem of the Hills is having an open house on Feb. 11 from 10:30- 12
- Flavor Affair, a night of unforgettable connection & cuisine on Feb. 11, from 7-9
- The last day to file an application for a place on the May 6, regular election ballot is Feb. 17
- Blanco Chamber of Commerce's Mardi Gras Banquet & Ball will be held on Feb. 18 at 6
- Blanco PTO's Sweetheart Dance will be on Feb. 18 from 5:30-8 at Twin Sisters Dance Hall
- Blanco Youth Baseball & Softball will be having a bowling fundraiser on Feb. 18 at the Blanco Bowling Alley
- Blanco Indie Film Nite will be on Feb. 25 from 6-9 at Gem of the Hills
- Christensen Gallery will have its grand opening on Feb. 25 from 5-9 pm
- There will be a total eclipse of the sun on April 8, 2024

**Public Comments:**

- Laurie Cassidy received an email from Libbey Aly, Executive Director with Blanco Chamber of Commerce. Libbey could not be in attendance at the Council meeting due to the Chamber meeting but wanted to express her support for Waste Connections, waste collection services. She said they have been an amazing partner and great supporters of community events. She highly encouraged the Council to continue their partnership with Waste Connections.
- Vicki Ralph with Waste Connections spoke to the Council and thanked them for the opportunity to provide waste collection services to the Blanco residents and would love to continue the partnership with the City.

- Laura Swinson spoke regarding the Council vacancy and again expressed her desire and willingness to serve the residents and fill the vacant council seat. She said she feels great groundwork is being laid and would like to be a part of it. She has served on many committees in Blanco including Blanco Wheels and Feet, Planning & Zoning Commission. If appointed to Council, she would listen to citizens' concerns and she thanked Council for considering her.
- Craig Rice, lives in Blanco, spoke regarding filling the vacancy on council. He has a lot of experience with roads, transportation, water and wastewater that he could use to help the community out.
- Karlis Ercums IV, Hill Country Waste Solutions, Spring Branch, started family business six years ago with a big focus on service. Just began serving residents of the City of Johnson City in June. Started with one truck and are now serving over 20,000 customers.
- Karlis Ercums III, CEO, Hill Country Waste, has been in business 42 years, 400 employees, lives and does business in the Blanco area. Would love the opportunity to serve the residents of Blanco.

**Presentation:**

Chief Scott Rubin gave an update on the School Resource Officer (SRO). Blanco County received \$20,000 to use for SRO, fully funded additional officer to be added 20 hours per week. The two officers will rotate campuses.

**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 Smith to continue with our services as is and not contract with the county. The motion was not seconded and did not pass. **A motion was made by Mayor Pro-Tem Barron to contract with Blanco County, seconded by Council Member Thrailkill, motion carried 3-1 with Council Member Smith opposed.**
2. Consideration, Discussion and Take Possible Action on Single City Council Position Vacancy and Related Holdover Status. We have four applicants, three who are present at the meeting tonight. Council Member Thrailkill said his desire is to leave the vacancy and hold a special election in May to fill the unexpired term. He is also in favor of appointing Ryan Moses to the vacant seat. **A motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Barron to appoint Laura Swinson to fill the vacant seat, seconded by Council Member Smith, all in favor, motion carried 3-1 with Council Member Thrailkill opposed.**

**Laurie Cassidy, City Secretary, Oath of Office – Laura Swinson was sworn in. Welcome**

3. Consideration, Discussion, and Take Possible Action on Approval of Updates to the Personnel Policy (Sasha Ricks, Finance Director). Mayor Lumpee said this has been discussed at the past couple of meetings. She has reviewed with staff and is in favor of these changes. Council Member Thrailkill spoke and has an issue with drug testing requirement. After much discussion with the Council a motion was made.

**A motion was made by Mayor Pro-Tem Barron to approve the updates to the personnel policy as presented, seconded by Council Member McClellan, all in favor, motion carried unanimously.**

4. 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. Sasha spoke regarding the citizen's need for the customer service Fundview portal **A motion was made by Council Member Thraikill to approve the Fundview customer portal for utilities and court online payments at a cost of \$3,400, seconded by Council Member Smith, all in favor, motion carried unanimously.**
5. Consideration, Discussion and Take Possible Action on Possible Amendment to Ordinance 2022-O-005 Short-Term Rentals. Warren Escovy spoke on the STR Ordinance. Warren Escovy spoke regarding the administrative process. If the STR permit already meets the requirements for 1) correct zoning, 2) no adverse effect on any property within one thousand (1000) feet of the affected property, and 3) will not result in permitting more than 10% of the dwelling units in a city block, let the staff approve without permit requestor having to wait extended time to go before Planning & Zoning Commission and City Council. The council discussed and they feel the residents need to be notified by mail prior to approval and issuance of any and all new permits. **A motion was made by Council Member Smith to not approve the amendment to the Short Term Rental ordinance, seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Barron, all in favor, motion carried unanimously.**

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

1. Consideration, Discussion and Take Possible Action on Approval of Ordinance 2023-O-001 General Election Order, Providing for the Holding of a General Election on May 6, 2023, for the Purpose of Electing One Mayor and Two Council Members. **A motion was made by Mayor Pro-Tem Barron to approve Ordinance 2023-O-001 General Election Order, Providing for the Holding of a General Election on May 6, 2023 for the Purpose of Election one Mayor and Two Council Members, seconded by Council Member Smith, all in favor, motion carried unanimously.**
2. Consideration, Discussion and Take Possible Action on Possible Amendment to Lighting Ordinance 2018-O-008 (Wayne Gosnell). Wayne Gosnell spoke regarding the current lighting ordinance. This amendment would change all Correlated Color Temperature (CCT) requirements from 3,000K maximum to 2700K maximum. Rationale: The lowered Kelvin temperatures were requested by a member of the Blanco City Council and endorsed by the Blanco County Friends of the Night Sky. **A motion was made by Council Member Smith to approve the amendment to the outdoor lighting Ordinance 2018-O-008, changing maximum Kelvin to 2700K, seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Baron, all in favor, motion carried unanimously.**
3. Consideration, Discussion and Take Possible Action on Approval for the City to issue a formal Request for Proposal to Vendors for the collection of delinquent Municipal Court fees & fines as provided by Amended Article 103.0031 of the Texas Code of Criminal Procedure. Warren spoke regarding the need to go out for RFP for a new court fees and fines collection services vendor. The City lost their current vendor during the upgrade to the new software program, Fundview. **A motion was made by Council Member Thraikill to direct staff to proceed with RFP for collection of delinquent municipal court fees and fines, seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Barron, all in favor, motion carried unanimously.**

4. Consideration, Discussion and Take Possible Action on Amendment to Construction Contract Between City of Blanco and Associated Construction Partners, Ltd. (ACP) and Approval of Change Order No. 8, Time Extension of 253 Calendar Days. **A motion was made by Council Member Smith to Approve the Zero Cost Change Order No. 8, to provide a Time Extension of 253 Calendar Days due to material and supplies delays beyond the contractors control, seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Barron, all in favor, motion carried unanimously.**
5. Consideration, Discussion and Take Possible Action on Award of Franchise Agreement for the Collection, Hauling and Disposal of Municipal Solid Waste. Warren spoke regarding the two bids received. Mayor Pro-Tem Barron asked about recycling, is it an all or nothing deal? Vicki Ralph with Waste Connections spoke and said recycling is all or nothing based on a cost basis. For Hill Country recycling (paper, plastic, cardboard) it can be on an individual basis. The council discussed recycling, and cost comparisons. Need an annual bulk pick up. Exclusive roll off service, was previously in old contract but is no longer part of the contract (took it out due to timing on delivery of product (was coming out of Austin, have now taken it back) Council Member Smith said it is in the best interest of the City to utilize the best value. Council Member Thrailkill asked what term we are looking at, five years? **A motion was made by Mayor Pro-Tem Barron to award contract to Waste Connections under Option No.2 for a five year term to include annual bulk pick up, and exclude roll off service from the contract, seconded by Council Member Smith, all in favor, motion carried unanimously.**

Closed regular meeting at 7:45 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 Section 551.071 (Consultation with City Attorney) and Section 1.05, Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct; Confer with City Attorney regarding City Council Vacancy and Related Holdover Status.
2. 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 legal issues associated with the Water Treatment Plant Project; Contract Completion.
3. Texas Government Code Section 551.074 (Personnel Matters) to deliberate the appointment, employment, evaluation, reassignment, duties, discipline, or dismissal of City Administrator.
4. 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 Water and Wastewater Treatment Plant Operation and Maintenance Agreement between the City of Blanco and Inframark LLC, and related issues.
5. 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 TCEQ TPDES Permit and related issues.

Closed executive session at 9:02 pm and convened into regular meeting.

**Items 1-5: No Action Taken**

**Adjournment:**

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

**The meeting was adjourned at 9:03 pm.**

Respectfully submitted,

*Rachel Lumpee*  
Rachel Lumpee, Mayor

ATTEST:

*Laurie A. Cassidy*  
Laurie A. Cassidy, City Secretary

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

