

**REGULAR MEETING AND PUBLIC HEARING  
OF THE GOVERNING BODY OF  
THE CITY OF BLANCO**

**Meeting Minutes  
April 11, 2023**

A regular meeting and public hearing of the City Council, City of Blanco, Texas was held on April 11, 2023, at 6:00 pm at the Byars Building, 308 Pecan Street, Blanco, Texas.

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm by Mayor Lumpee, followed by roll call (Laurie Cassidy) announcing a quorum was present. The invocation was led by Pastor Carlos Cloyd, United Methodist Church. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor Lumpee. Council members present: Mayor Lumpee, Mayor Pro-Tem Barron, and Council Members McClellan, Thrailkill, Smith, and Swinson. .

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

Mayor Lumpee made the following announcements:

- Thank you to all those who participated in the annual Trash-Off event. It was another successful year!
- The City of Blanco remains on Stage 2 water restrictions.

Events around town:

- Live Oak Apartments' open house takes place on April 12 at 4 p.m.
- Old 300's Back 40 will have live music on April 12 from 6-8.
- The City of Blanco Highway 281 Task Force will have a Town Hall on Thur. April 13 which will focus on the historic preservation aspect. It will take place on the courthouse's second floor at 6 p.m. Doors will open at 5:30.
- Blanco Market Days will occur on April 15 from 9 to 4 on the Courthouse lawn. A toy swap will take place inside the courthouse from 9 to 1. The Blanco County Master Gardeners will have their annual plant sale at Market Days.
- Music in the Park at Yett Park will be on April 15 from 6-10, gates open at 5.
- The next reading between the wines will be on April 16 from 5:30 - 7 at GOTH.
- Texas Regional Bank Earth Day Expo takes place on April 21 from 9 to 7.
- Blanco County's Household Waste Collection Day is April 22 from 8 to 2 and is open to ALL Blanco citizens.
- Keep Blanco Beautiful, the Blanco Chamber, and the City will be hosting an Earth Day event on April 22 at Bindseil Park from 10:30- noon.
- Real Ale's 27th-anniversary celebration will be held on April 22 from noon to 6.
- The Buggy Barn's Old Time Gospel Singing event will be held on April 29 from 1-4.
- The Lavender Festival will be held June 9-11.
- On Oct. 14, 2023, there will be an annular solar eclipse. On April 8, 2024, there will be a total eclipse and the majority of Blanco County will be in the area of totality. We are less than a year away from the total solar eclipse! The Blanco County Eclipse Task Force is actively working to help prepare for these eclipses. More information can be found at [Blancocountyeclipse.org](http://Blancocountyeclipse.org).
- Lastly, I would like to recognize Mayor Pro Tem Connie Barron for her outstanding service to the community. This will be her last meeting and with that being said I would like to present her with this certificate of appreciation. It reads, "Connie Barron's dedication to the City of Blanco through her personal contributions, including her service as a council member and as Mayor Pro Tem these past two years has greatly benefited the City of Blanco and improved our quality of life." Thank you, Mayor Pro Tem Barron.

## Announcement of a Notice of Public Meeting for Linebarger Goggan Blair & Sampson, LLP

### Public Comments:

- Marcella Murrah, Blanco resident, spoke regarding item #13, she is against approval of Warren Escovy, City Administrator's contract extension.
- Justin Byars, resident at 63 Elm Street, spoke against item #13, the approval of extension of Warren Escovy, City Administrator's contract extension.
- Ryan Moses, resident at 400 14<sup>th</sup> Street, spoke on behalf of Historic Preservation Commission, regarding rock wall at Cranberries, bring to council, overlay, comprehensive master plan, agenda going forward, adopt design guidelines, applications for Historic Preservation Commission, open to new applicants, new flyers being printed for distribution.
- Wayne Gosnell, resident at 1374 River Run, spoke regarding Mayor Pro-Tem Connie Barron. He went on to recognize and thank Mrs. Barron for all the hard work she has done in Blanco including lobbying against the closure of Blanco state park, volunteering as President when Gem of the Hills was going to close, she keep it open and thriving, worked with KBB to preserve the city park, thespian area, Wild Woman Weekend, member of Planning & Zoning Commission, City Council, and distributed news of city happenings, Hill Country Alliance member, organized fundraising events.

### Proclamations:

- Mayor Lumpee read the Denim Day Proclamation
- Mayor Lumpee read the Public Service Recognition Week Proclamation
- Mayor Lumpee read the National Historic Preservation Month Proclamation
- Mayor Lumpee read the Older Americans Month Proclamation

### Presentation:

1. Libbey Aly, Blanco Chamber of Commerce, spoke about the upcoming Lavender Festival road closures at Pecan Street from 4<sup>th</sup> Street through to 2<sup>nd</sup> Street and 3<sup>rd</sup> Street from US Highway 281 to Pecan Street. The Chamber is requesting the roads be closed at 5:00 pm on Thursday, June 8 and remain closed until 4:00 pm on Sunday, June 11, 2023. Secondly, Ms. Aly gave a quarterly update on the Chamber HOT Funds.

### Opened Public Hearing at 6:38 pm

### Public Hearing:

1. Applicant/Owner First Baptist Church is requesting a Special Use Permit for an electronic sign in a GUI zone at 1200 4<sup>th</sup> Street, Property ID 17179, Abstract A0001, Survey 24 H. Eggleston.
  - Statement by Heinz Roesch, resident at 1049 Cielo Springs Drive, was read by Laurie Cassidy, City Secretary. Mr. Heinz urged Council to follow Planning & Zoning Commission's recommendation to approve the special use permit to allow First Baptist Church to install an electronic sign.

- Wayne Gosnell, resident at 1374 River Run, spoke regarding new business item #1 the approval of an electronic sign at First Baptist Church. He spoke regarding the history of the sign ordinance and asked does the council want to change the sign ordinance?
- Robby Robinson, resident at 1207 Cottonwood, spoke in favor of approval of the special use permit for an electronic sign at the First Baptist Church. He thanked Council for their service to the community. He raised his boys here, he cares about Blanco, the youth, and First Baptist Church. He is in favor of a good strong community with everyone working together for the common good and making smart, common sense decisions for the safety of all residents.

**Closed Public Hearing at 6:45 pm.**

**Staff Presentations:**

- City Hall, Warren Escovy, City Administrator discussed on going storm debris. The City will hire a contractor to complete one final debris pick up on Thursday. Pavement restoration started on Mesquite and is about 75% complete. Many of the streets are 40-50 years old. The Highway 281 Task Force will be holding a Town Hall meeting on April 13 at 5:30 pm to give updates on TxDOT relief route options (five routes for the City to choose from). Financial quarterly reports to be posted online tomorrow. Thank you to the current council.
- Police Department, Chief Rubin presented the March Monthly Report. He said the last two officers hired are in training and doing well.
- Inframark, Damon Berryman presented the annual report which included noteworthy events, discussion of annual Trash-Off, equipment and facilities, wastewater operations YTD, Water Operations, Collection and Distribution, special thanks to the CIAMAC group, Irrigation Operations, Health and Safety, and Community Involvement.

**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 March 7, 2023, Special Meeting.
2. Approval of Minutes from the March 14, 2023, Regular Meeting and Public Hearing.
3. Approval of Resolution 2023-R-0\_\_TBD Declaring Certain Personal Property Surplus and Authorizing Sale (Police Department).

**A motion was made by Council Member Smith to approve the consent agenda items 1-3 as presented, and move item 4 to New Business, 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 Special Use Permit for a C1 Zoning for 808 Main Street (Owner: Roi Biton). Warren Escovy said Table 4.2 of the UDC requires that a special use permit be approved by City Council to have vehicle sales or rentals in the C-1 district. Planning & Zoning recommended disapproval due to all additional requested information not being provided. Staff recommends following Planning & Zoning's recommendation to disapprove request until additional information is provided. Council Member Smith requested the owner obtain the additional information requested and come back for approval of the special use permit. **A motion was made by Council Member Thraikill to disapprove the Special Use Permit for a C1 Zoning at 808 Main Street, 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 Special Use Permit for an electronic sign in a GUI zone for 1200 4<sup>th</sup> Street (Owner: First Baptist Church). Warren Escovy said staff recommends approval. Planning& Zoning Commission requests approval with diming of light on sign. Eric Car, represents First Baptist Church and supports the Dark Sky ordinance, said the sign has a black background, can control and dim light, no scrolling messages, simple letter messages, no movement. The church is willing to comply with hours limitations and would be using the existing concrete base and structure. Council had large discussion **A motion was made by Council Member Smith to include turning the sign off from sunset to sunrise, no scrolling allowed, change no more than once per day, 50% stays static, brightness requirement by City ordinance be reduced to gray placard and post copy of these conditions, seconded by Council Member Swinson, motion failed, 2-3 with Mayor Pro-Tem Barron, and Council Members Thraikill and McClellan opposed.**
2. Consideration, Discussion, and Take Possible Action on Approval of Resolution 2023-R-0\_\_TBD adding an honorary name to 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, by the addition of the name "Nelson Way" and directing the City Administrator to take steps to obtain and affix an appropriate honorary sign. Council Member Thraikill said his favorite memory was the pickers circle and Nelson's music. Unique to Blanco.
  - Mike Barnes, spoke in favor of new business item #2. He urged the council to adopt approval of this sign. He went on to say that Mr. Nelson was a fixture in this community.
  - Martha Gosnell spoke concerning the issue with the confusion created by the change of a street name and was reassured that this will just be an honorary sign placed below the street name sign and not a replacement of the actual street name.

**A motion was made by Mayor Pro-Tem Barron to adopt Resolution 2023-R-00x adding an honorary name to 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, by the addition of the name "Nelson Way", seconded by Council Member Smith, all in favor, motion carried unanimously.**

3. Consideration, Discussion, and Take Possible action on Approval of a Collection Contract with Linebarger Goggan Blair & Sampson, LLP to Collect Delinquent Municipal Court Fines and Fees Pursuant to Article 103.0031 Texas Code of Criminal Procedure. Attorney Tim Tuggey combined items 3-5 and said they can be approved in one motion.
4. Consideration, Discussion, and Take Possible Action to Adopt Resolution 2023-R-0\_\_TBD Authorizing Municipal Court to Add a 30% Collection Fee Pursuant to Article 103.0031 Texas Code of Criminal Procedure.

5. Consideration, Discussion, and Take Possible Action to Adopt Memorandum Approving Contract with Linebarger Goggan Blair & Sampson LLP, i.e., Adopt the “Action Approving Contract” 2019 TX Gov code requirements so we are all in compliance. **A motion was made by Council Member Thrailkill to approve New Business items 3, 4, and 5, seconded by Council Member Smith, all in favor motion carried unanimously.**
6. Consideration, Discussion, and Take Possible Action on Approval of an Ordinance Authorizing the Issuance of City of Blanco, Texas Limited Tax Note, Series 2023; Approving a Paying Agent/Registrar Agreement; Prescribing the Form of the Note; Levying an Ad Valorem Tax to Pay the Note; Awarding the Sale Thereof; and Enacting Other Provisions Relating Thereto. Warren Escovy, City Administrator introduced Craig Cunningham, city financial advisor spoke and explained the need for the tax note is to provide capital to fund the design and construction of a new wastewater lift station. City received three bids and Amegy Bank is recommended to be awarded the contract. This is a seven year note with no payments being due the first year and interest only the second year. Note can be refinanced later to finance for the life of the lift station. Council discussed **A motion was made by Council Member Thrailkill to approve Ordinance Authorizing the Issuance of City of Blanco, Texas Limited Tax Note, Series 2023; Approving a Paying Agent/Registrar Agreement; Prescribing the Form of the Note; Levying an Ad Valorem Tax to Pay the Note; Awarding the Sale Thereof; and Enacting Other Provisions Relating Thereto, seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Barron, motion carried 4-0 with Council Member Smith abstained from the vote.**
7. Consideration, Discussion, and Take Possible Action On Amendment To City of Blanco Code of Ordinances Section 2.10.001, to provide for additions to future City Council meeting agenda(s) by written and joint request of any two City Council members. Attorney Tuggey said this is a standard operating procedure, recommends approval. **A motion was made by Mayor Pro-Tem Barron to approve amendment to City of Blanco Code of Ordinances Section 2.10.001, to provide for additions to future City Council meeting agenda(s) by written and joint request of any two City Council members, seconded by Council Member McClellan, all in favor motion carried unanimously.**
8. Consideration, Discussion, and Take Possible Action on Approval of HR Green Work Order for Project GIS Water Utility Mapping at a cost Not to Exceed \$19,650. Warren Escovy said the CIAMAC has been working on updating our GIS system to better improve our city and this is the last piece needed to continue work of CIAMAC committee. **A motion was made by Council Member Thrailkill to approve the HR Green Work Order for Project GIS Water Utility Mapping at a cost Not to Exceed \$19,650, seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Barron, all in favor, motion carried unanimously.**
9. Consideration, Discussion, and Take Possible Action on Approval of New Commissioner, to fill Unexpired Term on the Planning & Zoning Commission. The council discussed three applicants which included Andrew Forsberg, Dan Murrah, and Barnaby Cox. They thanked all the applicants who applied. **A motion was made by Council Member Thrailkill to appoint Andrew Forsberg to fill the unexpired, vacant position on the Planning & Zoning Commission until June 30, 2023, seconded by Council member Smith, motion carried 3-2 with Council Members Swinson and McClellan opposed.**

10. Consideration, Discussion, and Take Possible Action on Approval of WWTP Agriculture Land Lease Agreement between the City of Blanco and Buddy R. Guinn. Warren Escovy, City Administrator spoke in favor of approval of renewal of three year contract. Mr. Guinn has worked with the City to meet our goals and has changed his planting to meet city goals. **A motion was made by Mayor Pro-Tem Barron to approve WWTP Agriculture Land Lease Agreement between the City of Blanco and Buddy R. Guinn, seconded by Council Member Smith, all in favor, motion carried unanimously.**
11. Consideration, Discussion, and Take Possible Action on Approval of Street Closures and use of Byars Building for Lavender Festival (June 9-11, 2023), Chamber of Commerce. Only need approval of street closures, not the use of the Byars Building. The street closures requested include Pecan Street; from 4<sup>th</sup> Street thru to 2<sup>nd</sup> Street and 3<sup>rd</sup> Street from US 281 to Pecan Street effective at 5:00 pm on Thursday, June 8 and remain closed until 4:00 pm on Sunday, June 11, 2023. **A motion was made by Council Member Smith to approve the Blanco Chamber's street closure requests for Lavender Fest, for the dates June 9-11, 2023 seconded by Council Member Swinson, all in favor motion carried unanimously.**
12. Consideration, Discussion, and Take Possible Action on Approval of Resolution 2023-R-0\_\_ supporting City of Blanco's application to the Texas Department of Transportation's 2023 Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside (TA) Call For Projects (Council Member Laura Swinson). Warren Escovy said the city has discovered that in order to be approved for these grants we need a transportation development plan and they usually come at a great expense. Council Member Swinson added that usually TxDOT only funds construction grants but since there is money from the federal government for infrastructure this year they are funding plans. Usually there is a 20% match by the city but we qualify for a transportation credit so this grant will be at no cost to city as long as we don't go over our proposed budget. **A motion was made by Council Member Swinson to approve Resolution 2023-R-005 supporting City of Blanco's application to the Texas Department of Transportation's 2023 Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside (TA) Call For Projects, seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Barron, all in favor, motion carried unanimously.**
13. Consideration, Discussion and Take Possible Action on Amendment, Modification or Extension of Existing Employment Contract with City Administrator. **Table for discussion in executive session – No Action Taken.**
14. Approval of Contract between the City of Blanco and Texas Regional Bank to Secure Interest Rate of 3.15% on all Accounts Through December 31, 2023. Bank is asking for commitment until December 31, 2022 on item. **A motion was made by Council Member Smith to Table item, seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Barron, all in favor, motion carried unanimously.**

Closed regular meeting at 8:15 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 551.074 (Personnel Matters) to deliberate the appointment, employment, evaluation, reassignment, duties, discipline, or dismissal of City Administrator.
2. 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.
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 legal issues associated with the Water Treatment Plant Project; Bids, Contract. Award, and Notice to Proceed.
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 TCEQ TPDES Permit 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 Titan Milling Contract Discussion.

Closed executive session at 10:02 pm and convened into regular meeting.

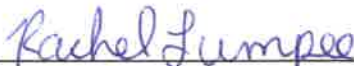
**Items 1-5: No Action Taken**

**Adjournment:**

**A motion was made by Council Member Smith to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Barron, all in favor.**


**The meeting was adjourned at 10:03 pm.**

Respectfully submitted,

  
Rachel Lumpee, Mayor



ATTEST:

  
Laurie A. Cassidy, City Secretary

These minutes were approved on the 16 day of May, 2023.