

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

**Meeting Minutes
May 16, 2023**

A special meeting of the City Council, City of Blanco, Texas was held on May 16, 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 Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor Lumpee. Council members present: Mayor Lumpee and Council Members McClellan, Thrailkill, Smith, and Swinson. Mayor Pro-Tem Barron was absent.

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

Mayor Lumpee made the following announcements:

- The City of Blanco remains on Stage 2 water restrictions.
- Blanco County Burn Ban remains off. Burn carefully.
- There are openings on the Planning and Zoning and Historic Commissions Applications can be found on our website and should be returned to the City Secretary.
- Our very own City Secretary, Laurie Cassidy, has been nominated for the 2023 Municipal Clerks Honor Roll sponsored by General Code. Congratulations, Ms. Cassidy.
- This week is National Police Week. I would like to thank our wonderful police officers for their service to our community. Thank you for making Blanco the safest city to live, work, and visit!

Events around town:

- Blanco Chamber Happy Hour will take place at Tenuta Bianco on May 18 from 4:30-5:30.
- Family Eldercare's annual fan drive is going on now until Aug. 31
- Blanco Market Days will occur on May 20 from 9 to 4 on the Courthouse lawn. A toy swap will take place inside the courthouse from 9 to 1.
- Celebrate Texas State Park's 100 year anniversary at Blanco State Park this Saturday, May 20. Free park entry and lots of fun activities are planned.
- 4th Street Gallery's newest group show, Shades of Light, will have its opening reception on May 20 from 4-7. The exhibit will be on through August 26.
- Blanco Cars and Coffee will take place on the south side of the Old Blanco Courthouse on Sunday, May 21 from 8-11 am.
- The Lavender Festival will be held June 9-11. More information can be found at www.blancolavenderfest.com
- 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. More information can be found at Blancocountyeclipse.org.

Lastly, I want to thank the citizens, city council, city staff, and everyone for their hard work and dedication to the City these past two years. I have been honored to represent our community and am so proud of what we accomplished. Thank you, Blanco.

Public Comments:

- Retta Martin, resident at 302 4th Street, spoke stating she served on City Council 24 years ago and her first task was Keep Blanco Beautiful (KBB) and working to clean up and beautify the City. She went on to say that Mayor Lumpee got her start volunteering with KBB as well. Historic Commission was her next task. She is speaking tonight to welcome the new council and say goodbye to Rachel. Two things needing attention, the corner of 4th Street and Pecan (Old 300 BBQ kitchen was flooded) and rock wall by Cranberry's Shop is in desperate need of repair.
- Candy Cargill, resident at 1605 Pany, said thanks to council for all your hard work over the years. She thanked the Police Chief for his hard work. New Council she charged with ordering signs that say Main Street, meeting with TxDOT to lower speed limit through town, and creating a committee to study groundwater. Cannot survive on surface water any longer, need new task force committee.

Proclamations:

- Mayor Lumpee read the Flag Day and Week Proclamation.

Presentation:

1. Mayor Lumpee presented the \$600.00 City of Blanco City Council Scholarship for the 2022-2023 Academic Year to Peyton West.

Staff Presentations:

- City Hall, Warren Escovy, City Administrator welcomed the new Mayor and Council Members. He gave an update on the pavement restoration, Mesquite is 90% complete. Will be setting up a meeting to discuss the TxDOT relief route 281. Quarterly financials to be posted to the website tomorrow. City is currently working on RFP for Community Development Block Grant mitigation administered by Texas General Land Office (GLO) and an Alternative Transportation Plan Grant administered by TxDOT. Thank you to the outgoing council.
- Police Department, Chief Rubin presented the April Monthly Report. Chief spoke regarding incident that occurred yesterday terroristic threat to harm children, person was arrested and is currently being held in the Blanco County jail. The person was apprehended without incident.

Canvassing of General and Special Election by Mayor Lumpee.

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 April 11, 2023, Regular Meeting and Public Hearing.
2. Approval of Minutes from the April 26, 2023, Special Meeting.
3. Approval of Ordinance 2023-O-007 General Election Canvassing the Returns and Declaring the Official Results of the May 6, 2023, General Election to Elect the Mayor and Two (2) City Council Members.

4. Approval of Ordinance 2023-O-008 Special Election Canvassing the Returns and Declaring the Official Results of the May 6, 2023, Special Election to Elect One (1) City Council Member, Unexpired Term.
5. Approval of the Appointment of Mayor Elect Mike Arnold as CAPCOG General Assembly Representative.
6. Approval of Resolution 2023-R-006 Renewal of Municipal Court Judge.

A motion was made by Council Member Thraikill to approve the consent agenda items 1-6 as presented and move items 7 and 8 to New Business, seconded by Council Member Smith, all in favor, motion carried unanimously.

Oath of Office was administered by Laurie Cassidy, City Secretary to our Newly Elected Mayor Mike Arnold and Council Members Keith McClellan, Laura Swinson, and Ryan Moses.

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

1. Consideration, Discussion, and Take Possible Action on 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 Council Member McClellan, all in favor, motion carried unanimously.**
2. Consideration, Discussion, and Take Possible Action on Approval of Ordinance 2023-O-006 Water Conservation Plan. Warren discussed the need to update. City engineer, Byron said the last plan was submitted in 2017. A revised plan is needed for submittal of PIF to TWDB. Very similar to last report but did make updates. There was a 5 year gap with no new updates. Following guidance from TWDB. Council discussed. . There are two documents, a water conservation plan and second the drought contingency plan. The engineer will update to match current regulations. **A motion was made by Council Member Smith to approve Ordinance 2023-0-006, with a notation that we require modification and correction of numerical data and correction of stage 2 water restriction as shown on page 7 of 11, 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 on Approval of Mayor Pro-Tem. for the Term May 2023 through May 2024. **A motion was made by Council Member Smith to nominate Council Member Thraikill as Mayor Pro-Tem for the Term May 2023 through May 2024, seconded by Council Member McClellan, motion carried 4-0 with Council Member Thraikill accepting the nomination and abstaining from the vote.**
2. Consideration, Discussion, and Take Possible Action on Approval of Resolution 2023-R-007 Amending Resolution 2021-R-009 Designating Persons Authorized to Sign on the City's Depository Accounts as the Official Signatories of the City of Blanco. **A motion was made by Council Member Smith, to approve Mayor Mike Arnold, Mayor Pro-Tem Thraikill and Council Member McClellan as designated persons authorized to be signers on all City of Blanco bank accounts, seconded by Council Member Swinson, all in favor, motion carried unanimously.**

3. Consideration, Discussion, and Take Possible Action for Authorization to issue requests for proposals (RFP) for administrative and plan development services for the Community Development Block Grant - Mitigation (CDBG-MIT) grant programs administered by the Texas General Land Office (GLO). Warren introduced Michael Sledge from GrantWorks. The General Land Office's Resilient Communities Program (RCP) is now available to cities affected by the 2015 and 2016 floods. There is no match for the program, but it requires plan and ordinance adoption. The comprehensive planning includes population study, housing study, land use study/plan, zoning ordinance, infrastructure study and capital improvement plan. Program participants receive professionally researched and produced planning reports uniquely tailored to local conditions and needs. The grant limit is \$300,000 and activities include the development of a Comprehensive Plan and Zoning Ordinance. Each study is accompanied by full color mapping in both paper and digital formats. Adoption of the approved Comprehensive Plan and Zoning Ordinance will be completed within 24 months of the grant award. The fee to GrantWorks comes out of the grant itself. The council discussed the two parts of the grant including administration of the grant and the writing of the plan. Suggestion was made to go out for RFP to obtain grant first and then separately obtain company to write the plan, if possible. **A motion was made by Council Member Smith to authorize the RFP for administrative and or plan development services, prefer to be segregated, if they cannot be segregated then go out as one provider, seconded by Council Member Moses, all in favor, motion carried unanimously.**
4. Consideration, Discussion, and Take Possible Action on Approval of Resolution 2023-R-008 ✓
Authorizing signatories for all grants administered through Texas Department of Agriculture TDA Go grants online system. **A motion was made by Council Member Smith to Approve Resolution 2023-R-008 Authorizing signatories for all grants administered through Texas Department of Agriculture TDA Go grants online system, seconded by Council Member Swinson, all in favor, motion carried unanimously.**
5. Consideration, Discussion, and Take Possible Action on Vapor Genius dba The Hill Country Vape & Smoke Appeal of Administrative Denial of Exterior Signage Plan. Warren Escovy discussed past history with the appeal of administrative denial of exterior signage plan. The staff's recommendation is to approve the sign as requested by the City Administrator. Provide guidance to staff on if you require a slightly opaque window on the roll-up window side or if clear glass will be allowed. Attorney Tuggey said the Council approved with consent the city's right to review and approve the exterior plan. The city originally rejected the sign and exterior plan. Eric Gomez, attorney for Vapor Genius said thank you for the opportunity to speak. Vapor Genius has modified its sign, they respectfully understand the request, in the event of robbery, left side and not the right, has safety concern to protect the public and they do not want to tint that side. As submitted, they believe they are following the laws. Council discussed. Per Chief Rubin, light tint could accomplish all requests for safety. Attorney Tuggey said the council can grant appeal, reject appeal, or modify to conditional acceptance with 10 day review, deemed acceptable. **A motion was made by Council Member Smith to table the item and take it to executive session to discuss with the city attorney, seconded by Council Member McClellan, all in favor, motion carried unanimously.**

6. Consideration, Discussion, and Take Possible action on formal protest to TABC for the sale and consumption of alcohol beverages within a very close proximity to two, well established Blanco Churches. The council discussed neighboring churches' opposition to the sale of alcohol near the church . **A motion was made by Council Member Smith that the council submit a formal protest to TABC for the sale and consumption of alcohol beverages within a very close proximity to two well established Blanco churches, seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Thraikill, motion carried 4-1 with Council Member Swinson opposed.**

7. Consideration, Discussion, and Take Possible Action on extension of Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) through December 31, 2024 with the Meadows Center/Texas State University. Attorney Tuggey explained this is a longstanding consulting relationship which keeps the lines of communication open between Protect Our Blanco, the Meadows, Texas State, and the city regarding discharge issues, improving reuse, and other water use issues. **A motion was made by Mayor Pro-Tem Thraikill to extend the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) through December 31, 2024 with the Meadows Center/Texas State University, seconded by Council Member McClellan, all in favor, motion carried unanimously.**

8. Approval of Resolution 2023-R-00X Application Filing and Authorized Representative with Texas Water Development Board (TWDB).

9. Approval of Resolution 2023-R-00X Application Resolution – Certificate of Secretary with Texas Water Development Board (TWDB).
A motion was made by Mayor Pro-Tem Thraikill to Approval Resolution 2023-R-009 Application Filing and Authorized Representative and Resolution 2023-R-010 Application Resolution – Certificate of Secretary with Texas Water Development Board (TWDB), seconded by Council Member Smith, all in favor, motion carried unanimously.

Closed regular meeting at 7:35 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) and Section 1.05, Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct; Confer with City Attorney regarding Vapor Genius dba The Hill Country Vape & Smoke Appeal of Administrative Denial of Exterior Signage Plan.
2. Texas Government Code Sections 551.071 (Consultation with City Attorney) and Section 1.05, Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct; Confer with City Attorney regarding Review of Pending Legal Matters.
3. 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.

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 legal issues associated with the Water Treatment Plant Project; Bids, Contract. Award, and Notice to Proceed.
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 8:16 pm and convened into regular meeting.

Item #1: Vapor Genius dba The Hill Country Vape & Smoke Appeal of Administrative Denial of Exterior Signage Plan - A motion was made by Council Member Smith to conditionally grant the appeal subject to certification by Mayor Arnold, Chief Rubin, and Council Member Mike Smith by June 7 resolving the requested window tinting on the northern windows of the building, seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Thraikill, all in favor, motion carried unanimously.

Items 2-5: No Action Taken

Adjournment:

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

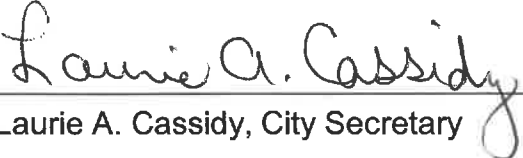
The meeting was adjourned at 8:18 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Mike Arnold, Mayor

ATTEST:



Laurie A. Cassidy, City Secretary

These minutes were approved on the 13 day of June, 2023.

