

**SPECIAL MEETING AND BUDGET WORKSHOP
OF THE GOVERNING BODY OF
THE CITY OF BLANCO**

**Meeting Minutes
June 27, 2023**

A special meeting and budget workshop of the City Council, City of Blanco, Texas was held on June 27, 2023, at 4:30 pm at the Byars Building, 308 Pecan Street, Blanco, Texas.

The meeting was called to order at 4:31 pm by Mayor Arnold, followed by roll call announcing a quorum was present. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor Arnold. Council members present: Mayor Arnold, Mayor Pro-Tem Thraikill and Council Members Smith, Swinson, and Moses. Council Member McClellan was absent.

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

Announcements: Council Member Keith McClellan is in the hospital please keep him in your prayers.

Public Comments:

- Neil Neyens, spoke in opposition of cutting the Police Department budget. He said he has a history of 34 years of law enforcement. He understands how hard it is to obtain and retain good officers. Chief Rubin has done an excellent job recruiting officers. Once you undo that it takes years to reestablish.

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

1. Consideration, Discussion and Take Possible Action on Authorization and Governance of a Committee for Financial Transparency and Security. – **Mayor moved item to Executive Session.**

2. Consideration, Discussion and Take Possible Action on Initiating Due Diligence and Investigation relating to Possible Sale or other Disposition of the City's Water System. Warren Escovy, City Administrator spoke regarding company, CSWR, Texas owns about 150 systems. They are interested in purchasing Blanco's system. Mayor spoke saying he handed this off to CIMAC to look into and do further research. Council Member Smith asked for this item to be on the agenda for discussion. He is opposed to selling our water assets. While there might be some advantages, he does not believe this is in the City's best interest. Has done due diligence on this and does not believe it warrants the council or staff's time. **A motion was made by Council Member Smith that we do not initiate due diligence on the sale of our water, seconded by Council Member Swinson, all in favor, motion carried 3-1 with Council Member Moses opposed.**

Closed the regular meeting at 4:39 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 Authorization and Governance of a Committee for Financial Transparency and Security.
2. Texas Government Code Section 551.074 (Personnel Matters) to deliberate the appointment, employment, evaluation, reassignment, duties, discipline, or dismissal of an Administrative Employee.

Closed executive session at 5:23 pm and convened into regular meeting.

1. Consideration, Discussion and Take Possible Action on Authorization and Governance of a Committee for Financial Transparency and Security. Council Member Thrailkill said he is upset that a committee has already been meeting. Transparency is in this committee name, and it has come to his attention that a group of people have already met and furthermore, met without providing public notice. It has come to nefarious activity and what is being discussed is something other than what the committee is being formed to accomplish. It is worrisome and concerning. The council discussed it in detail. Forensic audit would be expensive. Council Member Swinson asked if Mayor Pro-Tem would feel better if Council selected the committee members. Is the Ad Hoc Committee active now? Council Member Swinson asked the Mayor what exact tasks this would bring up. Goal #1, Transparency Star Certified (good milestone). **A motion was made by Council Member Smith to form a Committee for Financial Transparency and Security, with no conflict of any other committee or members, consider a residing residency within 20 miles of the city, assign a point contact who would meet with the Finance Director, Sasha Rick, to not overburden staff/finance, set committee at 6 members, who will each provide a statement of qualifications, seconded by Council Member Moses, motion carried 3-1 with Mayor Pro-Tem Thrailkill opposed.**

Budget Workshop #2 – No action by Council.

Polled council regarding 5% tax rate increase, Council Members Smith and Swinson and Mayor Pro-Tem Thrailkill in favor. Council Member Moses opposed.

Adjournment:

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

The meeting was adjourned at 8:03 pm.

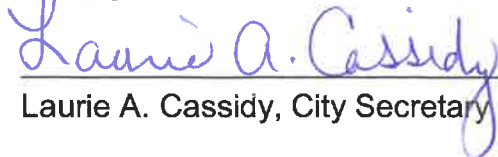
Respectfully submitted,



Mike Arnold, Mayor



ATTEST:



Laurie A. Cassidy, City Secretary

These minutes were approved on the 11th day of July, 2023.