



## CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Monday, May 15, 2023  
7:00 PM

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Iowa Colony City Hall, 12003 Iowa Colony Blvd., Iowa Colony, TX 77583  
Phone: 281-369-2471 • Fax: 281-369-0005 • [www.iowacolonytx.gov](http://www.iowacolonytx.gov)

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STATE OF TEXAS  
COUNTY OF BRAZORIA  
CITY OF IOWA COLONY

BE IT REMEMBERED ON THIS, the 15th day of May 2023, the City Council of the City of Iowa Colony, Texas, held a Council Meeting at 7:00 P.M. at Iowa Colony City Hall, there being present and in attendance the following members to wit:

Mayor Michael Byrum-Bratsen  
Councilmember McLean Barnett  
Councilmember Arnetta Murray  
Councilmember Marquette Greene-Scott  
Councilmember Wil Kennedy  
Mayor Pro Tem Chad Wilsey

And none being absent, constituting a quorum at which time the following business was transacted.

### CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Byrum-Bratsen called the meeting to order at 7:14 P.M.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance and Texas pledge were recited.

### SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Reserved for formal presentations and proclamations.*

1. Proclamation for EMS Week

Mayor Byrum-Bratsen presented the proclamation for EMS Week.

2. Police Week Proclamation

Mayor Byrum-Bratsen presented the Proclamation to the Police Department for National Police Week.

### CITIZEN COMMENTS

*An opportunity for the public to address City Council on agenda items or concerns not on the agenda. To comply with Texas Open Meetings Act, this period is not for question and answer. Those wishing to speak must identify themselves and observe a three-minute time limit.*

Terry Hayes- Request for Parks and Recreation to partner with local sports organizations to bring youth programs to the city. (Comments provided)

Armanda Roberts- Follow up on mandatory maintenance fee for Meridiana. She asked where the council stands with that progress.

Josh Walters; Fire Chief- Thanked those that have served on City Council. He congratulated the new members of the council. The fire department enjoys working with the city. He provided advice to new members regarding being a public servant.

## **COUNCIL COMMENTS**

- Councilmember Barnett appreciated the comments provided by the Fire Department. He is sorry to see Michael and Chad go. He looks forward to working with the new members of council.
- Councilmember Murray thanked Michael. Michael recommended appointing her and she is grateful for the opportunity. She stated she will miss Chad.
- Councilmember Greene-Scott welcomed everyone at the meeting. She stated that the Memorial Day Program will be held on Monday, March 29<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M. The program is from 10 A.M. to 11 A.M. and there will be vendors from 11 A.M. to 2:00 P.M at the Oasis Village in Meridiana.
- Councilmember Kennedy prayed aloud. He thanked the Mayor and Chad. He thanked Chief Walters with the Volunteer Fire Department.
- Councilmember Wilsey stated that he has had a good six years. He said we have a lot to be proud of. The city has the best staff and contractors. He provided comments to the Mayor and Council.
- Mayor Byrum-Bratsen provided an overview of his time served and what was accomplished during his term including adopting the comprehensive plan, expanding the police department, instituted a homestead exemption, passed a city charter, and hired the first full time city manager. He provided comments to the public, staff, and council members. He provided words of advice to the future Mayor.

## **ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION**

3. Consideration and possible action to adopt a resolution to canvas and approve the results of the Municipal Election.

Motion made by Mayor Pro-Tem Wilsey to adopt a resolution to canvas and approve the results of the Municipal Election, Seconded by Councilmember Murray.

Voting Yea: Mayor Pro-Tem Wilsey, Councilmember Murray, Councilmember Barnett, Councilmember Greene-Scott, Mayor Byrum-Bratsen, Councilmember Kennedy.

4. Consideration and possible action to approve a resolution declaring results of special election on whether the Iowa Colony Crime Control and Prevention District should be continued for 15 years, and the Crime Control and Prevention District sales tax should be continued for 15 years.

Motion made by Mayor Pro-Tem Wilsey to approve a resolution declaring results of special election on whether the Iowa Colony Crime Control and Prevention District should be continued for 15 years, and the Crime Control and Prevention District sales tax should be continued for 15 years, Seconded by Councilmember Greene-Scott.

Voting Yea: Mayor Pro-Tem Wilsey, Councilmember Murray, Councilmember Barnett, Councilmember Greene-Scott, Mayor Byrum-Bratsen, Councilmember Kennedy

5. Administer the oath of office to newly elected officials.

New member comments

Judge Barfield administered the oath of office to the newly elected officials; Wil Kennedy (Mayor), Tim Varlack (Councilmember District A), Steven Byrum-Bratsen (Councilmember District B), and Sydney Hargroder (Councilmember District C).

The newly sworn in council members took their seats at the dais.

Mayor Kennedy presented the newly sworn in council members with their certificates of election.

Mayor Kennedy presented Chad Wilsey and Michael Byrum-Bratsen with plaques for their time and dedication spent on City Council.

Councilmember Hargroder thanked Chad and Michael for their time and dedication to the city. She acknowledged that we have moved to districts and to large seats as stated in the charter. She thanked everyone for being in attendance. She thanked the staff and looks forward to working with everyone.

Councilmember Varlack congratulated Mayor Kennedy. He thanked God for everything in his life. He quoted scripture. He acknowledged the council members and individually thanked them for the different ways they have helped him and encouraged each other. He thanked the former Mayor for listening to his previous request and stated that we have continued making progress. He stated he will do what is right, not necessarily what is popular and looks forward to working with everyone.

Councilmember Byrum-Bratsen stated that the city has come a long way. He has learned a lot from everyone here by being on the boards and commissions and listening to the citizens. He provided comments to each of the councilmembers and looks forward to working with everyone.

Mayor Kennedy is blessed, humbled, and grateful for the opportunity. He is excited about all the things happening in Iowa Colony. He appreciates his wife Undrea for her commitment and support. He is looking forward to working with the council. He appreciates the staff. He stated he will do his best to do what is in the best interest of Iowa Colony.

#### **EXECUTIVE SESSION- 8:10 P.M.**

*Executive session in accordance with 551.071, 551.072, and 551.074 of the Texas Gov't Code to deliberate and consult with attorney on the following:*

6. Purchase of real property and financial matters related thereto
7. Discussion on appointments to the Planning and Zoning Commission and the Iowa Colony Development Authority/Tax Increment Reinvestment Zone.
8. Interlocal Agreement with Alvin on municipal territory

#### **POST EXECUTIVE SESSION- 9:32 P.M.**

#### **STAFF REPORTS**

9. Fire Marshal/Building Official Monthly Report
10. Police Department Monthly Report
11. Municipal Court Monthly Report
12. Public Works Monthly Report
13. City Engineer Monthly Report
14. Finance Department Monthly Report

## ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

15. Consideration and possible action related to the purchase of real property.

Motion made by Councilmember Varlack to authorize the City Manager to extend an offer for property located at the Northeast corner of Iowa Colony Blvd. and Davenport, Seconded by Councilmember Murray.

Voting Yea: Mayor Pro Tem Greene-Scott, Councilmember Murray, Councilmember Barnett, Councilmember Varlack, Mayor Kennedy, Councilmember Byrum-Bratsen, and Councilmember Hargroder.

16. Consideration and possible action to appoint members to the Iowa Colony Development Authority/Tax Increment Reinvestment Zone No. 2 Board.

No action taken.

17. Consideration and possible action to appoint members to the Planning and Zoning Commission.

Motion made by Councilmember Byrum-Bratsen to appoint Robert Wall to the Planning and Zoning Commission, Seconded by Councilmember Murray.

Voting Yea: Mayor Pro Tem Greene-Scott, Councilmember Murray, Councilmember Barnett, Councilmember Varlack, Mayor Kennedy, Councilmember Byrum-Bratsen, and Councilmember Hargroder.

18. Consideration and possible action to appoint a Mayor Pro Tem.

Motion made by Councilmember Byrum-Bratsen to appoint Marquette Greene-Scott as Mayor Pro Tem, Seconded by Councilmember Hargroder.

Voting Yea: Mayor Pro Tem Greene-Scott, Councilmember Murray, Councilmember Barnett, Councilmember Varlack, Mayor Kennedy, Councilmember Byrum-Bratsen, and Councilmember Hargroder.

19. Consideration and possible action to accept the Fiscal Annual Report for 2022.

Motion made by Councilmember Barnett to accept the Fiscal Annual Audit Report for 2022, Seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Greene-Scott.

Voting Yea: Mayor Pro Tem Greene-Scott, Councilmember Murray, Councilmember Barnett, Councilmember Varlack, Mayor Kennedy, Councilmember Byrum-Bratsen, and Councilmember Hargroder.

20. Consideration and possible action on a resolution creating the Iowa Colony Historical Committee.

Motion made by Councilmember Murray to approve a resolution creating the Iowa Colony Historical Committee, Seconded by Councilmember Hargroder.

Voting Yea: Mayor Pro Tem Greene-Scott, Councilmember Murray, Councilmember Barnett, Councilmember Varlack, Mayor Kennedy, Councilmember Byrum-Bratsen, and Councilmember Hargroder.

21. Consideration and possible action approving an ordinance on first reading amending ordinance 2014-05 related to the additional homestead exemption for senior and disabled citizens.

Motion made by Mayor Pro Tem Greene-Scott to approve an ordinance with the \$50,000 exemption, Seconded by Councilmember Byrum-Bratsen.

Motion Failed. Members Voting Nay: Councilmember Murray, Councilmember Barnett, Councilmember Varlack, Mayor Kennedy, Voting Yea: Councilmember Byrum-Bratsen, Councilmember Hargroder. Councilmember Greene-Scott

Amended Motion made by Councilmember Varlack to approve ordinance with exemption at \$60,0000, Seconded by Councilmember Barnett. Voting Yea: Councilmember Murray, Councilmember Barnett, Councilmember Varlack, Mayor Kennedy, Voting Nay: Councilmember Byrum-Bratsen, Councilmember Hargroder. Councilmember Greene-Scott

22. Consideration and possible action approving an ordinance on second and final reading requiring Automatic External Defibrillators (AEDs) at certain public places in the City of Iowa Colony.

Motion made by Mayor Pro Tem Greene-Scott to approve an ordinance on second and final reading requiring Automatic External Defibrillators (AEDs) at certain public places in the City of Iowa Colony, Seconded by Councilmember Murray. The City Secretary read the ordinance caption aloud.

Voting Yea: Mayor Pro Tem Greene-Scott, Councilmember Murray, Councilmember Barnett, Councilmember Varlack, Mayor Kennedy, Councilmember Byrum-Bratsen, and Councilmember Hargroder.

23. Consideration and possible action to approve an Ordinance on second and final reading for the abandonment of the Right of Way on Pursley Blvd.

Motion made by Councilmember Byrum-Bratsen to approve an ordinance on second and final reading for the abandonment of the Right of Way on Pursley Blvd., Seconded by Councilmember Varlack. The City Secretary read the ordinance caption aloud.

Voting Yea: Mayor Pro Tem Greene-Scott, Councilmember Murray, Councilmember Barnett, Councilmember Varlack, Mayor Kennedy, Councilmember Byrum-Bratsen, and Councilmember Hargroder.

24. Consideration and possible action approving an ordinance on second and final reading amending the City of Iowa Colony Investment Policy and adopting the Investment Strategies and an authorized broker/dealer list.

Motion made by Councilmember Murray to approve an ordinance on second and final reading amending the City of Iowa Colony Investment Policy and adopting the Investment Strategies and an authorized broker/dealer list, Seconded by Councilmember Barnett. The City Secretary read the ordinance caption aloud.

Voting Yea: Mayor Pro Tem Greene-Scott, Councilmember Murray, Councilmember Barnett, Councilmember Varlack, Mayor Kennedy, Councilmember Byrum-Bratsen, and Councilmember Hargroder.

25. Consideration and possible action on the Sterling Lakes North Sections 2 - 7 Preliminary Plats.

Motion made by Councilmember Varlack to approve the Sterling Lakes North Sections 2-7 Preliminary Plats with the following conditions that by 10/1/2023 50% of design will be complete, by 2/1/2024 groundbreaking, and by 1/1/2025 construction completion, Seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Greene-Scott. Voting Yea: Mayor Pro Tem Greene-Scott, Councilmember Murray, Councilmember Barnett, Councilmember Varlack, Councilmember Byrum-Bratsen, and Councilmember Hargroder. Opposed: Mayor Kennedy

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

*Consideration and possible action to approve the following consent agenda items:*

Motion made by Councilmember Hargroder to approve consent items with item no. 26, 27, and 28 and to remove Michael Byrum-Bratsen and Chad Wilsey as authorized signers and to add Mayor Wil Kennedy, Mayor Pro Tem Marquette Greene-Scott, and City Manager Robert Hemminger to remain as a signer on all bank accounts held by the City of Iowa Colony, Seconded by Councilmember Murray.

Voting Yea: Mayor Pro Tem Greene-Scott, Councilmember Murray, Councilmember Barnett,

Councilmember Varlack, Mayor Kennedy, Councilmember Byrum-Bratsen, and Councilmember Hargroder.

26. Approval of the March 20, 2023 worksession minutes.
27. Consider approval of the April 17, 2023 worksession minutes.
28. Consider approval of the April 17, 2023 city council meeting minutes.

Motion made by Councilmember Barnett to approve consent items no. 26, 27, and 28 as presented, Seconded by Councilmember Murray.

Voting Yea: Mayor Pro Tem Greene-Scott, Councilmember Murray, Councilmember Barnett, , Mayor Kennedy,


Abstain: Councilmember Varlack, Councilmember Byrum-Bratsen, and Councilmember Hargroder.


29. Consideration and possible action approving a resolution adding and removing authorized signers for the following: Veritex, Frost, and First State Bank.
30. Consideration and possible action removing and adding authorized signers for Texas First Bank.
31. Consideration and possible action approving a resolution adding and removing authorized signers for TexStar.
32. Meridiana Section 34B Final Plat
33. Consideration and possible action to approve Sierra Vista Section 9 Abbreviated Plat
34. Consideration and possible action to approve Serrano Estates Abbreviated Plat

#### ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned 11:05 P.M.

APPROVED THIS 26<sup>th</sup> DAY OF JUNE 2023

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Kayleen Rosser, City Secretary

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Wil Kennedy, Mayor



City Council of Iowa Colony

Dear Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council and Staff,

I am writing to respectfully request the consideration of the Parks and Recreation Committee to explore the possibility of partnering with our local professional sports organizations, such as the Houston Texans, Houston Astros, Houston Dynamo, and the Houston Sabercats Rugby organization, to bring their youth programs to the City of Iowa Colony.

As a growing community, we understand the importance of providing recreational opportunities for our youth that promote physical activity, teamwork, and community engagement. Partnering with local professional sports organizations can offer a unique and valuable experience for our youth, allowing them to learn from professional athletes and coaches, develop their skills, and foster a passion for sports.

By collaborating with professional sports organizations, we can potentially offer a wide range of youth programs, including football, baseball, soccer, and rugby, to cater to different interests and talents. These programs can be designed to accommodate various age groups and skill levels, ensuring that all youth in Iowa Colony have the opportunity to participate and benefit from the partnership.

In addition to the direct benefits for our youth, partnering with professional sports organizations can also have positive impacts on our community as a whole. It can help promote Iowa Colony as a sports-friendly city, attract more residents and visitors, and boost local businesses and tourism. The partnership can also create opportunities for volunteerism, sponsorships, and collaborations between local businesses and the professional sports organizations, fostering a sense of community pride and engagement.

Furthermore, a partnership with professional sports organizations can help elevate the quality of our Parks and Recreation programs by bringing in expertise, resources, and support from established sports organizations. This can enhance the overall experience and outcomes for our youth participants, and help us provide a more robust and diverse recreational offering for our community.

In conclusion, I respectfully urge the Parks and Recreation Committee to explore the possibility of partnering with our local professional sports organizations to bring their youth programs to the City of Iowa Colony. This partnership has the potential to provide our youth with unique and valuable opportunities, promote our community, and enhance our Parks and Recreation programs. Thank you for considering this proposal, and I look forward to further discussing this matter with the esteemed members of the City Council.

Sincerely,



Terry Andre Hayes-Solo  
Sterling Lakes

[Redacted]