

CITY COUNCIL MEETING REGULAR SESSION

Tuesday, June 18, 2024 at 6:00 PM

City Hall, 102 W. Ashley Wilson Rd, Sweeny, Texas

MINUTES

BE IT KNOWN that the City Council of the City of Sweeny met in **Regular Session** on **Tuesday, June 18, 2024 at 6:00 PM.** at City Hall, 102 W. Ashley Wilson Rd, Sweeny, Texas with the following agenda.

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

Mayor Pro-Tem, Neal Bess Jr., called the meeting to order at 6 PM.

Neal Bess Jr., Reese Cook, Brian Brooks, John Rambo, and Tim Pettigrew were in attendance.

Mayor Dusty Hopkins was absent.

PLEDGES & INVOCATION

Pledges were stated. Invocation was given by Charlie Stevenson.

CITIZENS WISHING TO ADDRESS CITY COUNCIL

Fire Chief, Roger Barton, stated this week is Safety Stand Down Week for Firefighters.

CEREMONIAL PRESENTATIONS

1. Beautification's Yard of the Month; Mike Maretka on Azalea Street

This item was skipped over and will be notated on next months agenda for an announcement.

Mayor Pro-Tem read the proclamation aloud, item #4 under Consent agenda.

CONSENT AGENDA

2. Minutes: Regular Session, May 21, 2024 and Special Session, May 28, 2024

John Rambo moved to approve the Regular Session minutes of May 21, 2024 and Special Session minutes for May 28, 2024. Tim Pettigrew seconded. Reese Cook, Brian Brooks, John Rambo, and Tim Pettigrew were in favor. Motion carried.

3. Gas Compliance Update

David Jordan, Technical Advisor, gave Council an update on the gas system to include Railroad Commission information recently received.

4. Proclamation: Honoring Ms. Tena Simien; 100th Birthday

Mayor Pro-Tem read the proclamation congratulating Ms. Simien on her 100th birthday under Ceremonial Presentations.

REGULAR AGENDA

5. Discussion and possible action to select a vendor for a grant writing professional services agreement for the Resilient Communities Program through the Texas General Land Office - Community Development and Revitalization.

City Manager stated we received three responses to the advertised RFP. This grant, under the Resilient Communities Program, will help to update our ordinances and building codes, and help with future hazard mitigation. Grant Works received the highest score, and she is recommending them for this award. Payment would be paid out of this award. Kelle Odom and Luke Kretschmer of Grant Works were in attendance to answer questions from Council. There is no match percentage and only cities that were affected by Harvey or the 2015-2016 floods are eligible to apply for this grant, funded by the GLO. Reese Cook moved that we accept the submittal from Grant Works for grant writing services for the Resilient Communities Program through the Texas General Land Office- Community Development and

Revitalization and authorize the City Manager to execute a professional services agreement between the City of Sweeny and Grant Works. Tim Pettigrew seconded. Reese Cook, Brian Brooks, John Rambo, and Tim Pettigrew were in favor. Motion carried.

6. Discussion and possible action for usage of City property; Lions Club

Caniel "Shaun" Massey of the Lions Club approached Council for the usage of City owned property to allow the Lions Club to hold their annual Back to School Backpack giveaway. The Lions Club will be hosting the event on August 3rd, 2024 to give out school supplies and hold an outdoor community night. They would like to use city owned property next to and at the rear of City Hall. They plan to have an outdoor movie night and a small carnival.

Reese Cook moved to approve the Lion Club's request to utilize the property behind and beside City Hall for their back-to-school event on August 3rd, 2024, from 1PM to 11:30PM. John Rambo seconded. Reese Cook, Brian Brooks, John Rambo, and Tim Pettigrew were in favor. Motion carried.

7. Discussion and possible action to reduce the number of board members on the Parks and Recreation Board.

Caniel "Shaun" Massey is requesting for Council to reduce the number of board members on the Parks and Recreation Board as they are having difficulty establishing quorums and obtaining participation. Previously, the Parks Board was a five-member board; 2008.

John Rambo moved to approve the request for the Parks Board to go from seven members to five members.

Tim Pettigrew seconded.

Attorney Stevenson asked about the current member positions and terms. Currently there are six members (seven-member board), but only four of those members are attending. Two of the three members that termed this year, would be dropped (still leaving one term available). They plan to keep four current members as is, then in May 2025, one of those would be reappointed for a one-year term with the others for two-year terms. Mr. Massey thanked Wayman Hutchings for his help constructing the MLK Park pavilion.

Reese Cook, Brian Brooks, John Rambo, and Tim Pettigrew were in favor. Motion carried.

8. Discussion and possible action on follow up of requested item to discuss status of property located at 1301 Avenue A, per Council Member Pettigrew.

City Manager stated she reached out to one of the two property owners and explained the issues on location. Mr. Jones felt the master meter would impose a hardship on him. City Manager wishes to have further conversations about compatible solutions with both of the property owners.

No action- discussion only.

9. Discussion and possible action to approve a resolution in support of the City of Sweeny grant application to the US Department of Transportation Fiscal Year 2024 Natural Gas Distribution Infrastructure Safety and Modernization Program.

City Manager stated that the Natural Gas Grant is ready for submittal; due 06/20/2024. She is asking for a resolution in support of the grant for approx. \$11.459 Million to redo the entire gas system.

John Rambo moved we approve a resolution in support of the City of Sweeny grant application to US Department of Transportation Fiscal Year 2024 Natural Gas Distribution Infrastructure Safety and Modernization Program for gas system repairs and upgrades for safety and modernization. Tim Pettigrew seconded. Reese Cook, Brian Brooks, John Rambo, and Tim Pettigrew were in favor. Motion carried.

10. Discussion and possible action to adopt a resolution approving a comprehensive financial policy.

City Manager stated it is common practice among municipalities to have a comprehensive finance policy. The Investment Policy is an annual renewal and is an exhibit to this policy presented, known as "Exhibit A". Council suggested reviewing both annually.

Reese Cook moved to approve a resolution adopting the Comprehensive Financial Policy as presented. Tim Pettigrew seconded. Reese Cook, Brian Brooks, John Rambo, and Tim Pettigrew were in favor. Motion carried.

11. Discussion and possible action to elect participation and execute continued cooperative agreement as a participating jurisdiction with Brazoria County for the CDBG, HOME, and ESG programs for potential housing and community development efforts.

City Manager stated these are already existing entitlements we have in an agreement with Brazoria County. This is to renew the cooperative agreement with the County.

Reese Cook moved to approve the cooperative agreement with Brazoria County and elect to remain as a participating jurisdiction in the Brazoria County CDBG, HOME, and ESG Programs. John Rambo seconded. Reese Cook, Brian Brooks, John Rambo, and Tim Pettigrew were in favor. Motion carried.

12. Discussion and possible action to consider adopting Ordinance 24-103, approving the updated drought contingency plan.

City Manager stated this is a continuation to solidify the updated amended DCP. The ordinance has been updated for finalization.

Reese Cook moved to approve Ordinance 24-103, updating the City's Drought Contingency Plan. Tim Pettigrew seconded. Reese Cook, Brian Brooks, John Rambo, and Tim Pettigrew were in favor. Motion carried.

13. Discussion and possible action to agenda request received to consider the old Public Works building as the new animal shelter; Councilman Bess

Neal Bess Jr. stated that he would like to bring this item back at a later date when Ms. Thornton would be in attendance.

14. Discussion and possible action to adopt a resolution for the City's participation in TexPool Prime.

City Manager stated that this item was brought to Council about two years ago and was never completed. TexPool Prime yields a higher YAM and daily average yield than regular TxPool. This is in line with diversification of our investment portfolio previously approved within the financial policy.

Reese Cook moved we adopt the resolution to participate in TexPool Prime as presented. Tim Pettigrew seconded. Reese Cook, Brian Brooks, John Rambo, and Tim Pettigrew were in favor. Motion carried.

15. Discussion and possible action on hurricane preparedness for the 2024 Hurricane Season

City Manager gave an update to a hurricane preparedness kickoff meeting previously held. Needs and assets were discussed. In addition, the City is preparing for the potential of heavy rains and taking necessary precautions with the impending disturbance in the Gulf. Fire Chief Barton stated they will be available for help as needed.

No action- discussion only.

16. Discussion and possible action to approve a resolution designating the Emergency Operations Center and an alternate location.

City Manager stated the locations of the Emergency Operations Center were discussed at the recent hurricane preparedness kickoff meeting. The Community Center is currently known as the EOC with City Hall as the alternate location. It was suggested the Seniors Building become the alternate location. The emergency generator for the Community Center is not to be installed until August. Council discussed further.

City Manager stated she is suggesting that we wait until other members of the Emergency Management Team are in attendance and bring back to the next Special Agenda on July 2nd, 2024.

Reese Cook moved that we table item #16, discussion and possible action to approve a resolution designating the Emergency Operations Center and an alternate location, to the July 2nd, 2024 meeting. John Rambo seconded. Reese Cook, Brian Brooks, John Rambo, and Tim Pettigrew were in attendance. Motion carried.

17. Discussion and possible action to appoint applicants to the Planning and Zoning Board of Commissioners

City Secretary stated that three of the Planning and Zoning Board of Commissioners terms have expired. Each of these members have resubmitted applications to be considered as a continued board member. Applications received were Stephen Nance, Caniel Massey, and Cerrington Massey.

Reese Cook move we reappoint Stephen Nance, Caniel Massey, and Cerrington Massey to the Planning and Zoning Board of Commissioners for an additional two-year term expiring 2026.

Tim Pettigrew seconded. Reese Cook, Brian Brooks, John Rambo, and Tim Pettigrew were in favor. Motion carried.

18. Discussion and possible action on agenda request received to consider changes to the Planning and Zoning Ordinance 110-173, 2(a); Councilman Cook

Councilman Cook stated that at the last meeting a variance was requested for fencing, based on current ordinance 110-173. The proposed change allows for a fence to be constructed spanning multiple lots "within the owners property lines of the lots seeking the permit" without a replat to combine the multiple properties.

Reese Cook moved to approve changes as presented. John Rambo seconded.

Discussion: Attorney Stevenson stated he will prepare the ordinance and it will be presented for adoption at the next meeting.

Reese Cook, Brian Brooks, John Rambo, and Tim Pettigrew were in favor. Motion carried.

ITEMS OF COMMUNITY INTEREST

City Manager thanked Councilman Brooks for his help and use of equipment with the clean up of the downed tree on Magnolia Street. She also thanked Mr. Wayman Hutchings for the pavilion construction at MLK Park. The Chamber of Commerce will be holding 4th of July festivities at the Gazebo Park. July 2nd will be the budget kickoff meeting. She is looking at soliciting contact information for temporary short-term rentals and a directory for those resources. Heavy rainfall is expected until Thursday. Public Works is ready when needed.

Neal Bess Jr. thanked Wayman Hutchins for all his help in putting the pavilion together at MLK Park. He also stated that there was three trees and stumps within the drainage area of Stevenson Slough at the Rainbow Cemetery. Mr. Salyer came over and took the stump out of the slough and cleared it.

Caniel Massey thanked Beautification's Ashley Rambo for the purchase of lights for the Parks.

ADJOURN REGULAR SESSION

Mayor Pro Tem asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:03 PM.

Reese Cook stated so moved. Tim Pettigrew seconded. Reese Cook, Brian Brooks, John Rambo, and Tim Pettigrew were in favor. Motion carried.

Mayor Pro-Tem, Neal Bess Jr., did not vote during this meeting.

Staff & City Affiliates present:

City Manager, Lindsay Koskiniemi

Police Chief, Brad Caudle

Director of Public Works, Terrance Bell

Finance Director / Personnel Services, Karla Wilson

City Secretary, Kaydi Smith

City Attorney, R.C. Stevenson

Technical Advisor, David Jordan

Fire Chief, Roger Barton

Passed and approved this 23rd day of July, 2024.

Kaydi Smith

Kaydi Smith - City Secretary