

Duncanville City Council Meeting Minutes
Regular Meeting
Tuesday, January 9, 2024

CALL TO ORDER

A regular meeting of the Duncanville City Council was called to order on Tuesday, January 9, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Briefing Room at City Hall with a quorum to wit:

COUNCIL PRESENT:

Mayor Barry L. Gordon
Councilmember At-Large DeMonica Gooden
Councilmember Joe Veracruz
Councilmember Don McBurnett
Councilmember Jeremy Koontz
Councilmember Karen Cherry-Brown
Mayor Pro Tem Greg Contreras

COUNCIL ARRIVING AT:

COUNCIL ABSENT:

WORK SESSION / BRIEFING

Mayor Gordon introduced the new City Manager, Doug Finch. Attorney Courtney Morris attended for City Attorney Robert Hager.

1. DISCUSS AGENDA ITEMS

Mayor Gordon read the item into the record, and City Manager Finch reviewed each item.

2. CITY COUNCIL CALENDAR

Not presented

3. BRIEFINGS / PRESENTATIONS

A. *Presentation on Native/Naturalistic Landscaping.*

Presented by Assistant Parks and Recreation Director, Tyler Agee. At the request of Councilmember Koontz, Reese Edwards with the Keep Duncanville Beautiful Board briefed the council on the benefits of Native/Naturalistic landscaping. The council would like to move forward with an ordinance for this item.

B. *Finance Department to provide Council with an update on the progress of completing the FY22 audit.*

Director of Fiscal Services Richard Jackson gave an update on this item. He stated that the lines of communication between the city and McConnell Jones have been consistent and strong. They have been responsive to requests for information on open items. As of today, there are only two open items. The final trial balance was submitted this week. A specific date for completion has not been discussed. Mr. Finch stated it is a priority for the Finance team and city staff to complete this audit. Mayor Gordon asked if we could use the current firm for FY23 to finish the FY22 audit. Mr. Jackson stated that the firm did not want to take information from another firm; therefore, it would have to start over from the beginning. They did not recommend changing firms at this point in the process. There would need to be a complete closure of FY22 before we could start with the FY23 audit.

The briefing session was adjourned at 6:39 p.m.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Executive Session was called into session at 6:42 p.m. Mayor Gordon read the item into record.

In the interest of time, the Executive Session was recessed at 6:53 p.m.

Mayor Gordon reconvened the executive session at 8:11 p.m.

The Executive Session was closed at 9:16 p.m.

1. ***City Council shall convene into closed executive session pursuant to the Tex Govt Code Sections 551.071 and 551.074 to seek legal advice concerning Chapter 2, Administration, Article III Code of Ethics, Division 2, Code of Ethics for elected and appointed officers.***
2. ***City Council shall convene in Executive Session pursuant to Section 551.072 of the Texas Government Code, to Deliberate the Sale, Exchange, Lease or Value of the Duncanville Community Theater building and the Duncanville Fieldhouse.***

REGULAR SESSION - CONVENE INTO THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS (7:00 P.M. or immediately following the 6:00 pm Work Session/Briefing)

The City Council convened into Regular Session in the Council Chambers at 7:01 p.m. with Mayor Gordon presiding.

Brother Sammie Berry with Dallas West Church of Christ delivered the Invocation.

Mayor Gordon led the Pledge of Allegiance and Texas Pledge.

1. REPORTS

A. *Mayor's Report.*

Mayor Gordon gave an update on the parade for Duncanville Panthers football, reviewed the retirement program he attended for Fran Laukaitis from Charlton Methodist, and announced that the State of the City is on Jan 18th, sponsored by the Duncanville Chamber.

He stated he attended the funeral for former Congresswoman Eddie Bernice Johnson and read a resolution prepared for the family. He also introduced the new City Manager Douglas Finch.

Mayor Gordon made the following announcement:

Each time the opportunity arose to decide about serving the city as mayor, that opportunity became a time of seeking God in prayer for me. I had a season of prayer in 2018, 2020, and lastly in 2022. God's answer to my prayer in 2022 was that He was giving me another chapter to serve. With re-election coming in 2024, I once again sought God for His guidance. His answer to my prayers was that my final chapter to serve as mayor would close in 2024. So, with that, I'm announcing tonight that I will not seek re-election to mayor in 2024 for the City of Duncanville. I will serve out my last months in office with the same fervor and dedication that I have had for the past 5-plus years. It is my honor and privilege to serve the citizens of the City of Champions as their mayor. I am grateful for being able to close this chapter of my life in obedience to God.

B. *Councilmembers' Reports*

Councilmember Contreras sent condolences to the family of retired Fire Captain Wayne Bevey on his passing.

Councilmember Gooden reviewed some of the city council wins for 2023 - protecting the Ladd preserve, the Ten-Mile Creek erosion control project, and selecting and hiring the new city manager. She thanked citizens for electing her as an At-large Councilmember.

Councilmember Koontz encouraged all to support programs at the Library. He stated that today is Law Enforcement Appreciation Day, and we encouraged all to support and thank our law enforcement officers.

Councilmember McBurnett wished citizens a happy 2024. Commended the Lions Club and the school district for the Sandra Meadows Classic tournament. He also congratulated the Duncanville Pantherettes basketball team on winning the tournament.

C. *City Manager's Report.*

City Manager Finch thanked everyone for the warm welcome and gave some of his plans for his first ninety days. He thanked Mr. Robert Brown Jr. for his time as the Interim City Manager. He informed citizens that on Thursday and Friday, the Utility Billing department would not be able to process payments due to a software update.

2. **PROCLAMATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS**

A. ***Presentation of Champion of the City - Duncanville Outreach Ministry***

Mayor Gordon read the proclamation for Duncanville Outreach Ministry and presented it to Executive Director Juani Hernandez and Chairman of the Board Lee Rickaway.

B. ***Proclamation recognizing Martin Luther King Jr. Day, January 15, 2024***

Councilmember Gooden read the proclamation and presented it to Tyler Agee with Parks and Recreation.

3. **CITIZENS' INPUT**

"Pursuant to Section 551.007 of the Texas Gov't Code, any member of the public has the opportunity to address the City Council concerning any matter of public business or any posted agenda item; however, the Act prohibits the City Council from deliberating any issues not on the public agenda and such non-agenda issues may be referred to City staff for research and any future action; all persons addressing are subject to council adopted rules and limitations permitted by law"

At this time, two-minute comments will be taken from the audience on any topic. To address the Council, please submit a fully completed request card to the City Secretary prior to the beginning of the Citizens' Input portion of the Council meeting. In accordance with the Texas Open Meetings Act, the City Council cannot discuss issues raised or make any decisions at this time. Issues may be referred to City Staff for research and possible future action.

To view the live meeting or previous meetings click on the link below.

<https://duncanvilletx.new.swagit.com/views/454/>

To submit a comment via email the following information is required:

- Submit a comment by 4:00 p.m. on _
- Email citysecretary@duncanvilletx.gov
- Email title: Public Comment – _
- First Name, Last Name, and Address

Mayor Gordon read the item into the record. The following spoke during the Citizens Input Period:

Royce Milam
623 S. Alexander Ave.
Email - Native landscaping

Jim Jones
1627 Nob Hill Circle
Native landscaping

Emily Bridges
418 Oleander St
Native landscaping and signage at Ladd preserve

Grady Smithey
1806 Cedar Hill Rd.
Eddie Bernice Johnson

Judy Smithey
1806 Cedar Hill Rd.
Duncanville Theater

Shannon Robertson
906 Rock Canyon Dr.
Native landscaping

Mari Vega
611 Oriole Blvd.
Native landscaping

4. **CONSENT AGENDA**

Mayor Gordon requested that City Secretary Chiquita Taylor read the Consent Agenda Items.

A. ***Consider the Minutes for the December 19, 2023 City Council Regular Meetings.***

B. ***Consider a Resolution casting the City Council of the City of Duncanville's runoff vote for the fourth member of the Board of Directors of the Dallas Central Appraisal District (DCAD).***

The council has agreed to submit its vote for Michael Hurtt.

Councilmember Don McBurnett made a motion to approve the consent agenda items, Councilmember Jeremy Koontz seconded the motion. The vote was cast 7 for and 0 against.

5. **ITEMS FOR INDIVIDUAL CONSIDERATION**

Mayor Gordon recessed the regular session at 8:08 p.m. to reconvene into executive session.

Mayor Gordon reconvened into regular session at 9:20 p.m.

A. ***Take any necessary action as a result of the Executive Session.***

No action was taken on Item #1

Item #2

Councilmember Joe Veracruz made a motion to approve a lease agreement between the City of Duncanville and the Duncanville Community Theater and authorize the city manager to execute the lease agreement, Councilmember Don McBurnett seconded the motion. The vote was cast 7 for and 0 against.

Councilmember Don McBurnett made a motion to approve a management agreement between the City of Duncanville and Global Sports Cares for the management of the Duncanville Fieldhouse, Councilmember Karen Cherry-Brown seconded the motion. The vote was cast 6 for and 1 against (Councilmember Jeremy Koontz).

6. **STAFF AND BOARD REPORTS**

A. ***Presentation of the 2023 Christmas Parade and Tree Lighting Celebration Event Debrief***

Presented by Mr. Agee with Parks and Recreation and Assistant Police Chief Fries.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:23 p.m.

APPROVED:


CITY SECRETARY