

Duncanville City Council Meeting Minutes

Regular Meeting

Tuesday, March 19, 2024

CALL TO ORDER

A regular meeting of the Duncanville City Council was called to order on Tuesday, March 19, 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

1. DISCUSS AGENDA ITEMS

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

2. CITY COUNCIL CALENDAR

City Secretary Chiquita Taylor reviewed the council calendar.

3. BRIEFINGS / PRESENTATIONS

In the interest of time, Mayor Gordon recessed the Briefing Session at 7:03 p.m. and moved the Executive Session to the end of the Regular Session.

A. *Council Briefing on the upcoming Armstrong Park Grand Opening and Solar Eclipse Events*

Presented by Parks and Recreation Director Bart Stevenson.

B. *Council Briefing and discuss the Best Southwest Hispanic Heritage event and associated Interlocal Cooperation Agreement.*

Presented by Bart Stevenson. There is a proposal to make the event a rotating event with the other Best Southwest cities. Mr. Stevenson stated if we agreed to the proposal, Duncanville would still have a local event. Councilmember McBurnett suggested we could use Hotel Occupancy Taxes for a portion of the event.

C. *Council Briefing on a proposed agreement with Texas Master Naturalists for ongoing support activities at the Charles F. Ladd Nature Preserve.*

Presented by Bart Stevenson. Councilmember McBurnett asked if a time frame was established for signage at the Ladd Preserve. Mr. Stevenson stated we will work through the specifics of when signage will be posted after an agreement is signed.

D. *Council to receive a briefing from Matrix Consulting Group on a proposal to develop a police and fire operation analysis also known as a strategic plan relating to public safety needs for the next 10-20 years for the City of Duncanville.*

Assistant City Manager Robert Brown introduced Robert Finn, Senior Manager with Matrix Consulting Group, who presented the proposal operation analysis. Mayor Pro Tem Contreras asked about the retention of employees and if it is addressed in the study. Mr. Finn stated it depends on where the data takes us as part of the report. Mayor Gordon asked if Police and Fire participated in the selection of this firm. Mr. Brown stated that they were not involved in the

selection. The firm provided a fixed cost. Councilmember Koontz noted the analysis is focused on operations and we have been focused on the facility needs assessment. Mr. Finn stated the firm would bring people in to address facility needs if the report deems it necessary.

E. Council Briefing on human resources initiatives, overview of performance evaluation status, new hires, recruitment, temporary support, civil service proposals, police, fire, and open recruitments.

Presented by Human Resources Director Todd Siegel.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Executive Session was called into session at 7:47 p.m. and Mayor Gordon read the item into record.

The Council closed the Executive Session at 9:19 p.m.

1. ***City Council shall convene into closed executive session pursuant to Section 551.074, of the Texas Government Code, Personnel, to deliberate the duties of the City Manager under the Home Rule Charter pursuant to Section 551.071 of the Texas Government Code; and to seek legal advice from the City Attorney on the same topic.***
2. ***City Council shall convene into closed executive session pursuant to Section 551.072 of the Texas Gov't Code to deliberate the purchase, sales, exchange or acquisition/negotiation of real property generally located south of I-20, east of Santa Fe, west of Cockrell Hill Road and, north of Wheatland within the corporate limits of the City of Duncanville, Texas.***
3. ***City Council shall convene in Executive Session pursuant to Section 551.074 of the Texas Government Code, to deliberate the appointment, employment, evaluation, reassignment, duties, discipline, or dismissal of a public officer or employee of the City and, pursuant to Section 551.071 of the Texas Government Code, to seek legal advice from the City Attorney regarding the same.***

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 7:10 p.m. with Mayor Gordon presiding.

Councilmember McBurnett delivered the Invocation.

Mayor Gordon led the Pledge of Allegiance and Texas Pledge.

1. REPORTS

A. Mayor's Report.

No report.

B. Councilmembers' Reports

Councilmember McBurnett commended Assistant Parks Director Tyler Agee and Keep Duncanville Beautiful on the Garden Workshop. Councilmember Gooden recognized Emily, Lisa, and Cynthia at the Customer Service desk and Erin and Vickie in the Building Inspections Department for their great customer service. Councilmember Cherry-Brown thanked the city for the opportunity to attend the National League of Cities Conference in Washington, DC. Councilmember Koontz thanked Interim Public Works Director Jacqueline Culton and the Public Works staff for meeting with him and providing the information he requested. He did a Police Ride along and spent time with Officer Figueroa and wanted to thank the staff for the experience and their service to protect the community. Councilmember Veracruz reminded everyone of the District 1 neighborhood meeting on March 22nd. Mayor Pro Tem Contreras thanked Mayor Gordon for allowing him the fill in for him at the opening of the Duncanville High School baseball season. He was allowed to throw out the first pitch.

Councilmember Don McBurnett made a motion to extend the time beyond the three minutes for report, Mayor Pro Tem Greg Contreras seconded the motion. The vote was cast 7 for, 0 against.

C. *City Manager's Report.*

City Manager Finch yielded his time to Interim Police Chief Matt Stogner to present life-saving awards to Police Officers Green, Hernandez, Alvidrez, and Rogers.

Councilmember Don McBurnett made a motion to extend his time past the three minutes, Councilmember Jeremy Koontz seconded the motion. The vote was cast 7 for, 0 against.

2. PROCLAMATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

A. *The Greatest American Cleanup Pledge Proclamation*

Not presented

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 record. The following spoke during the Citizens Input Period:

Julie Seger
214 Meadow Creek
Homestead exemption review

Homer Fincannon
546 Wind River Drive
Water main break

Gloria Morales
1203 Crest Lane
Sewer Infrastructure

4. CONSENT AGENDA

Mayor Gordon requested Ms. Taylor to read the Consent Agenda Items.

Consider a Resolution authorizing the purchase of two vehicles that will be used in support of the Police Department’s Criminal Investigations Division, with an amount not to exceed \$105,000.00.

- A. ***Consider the Minutes for the March 5, 2024 City Council Regular Meeting.***
- B. ***Council to Consider a resolution approving a professional services agreement with Huitt-Zollars for a Facility Condition Assessment in an expenditure amount not to exceed \$95,000.00, authorizing the City Manager to execute the necessary documents, and providing for an effective date.***
- C. ***Consider an Ordinance of the City of Duncanville, Texas, approving and adopting an increase in the exemption of appraised value of residence homesteads in the city from \$35,000 to \$40,000 of appraised value for an adult who is sixty-five years of age or older; an increase to the exemption of appraised value of residence homesteads in the city from \$35,000 to \$40,000 of appraised value for an adult who receives disability insurance benefits under Federal Old Age, Survivors, and Disability insurance; amending the Code of Ordinances by amending Chapter 18 "Taxation," Article I "In General," by amending subsection 18.5 "Residence Homestead Exemption for Senior Citizen"; and by amending subsection 18.6 "Residence Homestead Exemption for Disabled" to update the exemption amount to \$40,000.***
- D. ***Consider a Resolution authorizing a contract for fireworks display with Pyrotecnico Fireworks, Inc., in the amount not to exceed \$178,450.00 over the 5-year period.***
- E. ***Consider a Resolution awarding RFQ 24-0002 Lead Service Lines Engineering Services to LJA Engineering, Inc. through the City's competitive qualifications process for completion of a Lead and Copper Rule Revised (LCRR) Service Line Material (SLM) Inventory with a contract amount of \$172,500.00 and an additional appropriation of \$34,500.00 as a project contingency for a total amount not to exceed \$207,000.00.***
- F. ***Consider a Resolution awarding a bid and authorizing a cooperative purchasing agreement with Freedom Chevrolet to purchase seven Chevrolet Tahoe Police Pursuit Vehicles through Houston-Galveston Area Council (H-GAC) Contract FS12-23 in the expenditure amount of \$569,785.00.***

Councilmember Don McBurnett made a motion to approve the consent agenda as stated, Councilmember At-Large DeMonica Gooden seconded the motion. The vote was cast 7 for, 0 against.

Mayor Gordon recessed the Regular Session at 7:38 p.m.

5. ITEMS FOR INDIVIDUAL CONSIDERATION

Mayor Gordon reconvened the Regular Session at 9:19 p.m.

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

Item #1 – no action taken.

Item #3 – no action taken.

Item #2 – City Attorney Hager read the following motion: To waive the attorney-client privilege in order to make the information regarding the financial investigation from July 2021 through July 2023 available to the general public. This will include his letter to the city council dated March 19, 2024, being a report on the financial investigation consisting of eight pages.

Councilmember McBurnett made the motion as read by Attorney Hager and seconded by Councilmember Cherry-Brown. A voice vote was taken with all members voting For (7) and (0) against.

The motion passed unanimously.

6. STAFF AND BOARD REPORTS

None

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:22 p.m.

APPROVED:

CITY SECRETARY