

REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING
APRIL 27, 2021 AT 5:30 P.M.
COUNCIL CHAMBER, 110 NORTH 8TH STREET
GATESVILLE, TEXAS 76528

In accordance with guidelines of the Office of the Governor regarding the public health disaster declaration, the City Council of the City of Gatesville conducted an in-person meeting. In order to provide a safe and healthy environment for the public and councilmembers attending the meeting, social distance regulations and guidelines were followed.

AN OPEN MEETING WAS HELD CONCERNING THE FOLLOWING SUBJECTS:

1) MAYOR CHUMLEY CALLED THE REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING TO ORDER AT 5:34 P.M. THIS 27TH DAY OF APRIL, 2021

PRESENT: Mayor Gary Chumley, Councilmembers Meredith Rainer, Greg Casey, Barbara Burrow, Jack Doyle, and Billy Sinyard

REGRETS: Councilmember Claude Williams

OTHERS PRESENT: City Manager William H. Parry III, City Secretary Wendy Cole, Rene Ochoa, Mike Halsema, Paul Daugereau, Cheri Shepherd, Kory Walters, Nathan Gohlke, Dora Delatorre, and David Scott

2) HEAR VISITORS/CITIZENS FORUM: AT THIS TIME, ANY PERSON WITH BUSINESS BEFORE THE COUNCIL NOT SCHEDULED ON THE AGENDA MAY SPEAK TO THE COUNCIL FOR A MAXIMUM OF THREE (3) MINUTES. NO FORMAL ACTION CAN BE TAKEN ON THESE ITEMS AT THIS MEETING.

Visitors present were only concerned with an agenda item.

3) CONSENT AGENDA (ALL CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS ARE CONSIDERED ROUTINE BY CITY COUNCIL AND WILL BE ENACTED BY ONE MOTION. THERE WILL BE NO SEPARATE DISCUSSION OF THESE ITEMS UNLESS A COUNCILMEMBER REQUESTS AN ITEM BE REMOVED AND CONSIDERED SEPARATELY.)

Resolution 2021-26 Discussion and possible action to approve Minutes from Regular City Council Meeting April 13, 2021

Resolution 2021-27 Discussion and possible action regarding the appointment/re-appointment of Members to the Planning and Zoning Commission

Motion by Barbara Burrow, seconded by Billy Sinyard, all five voting "Aye", motion passed to approve:

RESOLUTION 2021-26: Minutes from the Regular City Council Meeting April 13, 2021;

RESOLUTION 2021-27: The re-appointment of members to the Planning and Zoning Commission: Teresa Johnson to Place 1; Charles Ament to Place 3; John Clawson to Place 5; and Bob Brown to Place 6

4) BRIEFING REGARDING CITY OF GATESVILLE'S WASTE MANAGEMENT CONTRACT- PAUL DAUGEREAU, PUBLIC SECTOR SOLUTIONS MANAGER OF CENTRAL TEXAS

City Manager Parry reminded the Council that at the last meeting solid waste management information was provided for review regarding Waste Management options and explained that Waste Management had notified the City that the current 35 year old evergreen contract with the City of Gatesville would not be renewed effective September 30, 2023. Public Sector Solutions Manager, Paul Daugereau, presented a Power Point Presentation and briefed the Council on the 50 year history of Waste Management and discussed the current Gatesville contract and services. Daugereau said that Waste Management is proposing a new agreement and discussed in detail several different residential service options the Council might consider and also noted equipment that would be required including new

96-gallon trash carts and automated side loader trucks. Daugereau said that if an agreement was approved there would be an eight month lead time to get the service started as a new side loader truck would need to be ordered as well as the trash containers. This eight month lead time would allow Waste Management and the City staff plenty of time to educate the community on the new process and procedures. Following the presentation and lengthy discussion Mr. Daugereau, told the Council that he can come back any time to discuss further.

City Manager Parry reminded the Council that there would be no decision at this meeting.

5) CITY MANAGER'S REPORT:

Highlighted a few items that the City Secretary provided to the councilmembers at the beginning of the meeting:

- Letter from a citizen addressed to the Mayor and Council regarding the need of high speed internet.
- Invitation to a Memorial /Visitation honoring former Gatesville Messenger news editor, Larry Kennedy, who passed away last week. The memorial will be held at the Gatesville Messenger office May 4th from 2-4 p.m. Larry's wife, Evelyn will be present.
- Invitation to a VIP DAY at Fort Hood. Asked Council to let City Secretary Cole know if you desire to attend or not attend.
- Notice from United Way of Central Texas regarding free tax preparation assistance to be held at the Gatesville Public Library, May 12th from noon - 4:00 p.m. for households with income of \$55,000 a year or less. The Gatesville Care Center and Gatesville Senior Center have been provided this notice.

Capital Projects:

STILLHOUSE WASTEWATER EXPANSION (Update): Still waiting to hear from the Texas Water Development Board. Draft findings are expected by April 29th.

WATER METER REPLACEMENT (Update): This project is close to being completed. Currently trying to reconcile with the installers of the amount of meters that have actually been installed VS. how many are in the contract. The contract also stipulates that 96.7 % of the automated meter infrastructure would communicate with the towers. That is approximately 131 meters not communicating with the towers but at this point the system is currently at 89 meters not reading. Ameresco (the contractor) and Neptune (the meter manufacturer) will be in town tomorrow and Thursday to track the meters that are not transmitting to see if there is are simple malfunctions that can be easily resolved. Parry said that he will demonstrate the new customer portal feature later on in this meeting.

Parry highlighted other Capital projects that are now in progress and noted that the Leon Street Water/Sewer Line Replacement and Sidewalks (2020 Community Development Block Grant-Downtown Revitalization Program) was not funded. Funding went to cities with a score of 87 or higher; Gatesville's score was 77.23. Fifteen points were deducted off the top for a lack of an economic development sales tax and not having an Economic Development Corporation.

Other activities/dates of note:

- July 4th: (Sunday) – Fireworks display- federal holiday observed Monday. July 5th.

TEXAS WATER DEVELOPMENT BOARD GRANT REQUEST (Update): A revised and updated application to include results from the hydrologic modeling of the entire 316-square mile watershed TWDB was requesting has been submitted and it looks like the language city staff has provided is satisfactory to approve the City's drainage study grant.

COVID -19/ CARES UPDATE: Parry provided the Council a COVID-19 Vaccination Rates Chart for Coryell and surrounding counties with information as of April 26, 2021.

The City received reimbursement this week for the two Police Department digital signs and the City is now on Step 6 of the 7 Step process for the Coronavirus Relief Fund reimbursements from Texas Department of Emergency Management. \$750,000 should be approved for reimbursements as a result of this audit.

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT (ARPA): This is a \$1.9 trillion stimulus plan passed by Congress on March 11, 2021 for local governments with amount allocation contingent on population size. Initial guidance is that Gatesville will receive \$2,703,900.62 but Department of Treasury guidance will need to be provided before the City makes a detailed plan.

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS:

Fire Department: Parry noted Fire Chief Billy Vaden’s report of the struggle the fire department is experiencing recruiting manpower. At this point (especially between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.) there are four City employees and three retirees that are mainly volunteering.

Councilmember Sinyard (who has been in the volunteer fire department for 30 years) said that at one time there were 50 plus volunteers but currently are only at an average of 15. The Fire Department gets called out for medical emergency calls as well as fire calls and it has been a real challenge finding volunteers willing to give of their time for this important service. Sinyard said that the State has changed regulations regarding training which has made it even more difficult to recruit volunteers. Parry said that the City cannot afford a hired professional fire department at this time.

Street and Water Distribution Departments: There have been a few delays regarding projects within these two departments in the last month as these employees have been in training to obtain Commercial Driver’s Licenses.

CUSTOMER PORTAL: Parry demonstrated the new customer portal that will “go live” this week. This portal is a tool that will allow City of Gatesville water customers to view their water usage in real time. Parry demonstrated how a customer can set up an account and then view details regarding their own consumption history in hourly or daily time frames. Continuous consumption indications will let a customer know that they may have a leak and then be able to deal with it right away instead of waiting until a month later when they receive their water bill and notice a consumption spike. There is also a transaction history category which will show past amounts a customer has paid and a manage alerts feature that will alert a customer of abnormal consumption. Currently this free customer portal is set up only by email. Text capability would cost the City ten cents per text and may be set up at a later date. These new meters are phenomenally accurate in terms of what the meters are reading and this new system will allow the utility clerks to alert customers of conspicuous consumption if customers are not set up on the portal for alerts. Zero consumption will also be made aware to the clerks so Water Distribution personnel can be sent out to investigate.

6) RECESS REGULAR MEETING AND ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 7:06 P.M-----

This closed session is in accordance with Local Government Code Sec. 551.074- Personnel Matters- Discuss the possible reorganization of City Departments

7) END CLOSED SESSION AND RECONVENE REGULAR MEETING AT 7:29 P.M.-----

There was no action as a result of the Executive Session- Discussion only.

8) ADJOURN MEETING AT 7:30 P.M., THIS 27TH DAY OF APRIL, 2021

ATTEST:

APPROVED:

Wendy Cole, City Secretary

Gary M. Chumley, Mayor

