

MINUTES
ELGIN CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING
ELGIN PUBLIC LIBRARY ANNEX COUNCIL CHAMBERS
404 NORTH MAIN STREET
MARCH 9, 2021

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Ramirez called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Present: Ron Ramirez, Mayor
Sue Brashar, Mayor Pro Tem
Mary Penson, Council Member
Jessica Bega, Council Member
Juan Gonzalez, Council Member
Thomas Ibis, Council Member
Alvis Prince, Council Member
Forest Dennis, Council Member

Staff: Thomas L. Mattis, City Manager
Charles Cunningham, Finance Director
Michael Gonzalez, Parks Director
David Harrell, Planning Director
Pamela Sanders, HR Director
Amy Miller, Community Development Director
Beau Perry, City Engineer

INVOCATION

Mayor Ramirez gave the invocation.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Karen Bernstein spoke and thanked everyone, especially the people in the city departments who worked tirelessly to get the city through the recent storm. Ms. Bernstein offered her media services to help with more information on the city website as she felt it was lacking. She stated there was much that could be done to make the website better and stronger to allow for comments and questions from the city and surrounding areas and be more proactive so that people do not go off on wild theories about what is going on.

Mayor Ramirez stated two comments were emailed to the City Secretary to be read at the meeting and would do so now.

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Mayor Ramirez, City Council members and City Staff.

The citizens of Elgin should have a say in how you spend approximately \$63 million in taxpayer money! The citizens of Elgin need to familiarize themselves with the differences between General Obligation Bonds and Certificate of Obligation bonds.

General Obligation Bonds (GO Bonds) are bonds secured by the City's ad valorem (property tax) taxing power. These bonds are issued after voter approval at a bond election. This approach to public financing allows for a higher level of transparency as an election is required.

Certificates of Obligations (COs) may be payable from property taxes (also called ad valorem), pledged revenues or a combination thereof. Unlike GO Bonds that always require an election, the COs do not require an election unless at least 5% of the registered voters in the jurisdiction submit a valid petition protesting the issuance. These projects are lumped together and lack transparency to taxpayers.

The City of Elgin is largely planning to fund these projected \$63 million in capital projects in the 5-year plan with Certificate of Obligation bonds. The elected City Council members will vote on our behalf to spend \$63 million in capital projects proposed by City Manager Tom Mattis and staff.

Voters need to retain control of city spending and let their elected official know this is a democratic process.

Sincerely,

Stephanie Lippke
Elgin, TX

Ashley Smith, local small business owner

Thank you to the City of Elgin for working in extreme weather conditions to repair numerous main breaks and bring water back to our homes, while experiencing similar circumstances.

Individuals/Business that went above and beyond:

-Stef Finley and Deklan Finley who personally donated and delivered water to citizens in need.

-The Healthy Spot for providing cots and necessities to individuals.

-Volunteer Firefighter Guillermo Nievas who personally sought out, messaged, and picked up individuals that needed to get somewhere with power and/or essentials.

-Chemn Cafe who collected generous citizen donations and distributed essentials.

-Texas Center for Local food: free fresh veggie boxes.

Donna Snowden, precinct 4, water and MRE distribution including home deliveries.

CITY MANAGERS REPORT

1. Monthly Reports by Departments – January 2021.

City Manager Thomas Mattis stated that the dates did not transpose correctly on the reports and they should not be 2020 year but 2021.

2. General Activity Report and/or Project Update.

Mr. Mattis stated that like everyone else the staff lost about two weeks in our workflow and are just now getting back to refocus on some of the projects that had been discussed before. He stated he had intended to have something before Council tonight about the school zone, on county line road and the other projects being worked on. He stated something will be provided at the next meeting in two weeks. Mr. Mattis mentioned that a second clinic had been scheduled for distribution of the vaccine that was being coordinated with Bastrop County and would occur on March 31st, with the second dose on April 28th. He stated that the second dose was scheduled this Friday for the group that got their first shot in the first clinic.

CONSENT AGENDA

1. City Council Meeting Minutes – February 2, 2021.

2. AN ORDINANCE ACKNOWLEDGING RECEIPT OF “CERTIFICATE OF UNOPPOSED STATUS” PURSUANT TO SECTION 2.052 TEXAS ELECTION CODE; DECLARING UNOPPOSED CANDIDATES TO BE ELECTED TO THEIR RESPECTIVE OFFICES AND CANCELLING THE MAY 1, 2021 GENERAL ELECTION FOR WARD 4; AND CANCELLING THE MAY 1, 2021 SPECIAL ELECTION FOR WARD 3 AND DECLARING THE UNOPPOSED CANDIDATE TO BE ELECTED TO THE RESPECTIVE OFFICE; PROVIDING FOR A SAVINGS CLAUSE AND REPEALING CONFLICTING ORDINANCES.

3. AN ORDINANCE VACATING, ABANDONING, AND CLOSING TWO (2) TWENTY (20) FOOT ALLEYS WITHIN THE CITY OF ELGIN, TEXAS, PURSUANT TO SECTION 311.007, TEXAS TRANSPORTATION CODE, V.A.T.S., PROVIDING FOR A SAVINGS CLAUSE AND REPEALING CONFLICTING ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS.

4. A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ELGIN, TEXAS TO APPROVE A SERVICE AGREEMENT WITH SPECTRUM ENTERPRISE TO PROVIDE FIBER INTERNET AND ETHERNET SERVICE TO THE ELGIN POLICE DEPARTMENT AT 202 DEPOT STREET, ELGIN, TEXAS; AND TO AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE SAID AGREEMENT.

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Mayor Pro Tem Brashar moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Council Member Penson seconds the motion. Motion carried 9-0.

NEW BUSINESS

1. (Consideration for Possible Termination or Re-Enactment) PURSUANT TO ARTICLE III, SECTION 13 OF THE ELGIN HOME RULE CHARTER, THIS IS AN EMERGENCY ORDINANCE DECLARING THAT A PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY EXISTS BECAUSE OF THE WORLD-WIDE COVID-19 PANDEMIC; ESTABLISHING REQUIREMENTS RELATED TO THE POSTING OF A PUBLIC NOTICE BY COMMERCIAL ENTITIES AND THE WEARING OF FACE COVERINGS AND PROVIDING FOR A SAVINGS CLAUSE AND REPEALING CONFLICTING ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

No action was taken on this item.

2. RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING PROCEEDING WITH ISSUANCE OF CERTIFICATES OF OBLIGATIONS AND FURTHER DIRECTING THE PUBLICATION OF NOTICE OF INTENTION TO ISSUE CITY OF ELGIN, TEXAS COMBINATION TAX AND REVENUE CERTIFICATES OF OBLIGATION.

Mayor Ramirez called for a 5-minute break to give the Finance Director time to provide copies to the Council with dollar amounts in the Resolution and skipped to item #5.

5. Appointment of a new member to the Building Standards Commission for a Partial Term.

Mayor Pro Tem Brashar moved to appoint David Langford to the Building Standards Commission. Council Member Penson seconds the motion. Motion carried 9-0.

6. Council to Discuss asking Public to Nominate Businesses/Individuals for Letters of Appreciation from City of Elgin to those who went above and beyond to help during February Weather Crisis – Mayor Ramirez

Council Member Ibis moved to approve the requesting of nomination of letters of appreciation from the public for Businesses and Individuals. Council Member Penson seconds the motion. Motion carried 9-0.

Mayor Ramirez moved back to item #2.

Finance Director Charles Cunningham provided the dollar amounts to the Council and Mayor Ramirez asked for a motion.

Mayor Pro Tem Brashar moved to approve the Resolution as presented with not to exceed note of \$25,890,000.00. Council Member Dennis seconds the motion. Motion carried 8-1 with Council Member Ibis voting no.

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3. RESOLUTION EXPRESSING OFFICIAL INTENT TO REIMBURSE FOR CERTAIN COSTS OF CURRENT AND FUTURE CAPITAL PROJECT.

Council Member Dennis moved to approve the Resolution as presented. Council Member Penson seconds the motion. Motion carried 8-1 with Council Member Ibis voting no.

4. A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF ELGIN, TEXAS, AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO AWARD A BID FOR THE WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT EXPANSION PROJECT TO CSA CONSTRUCTION, INC. OF HOUSTON, TEXAS; AND MAKING CERTAIN FINDINGS RELATED THERETO.

Council Member Penson moved to approve the Resolution including the amount of \$15,570.00. Mayor Pro Tem Brashar seconds the motion. Motion carried 8-1 with Council Member Ibis voting no.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The City Council may announce that it will adjourn the public meeting at any time during the meeting and convene in Executive Session pursuant to Chapter 551 of the Texas Government Code to discuss any matter as specifically listed on the agenda and/or as permitted by Chapter 551 of the Texas Government Code.

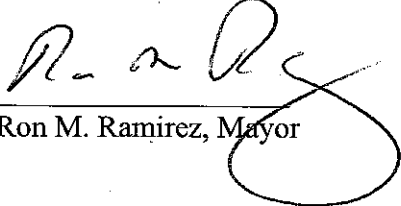
Mayor Ramirez convened into Executive Session at 8:52 pm

RECONVENE

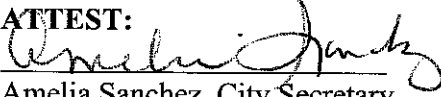
Mayor Ramirez reconvened into regular session at 9:41 pm

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Ramirez adjourned the City Council Meeting at 9:44 pm.


Ron M. Ramirez, Mayor

ATTEST:


Amelia Sanchez, City Secretary