

MINUTES
ELGIN CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING
ELGIN PUBLIC LIBRARY ANNEX COUNCIL CHAMBERS
404 NORTH MAIN STREET
APRIL 6, 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
Susie Arreaga, Council Member
Thomas Ibis, Council Member
Alvis Prince, Council Member
Forest Dennis, Council Member

Mayor Ramirez stated there was a quorum with all Council Members present.

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.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Ramirez led the Pledge of Allegiance to the US Flag and Texas Flag.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mayor Ramirez opened the Public Comment period.

CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING

April 6, 2021 – Page 2

Elgin Public Library Annex Council Chambers

Mayor Ramirez spoke about how the process being used during public comments and he checked several online meetings and noticed that a few things had not been done. He stated he would be holding public comments to three minutes which he had not been doing, and the reason for the three minutes was in the event there were several people signed up to speak. He stated that speakers must address their comments to the Mayor or presiding officer rather than to an individual Council Member or member of staff, and all speakers limit their comments to the specific subject matter noted on the public comment form and refrain from personal attacks or derogatory comments directed at any Council Member, staff, or other group.

Stephanie Lippke spoke first and stated that she had tried to post a comment on the Police Department Facebook page about a recent road rage incident and she had been blocked. She stated she had reached out to Mayor Ramirez and City Manager Thomas Mattis with no response, and she had emailed the City Attorney as well, but that by the end of the day it had not been rectified. She stated early voting starts in 13 days and that the citizens of Elgin would have their say. She stated the Council should do the job they were elected to do and that they had complete oversight over Tom Mattis, who continued to expose the city's financial stability. Mayor Ramirez spoke and stated he was going to stop her at that point.

Gena Carter spoke and stated she was representing the Elgin Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors and they had recently voted to move forward with the Western Days festival. She stated this was their largest fund raiser and had received feedback from businesses, Chamber members and community members ready to continue with Western Days planning. She stated that they understood that they needed the support and vote from Council to proceed and that for the last 50 years the event would not have happened without the city support.

Mayor Ramirez asked City Manager if he would like to do public comments first and he replied yes for comments on item #6.

Grant Hennig spoke and stated he wanted to reiterate what he stated at the last meeting about his concerns about the 25 million dollars the city is about to go into debt for and highly urged that it be only used for emergency purposes. He stated he agreed if it was needed for water, wastewater, Police Department issues or dangerous parks that actually need repair those emergency funds be issued to fund those because those are a danger and safety issues for the citizens but did not agree without having a vote from the city to expand the park system.

CITY MANAGERS REPORT

1. Review and Discussion of the Proposed City of Elgin 2021 Certificates of Obligation and 2021 Refunding Bonds Program.

City Manager Thomas Mattis stated that this was another review of the proposed issuance of certificates of obligation and refunding bonds and was the item they had been discussing for a couple of months. He stated that as a reminder the amount of just under 26 million is the not to

CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING

April 6, 2021 – Page 3

Elgin Public Library Annex Council Chambers

exceed amount and the Council established that amount cannot increase between now and when the final decision is made. Mr. Mattis provided a presentation reviewing the proposed funding projects, projected funds available, and an update on the wastewater treatment plant project beginning the first of next month, and a revised cost estimate for WW lines Harvest Ridge upsize project. He stated a final total amount for CO's must be determined before scheduled final adoption date of May 18. City Manager Thomas Mattis stated that City Engineer Beau Perry would go down the list of projects provided for discussion or questions from Mayor and Council. City Engineer Perry discussed Water Well 10, FM 1100 Water Main, WW Lines Harvest Ridge upsize, Taylor Lane drainage improvements, Brenham/Central drainage Phase 2 and Austin St. Parking & Sidewalks.

2. Discussion and Possible Direction to Staff Regarding Potential Neighborhood Traffic and Safety Upgrades at certain locations throughout the city.

City Manager Thomas Mattis stated this item was a follow-up on the ongoing discussion about certain neighborhood traffic and safety upgrades. He stated there were four projects identified as concerns by neighborhood residents that staff was asked to look into and make recommendations. He stated that staff had done that with two of the projects and Council approved moving forward on the Hillside project and South Avenue A and that there were two more projects that staff would be giving a final report on tonight. Mr. Mattis discussed the Houston St/ Madison St. intersection and how staff initially thought stop signs might provide traffic calming there and authorized the City Engineer to study to see if traffic counts there supported placement of stop signs, but the conclusion was that counts did not support the placement of stop signs. He stated that it was the Council's prerogative to make their own determination and staff needed a decision from Council whether to proceed with the placement of signs or not. Mr. Mattis discussed Ramirez Road and stated that it is in the state right of way and that it was built for access not as a road and that TXDOT does not and will not maintain it in the future. He stated TXDOT had not provided financial assistance to maintain this road and stated that as long as what is done there it does not dramatically conflict with sound traffic engineering, they would support it.

Mayor Ramirez stated that he would direct staff to bring forward an ordinance for stop signs that have been discussed and vote on that when it is ready. He stated that they have been discussing this for some time now and need to move on with it.

3. Review and Discussion of FY2021-22 Annual Budget and 2021 Five-Year Capital Plan Adoption Calendar.

City Manager Thomas Mattis discussed the FY-2021-22 Budget Adoption Calendar and stated it was being pushed back a bit to allow for the new council to participate in the entire budget process. He stated that this schedule he provided can change as Council dictates but that they had to try to stick to the same Tuesday meeting general format, with one budget work session set aside for the five-year plan and three for the budget.

CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING

April 6, 2021 – Page 4

Elgin Public Library Annex Council Chambers

4. General Activity Report and/or Project Update.

City Manager Thomas Mattis stated that before Covid all new employees were introduced at council meetings. Amy Miller introduced the new Library Director Brittany Labinger and Kaley Frye the new Main Street Manager.

Amy Miller introduced Kimberly Garrett from the City of Georgetown, past president for Texas Recreation and Parks Society and Jeff White also a past president, and stated they were here to present some awards to the Elgin Parks and Rec. They presented the Arts and Humanities Achievement Award and the Lone Star Recreation Programming Achievement Award. Elizabeth Marzec, Elgin Rec Program Services Manager accepted the awards.

Amy Miller reminded everyone that April is Child Abuse Awareness month and that the Police Department and Community Services Division were working together with the Children's Advocacy Center.

CONSENT AGENDA

1. City Council Meeting Minutes – March 23, 2021.

2. CONSIDER REQUEST TO CLOSE STREETS FOR THE WESTERN DAYS FESTIVAL PARADE ON SATURDAY JUNE 26 FROM 8:00AM TO NOON.

3. CONSIDER REQUEST TO WAIVE THE OPEN CONTAINER ORDINANCE FOR THE WESTERN DAYS FESTIVAL JUNE 25, 2021 FROM 6:00PM TO 12:15AM AND SATURDAY JUNE 26 FROM 8:00AM TO 8:00PM IN ELGIN MEMORIAL PARK.

4. CONSIDER WAIVING OR REDUCING FEES FOR COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH WESTERN DAYS FESTIVAL AND PARADE.

Mayor Pro Tem Brashar moved to approve items 1-4 on the Consent Agenda. Council Member Dennis seconds the motion. Motion carried 9-0.

NEW BUSINESS

Mayor Ramirez stated that there were two speakers for item #1 under New Business.

John Kraft spoke and stated he also had property on Hickory Lane and was a woodworker and familiar with different woods and found it ironic that he lived in that area of Hickory and Pecan and agreed with the name change. He stated his concern was the name of Hop Lane or Hop Tree, and the entire subdivision is tree related such as Hickory, Plum, Pecan and thought there were Oak and Post Oaks. He stated that he would like the name to be a tree such as Pecan or Hickory Trial and stated he wished the residents that lived there would have some kind of say.

Greg Hennig spoke and stated that he had walked the street and there were only six people that live on the street and he knocked on every door. He stated he met a gentleman that was not

approached or considered. He stated that they were just talking about stop signs because the resident wanted them, but the residents were not consulted, and he thought they should have input on these decisions. He asked that the ordinance be pulled because they were incorrect in saying there were five houses when there was six.

1. AN ORDINANCE CHANGING THE NAME OF “HICKORY LANE” TO “HOPTREE LANE” WITHIN THE WOODLAWN SUBDIVISION; PROVIDING FOR A SAVINGS CLAUSE AND REPEALING CONFLICTING ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS.

Council Member Dennis moved to table the ordinance to the next meeting. Council Member Penson seconds the motion. Motion carried 9-0.

Mayor Ramirez moved to item # 5.

5. A Presentation from PHI Air Medical – Mayor Ramirez

Ms. Kennie Kerr, Membership sales, provided a presentation on PHI Air Medical.

2. A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE A CONTRACT BETWEEN THE CITY OF ELGIN, TEXAS (CITY) AND WATKINS CONSULTING FOR FIRE CODE PLAN REVIEW AND FIRE INSPECTIONS.

Council Member Penson moved to approve the Resolution as presented. Mayor Pro Tem Brashar seconds the motion. Motion carried 9-0.

Mayor Ramirez called for a five-minute recess at 9:06 pm and resumed the meeting at 9:11 pm.

3. Appointment to vacancy on the Planning & Zoning Commission for a Partial Term.

Council Member Bega moved to appoint Scott Mackey to the Planning and Zoning Commission for a partial term. Council Member Penson seconds the motion. Motion carried 9-0.

4. Appointments to Vacancies on the Library Board.

Council Member Penson moved to appoint Angelica Huerta and Charlotte Herring to the Library Board. Council Member Arreaga seconds the motion. Motion carried 9-0.

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 9:19 p.m.

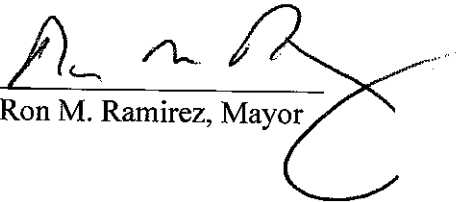
CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING
April 6, 2021 – Page 6
Elgin Public Library Annex Council Chambers

RECONVENE

Mayor Ramirez reconvened into Regular Session at 9:46 p.m.


ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Ramirez adjourned the City Council Meeting at 9:47 pm.



Ron M. Ramirez, Mayor

ATTEST:



Amelia Sanchez, City Secretary