

Minutes of Regular Meeting

The City Council of The City of Pearsall

A Regular Meeting of the City Council of the City of Pearsall, Texas will be held on Tuesday, June 8, 2021 at 7:00 PM at the Pearsall City Hall, 214 S. Ash Street, Pearsall, Texas.

1. Call To Order

Mayor Ben Briscoe called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

2. Roll Call and Announcement of a Quorum

Council Members Present: Mayor Ben Briscoe, Mayor Pro Tem Julian Hernandez, Council Member Sonia Hernandez, Council Member Brenda Trevino, Council Member James Leal arrived at 7:05 pm, Council Member Davina Rodriguez, Council Member Lionel Gandara, Council Member Tiffany Talamantes

Council Members Absent:

Staff Present: City Clerk Krystal Garcia, Finance Director Santos Alarcon, Chief of Police Humberto Torralba, HR Director Raquel Yanez, City Attorney Bobby Maldonado, Parks and Recreation Director Ramiro Otero, Customer Service Representative Clint Frausto

3. Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance

Invocation led by Mayor Ben T. Briscoe. Pledge of Allegiance led by all.

4. Presentation

A. Discuss City of Pearsall Classification and Compensation Study.

Human Resources Manager Raquel Yanez introduced Stephen Werling from Werling Associates, Inc.. Mr. Werling informed the council that his presentation would highlight the design process, individual pay analysis and cost implications of the compensation study. The cities who willingly participated in the survey were Helotes, Hondo, Pearsall, Pleasanton, Port Lavaca, Rockport and Uvalde. He added that other cities were invited to participate but did not receive a response from them. Mr. Werling explained the formula used to create the target pay for each employee. Mayor Pro Tem Julian Hernandez asked Mr. Werling how he decided what comparables would be used in the study. Mr. Werling stated he received direction from City Manager Fred Reyes and HR Manager Raquel Yanez. Councilwoman Davina Rodriguez stated the survey needs to be geared towards the City's tax base. She recommended looking into Dilley, Carrizo Springs, Crystal City, Devine, and Jourdan. Councilman James Leal agreed

with Councilwoman Rodriguez stating the city's tax base needed to be a factor. Mr. Werling explained the study did not include the tax base but the duties performed by each employee. Mayor Pro Tem Julian Hernandez inquired if education was considered in the study. Mr. Werling stated education was factored in for the jobs that required a degree.

B. Presentation of Project ChildSafe firearm safety kits.

Chief of Police Humberto Torralba introduced the Public Information Officer Bianca Ortiz who produced the short video. In the video, Officer Munoz explained how to secure a handgun utilizing the gun lock.

C. Swearing-in of newly hired Pearsall PD Officer(s).

Judge Lauro Flores swore in #752 Jesse Martinez. Chief Torralba presented Officer Martinez with his badge.

5. Citizens to Be Heard

Albert Alvarez, representing El Scarificio asked for council's support for item 7G. He informed the council that all proceeds would go to the church's general fund account.

6. Action to Consent Agenda

A. Discuss and consider setting a date, time, and place for a public hearing on a request for Conditional Use Permit for Iris Gonzales. - Action Item

City Clerk Krystal Garcia recommended the Council set the Public Hearing date for July 20, 2021 at 7:00 PM at City Hall. Councilman James Leal motioned to set the public hearing details as recommended by staff, Second by Councilwoman Davina Rodriguez. The vote in favor of the motion was unanimous.

B. Discuss and consider setting a date, time, and place for a public hearing on a request for Conditional Use Permit for Elvira Garcia & Dominga Rodriguez. - Action Item

City Clerk Krystal Garcia recommended the Council set the Public Hearing date for July 20, 2021 at 7:00 PM at City Hall. Councilman James Leal motioned to set the public hearing details as recommended by staff, Second by Councilwoman Davina Rodriguez. The vote in favor of the motion was unanimous.

C. Discuss and approval of minutes from March 9, 2021 - May 11, 2021. - Action Item

City Clerk Krystal Garcia informed the Council of April 13, 2021 minutes not being included in the meeting packet. Councilwoman Davina Rodriguez motioned to approve all minutes, with the exception of April 13, 2021, Second by Councilwoman Sonia Hernandez. The vote in favor of the motion was unanimous.

7. New Business

A. Discuss and consider authorizing the city manager to award , enter into and execute a contract with Watch Guard Video for in car video and body cameras. - Action Item

Chief Humberto Torralba reviewed quotes he received for the system. Councilman James Leal asked if the numbers were in the budget. Finance Director/Assistant City Manager Santos Alarcon informed Council of the money having to be transferred from the CARES Act reimbursement. He stated \$70,692 would need to be transferred into the General Fund to cover the expense. Chief Torralba stated VidTac is the system currently being utilized by the department and informed him that the hardware Pearsall PD uses is no longer being manufactured. Councilman James Leal informed Chief Torralba and the Council that he had reached out to Martel and found out that their system is 50% - 60% cheaper than what was being requested. He added that Martel offered to fix the equipment currently being utilized by Pearsall PD and if they were unable to fix it, they would provide a discount toward a purchase of new equipment. from their company. He added there were slight differences in the technology but would function the same as the Watch Guard system. Chief Torralba informed the council that the equipment the department has on hand cannot be fixed and recommended the Watch Guard system as it is the best buy regarding quality. Mayor Pro Tem Julian Hernandez stated there was enough money to purchase the system and motioned to approve item 7A, Second by Councilwoman Tiffany Talamantes. Councilman James Leal commented that there are other manufacturers who offer similar products at a lower price point. Councilman Lionel Gandara stated he would prefer to purchase only what is needed for the department to run efficiently. Councilwoman Davina Rodriguez stated for the record that, per shift, only 3-4 vehicles are on patrol, but Chief requested a total of 15 camera systems. She added that just because there is money available does not mean that it needs to be spent. She stated she cannot approve the purchase of 15 camera systems when only 4 officers will be utilizing the systems during each shift. Councilwoman Brenda Trevino asked Chief Torralba why he is wanting to purchase 15 camera systems. Chief Torralba explained the department has 15 vehicles and each dash camera will be synced to the officer's body camera to provide better coverage of each call each officer responds to and providing more accountability. Mayor Ben Briscoe asked the Council to cast their votes. **Motion by Mayor Pro Tem Julian Hernandez motioned to approve authorizing the city manager to award, enter into and execute a contract with Watch Guard Video for in car video and body cameras, second by Councilwoman Tiffany Talamantes. Mayor Pro Tem Julian Hernandez, Councilwoman Tiffany Talamantes, Councilwoman Sonia Hernandez and Councilman Lionel Gandara voted in favor of the motion. Councilman James Leal, Councilwoman Davina Rodriguez and Councilwoman Brenda Trevino voted against. Motion passes.

B. Discuss and Consider Ordinance No. 2021-06-01 Amending the Adopted Budget for the Fiscal Year beginning October 1, 2020. - Action Item

Mayor Ben T. Briscoe stated city staff would be transferring \$70,692 from COVID funds into the General Fund to cover the cost of the system. Mayor Pro Tem Julian Hernandez motioned to approve Ordinance No. 2021-06-01 Amending the Adopted Budget for the Fiscal Year beginning October 1, 2020, second by Councilwoman Brenda Trevino. Mayor Pro Tem Julian Hernandez, Councilwoman Tiffany Talamantes, Councilwoman Sonia Hernandez and Councilman Lionel Gandara and Councilwoman Brenda Trevino voted in favor of the motion. Councilman James Leal, Councilwoman Davina Rodriguez voted against. Motion passes. Councilwoman Davina Rodriguez stated she voted against due to the line item.

C. Discuss and Consider Administration Contract for the 2020 TxCDBG Planning & Capacity Building Project # 7220114 and related matters. - Action Item

Danielle Riojas from Grant Works was present for the item in the event council had questions regarding the project and agreement. Finance Director Santos Alarcon explained the budget and scope of work provided in council's packet. Councilman James Leal motioned to approve Administration Contract for the 2020 TxCDBG Planning & Capacity Building Project # 7220114 and related matters, second by Councilwoman Davina Rodriguez. The vote in favor of the motion was unanimous.

D. Discuss/Consider authorizing the city manager to enter into and execute an agreement with Qualite Sports Lighting for a sport lighting system at the Victor Trevino Sports Complex. - Action Item

Finance Director Santos Alarcon stated the council had discussed UIL lighting but the cost it too great. The proposed amount would exhaust the balance in the HOT Fund. Park and Rec. Director informed the council that a bid was provided 1-2 years prior in the amount of \$10,000 to clean, add new fixtures, if needed, and re-aim existing lights. Mayor Pro Tem Julian Hernandez motioned to reject the agreement, second by Councilman Lionel Gandara. The vote in favor of the motion was unanimous.

E. Discuss/consider the City of Pearsall's participation in the Alamo Workforce Solutions Rural Youth Program. - Action Item

HR Manager Raquel Yanez introduced Lynn Thompson from Workforce Solutions Alamo who explained how the Rural Youth Program works. Councilwoman Davina Rodriguez motioned to approve the City of Pearsall's participation in the Alamo Workforce Solutions Rural Youth Program, second by Councilman James Leal. The vote in favor of the motion was unanimous.

F. Discuss and consider execution of contract with Albert Martinez, DBA Motormouth Entertainment, for Event Coordinator Services for the 1st Annual Hispanic Heritage Festival and related matters. - Action Item

Councilman James Leal asked if this was the same contract as before. Mayor Ben T. Briscoe asked the council to require a post report for the event. Councilwoman Davina Rodriguez announced the 2019 Hispanic Heritage Festival was a success in comparison to events held during previous year. Councilman James Leal motioned to approve, second by Councilwoman Sonia Hernandez. The vote in favor of the motion was unanimous.

G. Discuss and Consider request made by "El Sacrificio" for the waiver of proof of liability insurance for the July 2nd and 3rd rental of the Polo Patino Park. - Action Item

Mayor Ben Briscoe moved Item 7G immediately after Citizens to be Heard. Councilman Lionel Gandara motioned to approve the waiver of proof of liability insurance for El Sacrificio's July 2nd and 3rd rental of the Polo Patino Park, second by Councilman James Leal. The vote in favor of the motion was unanimous.

H. Discuss and consider waiving fees for the use of fields for Whiplash Baseball non-profit organization on June 26, 2021. - Action Item

Mayor Ben Briscoe asked Councilwoman Davina Rodriguez to introduce the team. She stated

the team will be hosting a tournament on June 26 to help pay for the team's expenses. She stated the team is requesting the waiver of fees associated with the use of the fields. Coach Rodriguez stated due to COVID, the team was unable to conduct fundraisers and pleaded to the council for the waiver of the fees. Councilman James Leal motioned to approve the waiver of fees for the use of the fields for the tournament to be held on June 26, 2021 for Whiplash Baseball. Second by Councilwoman Sonia Hernandez. The vote in favor of the motion was unanimous.

8. Executive Session

Councilman James Leal motioned to enter into Executive Session at 9:06 pm, Second by Councilwoman Sonia Hernandez. The vote in favor of the motion was unanimous.

A. Discuss the position and duties of Municipal Court Judge.

B. Consultation with attorney to discuss the pending litigation styled Lance Elliot v City of Pearsall, Cause No. 9454 in the County Court of Frio County, Texas.

9. Open Session

Councilman Lionel Gandara motioned to return from Executive Session at 9:41 pm, Second by Councilwoman Davina Rodriguez. The vote in favor of the motion was unanimous.

A. Discuss and Consider the position and duties of Municipal Court Judge.

No action.

B. Discuss and consider the pending litigation styled Lance Elliot v City of Pearsall, Cause No. 9454 in the County Court of Frio County, Texas. - Action Item

Councilwoman Davina Rodriguez motioned to direct City Manager to take action as discussed in Executive Session, Second by Councilman James Leal. The vote in favor of the motion was unanimous.

10. Mayor's Message

Mayor Ben Briscoe asked for Item 10 Mayor's Message to be moved for discussion after 6C. Mayor Briscoe commended the Council on the 2020-2021 Budget and urged the council to consider financing and projects, life of equipment and inventory when it comes to the 2021-2022 Budget. He informed the council of his expectations for future agendas and how he would prefer the meetings to be conducted. He added that he would like to begin utilizing the "Action to Consent Agenda" portion of the agenda to help council meetings run smoothly.

11. Department Head Reports

No discussion regarding reports.

A. Finance Department Report

B. Police Department Report

C. Public Works Department Report

D. Community Development Report

12. Review of Bills Paid

A. Bills Paid-May 2021

No comments from council.

13. General Announcements

None.

14. Adjournment

Councilman James Leal motioned to adjourn the meeting at 9:45 pm, second by Councilwoman Sonia Hernandez. The vote in favor of the motion was unanimous.

Approved this November 9, 2021.



Ben T. Briscoe, Mayor

ATTEST:



Krystal Garcia, City Clerk