

CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

A Special Meeting of the City Council of the City of Pearsall, Texas will be held on Tuesday, July 23, 2024, at 6:00 PM at the Pearsall City Hall, 214 South Ash Street, Pearsall, Texas.

"In accordance with TEX. GOV'T CODE § 551.127, please be advised that members of the governing body may participate in a meeting via video conference call. A quorum of the city governing body will be present at the posted physical location of the meeting."

Please use the link below to join the webinar:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82700876583>

Or One tap mobile :

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Webinar ID: 827 0087 6583

COUNCIL MEMBERS

**BEN T BRISCOE
RACHEAL GARZA
TIFFANY TALAMANTES
BRENDA TREVINO**

**JAMES LEAL
SONIA HERNANDEZ
RAMIRO TREVINO
AURORA GARZA**

1. Call To Order

Mayor Ben T. Briscoe called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

2. Roll Call and Announcement of Quorum

Council Members Present: Mayor Ben T. Briscoe, Council Member Ramiro Trevino, Council Member Aurora Garza, Council Member Brenda Trevino, Council Member Sonia Hernandez, Council Member Tiffany Talamantes via Zoom at 7:22 PM

Council Members Absent: Council Member Sonia Hernandez

Staff Present: City Manager Federico Reyes, Assistant City Manager/Community Development Director Yolanda Moran, City Clerk Krystal Garcia, Chief of Police Daniel Flores, Parks and Recreation/Facilities Director Ramiro Otero, Public Works Director Hector Gandara, Municipal Court Judge Nicolas DeLeon, Public Information Officer Bianca Ramirez, Finance Director Monica Yanez, HR Manager Raquel Yanez, Public Works Director Hector Gandara, Public Works Office Manager Yomeida Carrizales, Gas Superintendent Rudy Carrizales, Library Manager Sarah Duran, Permits Clerk Virginia Cuevas, Building Official Ricardo Lopez, Maintenance/Custodial Techs Roger Hernandez and Dylan Gonzales, Parks and ROW Crew

3. Invocation And Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Ben T. Briscoe led the invocation. Pledge of Allegiance led by all present.

4. Citizens To Be Heard

None

5. Presentations

5.A General Fund

City Manager Fred Reyes began reviewing the Court's presentation to include court activity and revenues. Council Member Ramiro Trevino inquired what is holding the Court back from pursuing individuals failing to show up for court after learning the court sees 20% - 30% of defendants notified for a court appearance. City Clerk Krystal Garcia informed the council GHS sends out notices for possible warrants but the NetData system itself does not generate them. Municipal Court Judge Nicolas DeLeon explained if the jail was up and running the warrants could be issued and taken care of. He added they are not currently housing non-violent offenders. He followed up by walking the council through the process after the Court receives the citations. Judge DeLeon stated he and other JPs met with the jail staff who informed them they would prefer if Class B Misdemeanors would be cited and released with a court date. Council Member Ramiro Trevino inquired if the city should be focusing on bigger offenses such as theft or high-class drug offenses. Mayor Ben T. Briscoe informed the council of his meeting with Chief Deputy Peter Salinas. Per Mayor Briscoe, Chief Deputy Salinas would provide a presentation to the council to inform them of the status of the jail. City Manager Reyes inquired how many offenders in the jail are locals to which Judge DeLeon stated the cast majority are locals. Mayor Briscoe stated he had been informed that the jail population are people from Frio County or those who have been arrested in Frio County. City Clerk Krystal Garcia presented the council with the duties her office is tasked with along with the goals her office intends on achieving during the upcoming fiscal year. Council Member Aurora Garza inquired when was the last time her office received an increase. HR Director Raquel Yanez stated it had been 2 years. Council Member Ramiro Trevino inquired who else shares her office's duties to which Ms. Garcia stated nobody but does but receives assistance from the court clerk with agenda packets and PIO Bianca Ramirez is an administrator for the agenda software. He stated cross training is important in case time of taken off from her office. PIO Bianca Ramirez presented the responsibilities of her department and shared her future projects. Councilman Ramiro Trevino stated he notice an increase in pay. Mr. Reyes informed the council her office along with 3 others qualify for an increase under the new Dept. of Labor law. Council Member Trevino stated it pertains to exempt employees but allows for the city to conduct and audit-the city is not obligated to give an increase if audit shows they do not meet the requirements. Council Member Aurora Garza inquired if there are new duties – Economic Development has been added to her duties but everything else is the same. She added Frio County offers PTO in lieu of overtime. Mr. Reyes stated the city does not operate with that policy. HR Manager Raquel Yanez provided an overview of the updates to medical health coverage, TMLIRP costs and proposed handbook changes which she hopes to be working with a consultant on. Council Member Trevino inquire what requirements for the buyback program would be. Mrs. Yanez stated it would be budget permitting and City Manager Reyes informed the council there would be guidelines for participation-participation in the sick pool being one of them. Mrs. Yanez stated about 11 employees, total, currently qualify for the buyback program, if approved – 6 employees have over 300 hours of time. City Manager Fred Reyes reviewed his presentation for the administration budget with the council. He stated his office would be focusing on economic development, grant funding, execution and financing of infrastructure along with housing. He stated the council as not seen an increase to the tax rate since 2020, in fact, there has been a reduction of \$0.02. He stated staff has been tasked with more responsibilities and wear many

hats. He reviewed the list of grants the city has received – Council Member Trevino stated he doesn't feel EMC Group Strategies has done much lately and need to see more from them. Mayor Pro Tem recommended providing a list of priorities but not limit the group from obtaining new grants. Mayor Briscoe stated he would like to see the DC trip cut as he feels it did not provide a good enough return in comparison to the cost if took for council and staff to attend. City Manager Reyes stated the incentive pay included in the budget does not pertain to part time or employees still on probation. Council Member Trevino stated he would like to see if be for everyone across the board. Finance Director Monica Yanez provided an overview of utilities and the Finance Department. She stated the city is spending more than it is receiving which is cutting into the city's reserves. She stated she reassigned employees bas on the department they report to. Public Works Director Hector Gandara informed the council 3 street projects had been completed as of July 18, 2024 – San Marcos, W. Medina and Brazos. He stated because he has sent some of his employees to training over the course of 3 years, he believes and wants to complete the paving for the next round of the project. He noted increases to Heavy Equipment and the Repairs and Maintenance line items. He reviewed the wish list of equipment he requested in his budget. Instead of the dump truck he stated a cheaper option would be to purchase a dump trailer and 3500 Ford Pickup. Council Member Trevino inquired when was the last time a purchase like this was made for the department. City Manager Reyes stated the jetter for water and trucks were purchased in 2021. Chief of Police Daniel Flores provided statistics from October 2023 – June 2024. He stated his department runs all year and never shuts down. He added his department is the busiest in the county as they cover the bulk of the population and feels his staff should be compensated as such. He added he would forfeit his incentive to disperse among his staff. He informed the council of the 441 open felony cases to include: theft, drug charges, aggravated sexual assault, among others. He explained due to the case load his department is able to deliver 30-40 cases to the DA, monthly. Mayor Pro Tem James Leal inquired why the department would like to change to a 9MM model after Chief Flores explained the reason for the increase. Chief Flores stated its cheaper ammunition and to keep up with the County. Mayor Pro Tem Leal inquired how many cases should the department be turning over to the DA on a monthly basis. Chief Flores stated it's hard to gauge since every case is not the same degree as assaults would take precedence over minor offenses where the State is a victim. City Manger Fred Reyes stated a comparison can be completed from 2018-2019 on both PD and permits. Chief Flores stated the jail had rejected 10-11 for the month, so far. Council Member Aurora Garza stated what happens with new offenses to which Chief Flores stated a report is made and filed to be kept on record and the offense open.

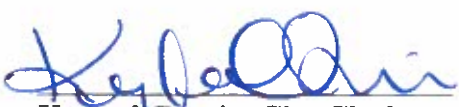
6. Adjournment

Mayor Adjourned the meeting at 9:23 PM.

Approved this August 13, 2024


Ben T. Briscoe, Mayor

ATTEST:


Krystal Garcia, City Clerk