

# **CITY COUNCIL MINUTES**

A Special Meeting of the City Council of the City of Pearsall, Texas will be held on Tuesday, July 2, 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:**

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**Webinar ID: 810 9049 0600**

## **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 Racheal Garza, Council Member Tiffany Talamantes,

Council Members Absent: Mayor Pro Tem James Leal

Staff Present: City Manager Federico Reyes, Assistant City Manager/Community Development Director Yolanda Moran, City Clerk Krystal Garcia, Finance Director Monica Yanez, Chief of Police Daniel Flores, City Attorney Bobby Maldonado (via Zoom), Public Works Director Hector Gandara, Public Information Officer Bianca Ramirez, HR Manager Raquel Yanez

### **3. Invocation And Pledge of Allegiance**

Council Member Aurora Garza led the invocation. Pledge of Allegiance led by all present.

#### **4. Citizens To Be Heard**

None

#### **5. Mayor's Message**

Mayor Ben T. Briscoe thanked the council and staff for holding the June regular meeting in his absence. He expressed his excitement for the 4<sup>th</sup> of July event and encouraged the council to attend.

#### **6. Budget Workshop**

##### **6.A 2024-2025 Fiscal Year Preliminary Budget Presentation/Discussion for the Pearsall Volunteer Fire Department**

Fire Chief Placido Aguilar informed the council that most of the department's budget comes from the ESD #1. He added the voters during the recent election approved a \$0.15 tax that would help fund the department. The month of June kept the department busy as they responded to and extinguished numerous structure fires. He explained the benefits of having a fire station on the west side of town – not being held up by the train and an increase in the insurance rating. He stated the increases the department is requesting includes \$5000 for incentives and \$25,000 for the new truck. Mayor Ben T. Briscoe inquired if the department is held up by the train often. Chief Placido stated it doesn't occur often but it's more for the rating.

##### **6.B 2024-2025 Fiscal Year Preliminary Budget Discussions/Presentations for the Hotel Occupancy Tax Fund**

###### **1) Pearsall Chamber of Commerce**

Junita Rendon, Executive Director for the Pearsall Chamber of Commerce informed the council that Chamber President Eduardo Sanchez was prepared to attend the meeting, but an emergency kept him from doing so. She stated she would answer questions to the best of her ability and review the budget with the council. She added the chamber hopes to be operating the week of the 15<sup>th</sup>. The council inquired what the chamber had been doing since approval. Mrs. Rendon stated they updated their banking and filing information with the state. She added they have run into several issues with the building that required repairs. She informed the council the membership guidelines and fees have been structured and will be advertised once they are operating. Council Member Racheal Garza inquired when the first installment was given to the chamber. City Manager Fred Reyes informed the council the first official installment was issued in May of 2024 as the initial check had to be returned to the city due to conflicting financial information. Council Member Racheal Garza asked for the current names of the board members and how can community members join. She named Eduardo Sanchez, Sylvia Sanchez, Anthony Vasquez, Oscar Vasquez, Lyric Norman, Andrea Martinez Longoria, and herself as the current members. She added the listed members were from the original group and once the chamber is up and running, they intend to open it up for new members to join. Council Member Racheal Garza suggested the chamber start off with a small event to ensure success. Mrs. Rendon stated the chamber has a list of events they anticipate hosting. She informed the council the directory has been completed, they just have to get started to distribute it. Council Member Ramiro Treviño asked the chamber

reach out to local hotels when hosting events as many have expressed interest in participating.

## 2) Claybusters

Mr. Adam Beever was present to speak on behalf of the Pearsall 4H Claybusters. He apologized for not being better prepared as he was given short notice to prepare for the meeting. He stated that since 2017, the organization has requested funding a total of five (5) times. 2022 being the last year they held the event as 2023 and 2024 they were unable to hold the event. He added, historically, the organization requests funds to cover the cost of targets. With inflation they anticipate the cost of targets to be \$6,500 for event which is anticipated to be held in either April or May of 2025. Council Member Ramiro Treviño inquired if the event receives participation from community members. Mr. Beever informed the council they do have local participants, but the event attracts a lot of registrants from surrounding counties such as Bandera, Nueces as well as others. He added they have an average of 180 registrants and assured the council the information is archived and accessible.

## 3) Frio Pioneer Jail Museum

Dr. Robert Gorhum and Mona Hoyle were present to speak on behalf of the Frio Pioneer Jail Museum Committee. He announced the event held in March went well and had a lot of participation. Council Member Sonia Hernandez confirmed she saw many vendors and attendees at the event. City Manager Fred Reyes asked how the group is funded. Dr. Gorhum stated they are mostly self-funded and receive assistance from the city. Mayor Ben T. Briscoe inquired if they receive funding from a lease with a local church. Dr. Gorhum confirmed the Museum inherited the property where the Shepards Flock Church is located. Mrs. Hoyle informed the council the church and jail museum are the only two (2) historic buildings with actual historical markers left in the community and added the church was built in 1884. Dr. Gorhum requested \$7,5000 in funding from the city's HOT Fund for the 2025 event.

## 4) Motormouth Entertainment

Due to Mr. Albert Martinez's inability to attend the meeting, Fred Reyes, City Manager provided the council with information regarding the event. This year would be the third and final year of the events coordinator agreement. The agreement calls for a budget of \$150,000 to be allocated for the event. He told the council they would need to decide what direction they would want to go in for the event— continue to hire a private contractor or opt for a non-profit like the chamber. Council Member Racheal Garza asked if the council could budget for a certain dollar amount in case the chamber is unable to host the event. City Manager Reyes stated now would be the time to make these kinds of decisions.

## 5) City of Pearsall

Fred Reyes, City Manager informed the council that \$750,000 of the monies is budgeted for grant funding.

## 6.C 2024-2025 Fiscal Year Preliminary Budget Discussion/Presentation for Tax Increment Reinvestment Zone Fund (TIRZ)

\$176,000 would be added to the fund this year and went on to review the TIRZ map with the council along with anticipated projects.

**6.D 2024 -2025 Fiscal Year Preliminary Budget Discussion/Presentation for American Rescue Plan (ARP) Fund**

Fred Reyes, City Manager stated all \$40,000+ funds would be liquidated with the AEP LED conversion project set to begin after October.

**6.E Review and discuss the preliminary budget for the 2024-25 fiscal year**

Fred Reyes, City Manager stated the budget before the council consists of requests made from staff and is not a balanced budget. He informed the council they would have hearings with each department head to provide reasoning for their requests. Mr. Reyes informed the council the tank restoration projects recently had been funded from ARP funds but due to it being depleted, the city would have to fund it going forward. Council Member Ramiro Treviño encouraged staff to push EMC to bring in more grant funding for the City. Mayor Ben T. Briscoe informed the council that he has sat in on some of the meetings and unfortunately the process is painfully slow. Council Member Sonia Hernandez urged the council to get with state representatives regardless of their party affiliation because they are elected to represent their region, not party.

**7. New Business (Items Below Are Action Items)**

**7.A Discuss and consider approval of firework display for the City of Pearsall 4th of July event**

Council Member Ramiro Treviño motioned to approve, seconded by Council Member Racheal Garza. Fred Reyes City Manager stated the event takes a lot of planning and the pool grounds capacity is limited to 200 people. Bracelets and glow sticks would be provided to attendees. Council Member Racheal Garza asked if the capacity announced was accurate because she was told otherwise due to the number of lifeguards available to work the event. Mr. Reyes stated he the last event 200 people were allowed to enter and understood there would not be a change. Council Member Aurora Garza asked how many food trucks were going to be at the event. Bianca Ramirez Public Information Officer stated three (3) were secured due to travel and commitment issues. Mr. Reyes stated it's difficult to plan the event in one (1) month. Mayor Ben T. Briscoe announced the chamber would be hosting the 4<sup>th</sup> of July in 2025 and announced Frio County, Frio Hospital District and Pearsall ISD are participating in the event. The vote in favor of the motion was unanimous.

**7.B DISCUSS AND CONSIDER ORDINANCE NO. 2024-07-01, GRANTING TO WEST TEXAS GAS UTILITY, LLC. (A CORPORATION WITH ITS PRINCIPAL OFFICE IN THE CITY OF MIDLAND, MIDLAND COUNTY, TEXAS) THE FRANCHISE AND RIGHTS TO CONDUCT IN SAID CITY THE BUSINESS OF ACQUIRING, MAINTAINING, INSTALLING AND OPERATING A GAS PLANT AND EQUIPMENT FOR THE TRANSMISSION AND DISTRIBUTION OF NATURAL GAS TO THE CITY OF PEARSALL AND THE INHABITANTS THEREOF FOR LIGHT, HEAT, POWER, AND OTHER PURPOSES, AND THE RIGHT TO USE THE STREETS, ALLEYS AND OTHER PUBLIC WAYS IN SAID CITY FOR SAID PURPOSES; PRESCRIBING THE CONDITIONS, LIMITATIONS AND RESTRICTIONS UNDER WHICH SAID PRIVILEGES MAY BE EXERCISED; PROVIDING FOR ADEQUATE COMPENSATION TO BE PAID TO THE CITY ANNUALLY; AND PRESCRIBING THE TERM OF SAID FRANCHISE AND RIGHTS TO BE TEN (10) YEARS.**

Fred Reyes, City Manager informed the council the agreement would allow West Texas Gas to provide services to the west side of FM 1581 and allows the extension to other area of the city does want to serve. Bobby Maldonado, the City Attorney confirmed this to be accurate. Council Member Aurora Garza asked if there were plans for the gas system. Mr. Reyes stated he does have plans in mind for the system. The vote in favor of the motion was unanimous.

Mayor Ben T. Briscoe adjourned the meeting at 7:38 PM.

**Approved this July 9, 2024**



**Ben T. Briscoe, Mayor**

**ATTEST:**

  
**Krystal Garcia, City Clerk**