

The City of Balcones Heights
Regular City Council Meeting
3300 Hillcrest Drive
Balcones Heights, TX 78201

Minutes

Date: May 22, 2017

TIME: 6:00 p.m.

Members Present: Suzanne de Leon Stephen Lara Miguel Valverde
Jack Burton Lamar Gillian Charles White

Members Absent: None

Sign In Sheet: Henry Hannasch Bill Johnson Lili Cruz
Anita G. Herrera Natalia Fisher Kristen Wrase
Dean Nelson

CALL TO ORDER AND RECORDING OF QUORUM

Mayor de Leon called the meeting to order and quorum was present.

INVOCATION AND PLEDGES OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE U. S. A. AND TEXAS FLAGS

Moment of silence for Firefighter Scott Deem and Firefighters that were hurt in the line of duty.

Mayor de Leon gave the invocation and led pledges.

OATH OF OFFICE:

- Newly elected officials will take their Oath of Office.

Mayor de Leon gave the Oath of Office to Councilmembers Place One Stephen Lara, Place Three Jack Burton, Place Four Lamar Gillian, and Place Five Charles White.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Lily Cruz – Oversized vehicles (Spoke during agenda item) – 305 Glenarm – modification of existing ordinance

1. PRESENTATIONS/UPDATES:

- a. Update – Consultant Walter Serna

Mr. Nastasi came up to give an update. Mr. Serna was not present.

- b. Letter of Merit – Corporal Victor Mata

Lt. John Jahanara gave background on the presentation of the letter of merit. Corporal Mata came up and said a few words and introduced his family that was in attendance.

2. CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS:

- a. Approval of minutes for Regular meeting of April 24, 2017
- b. Finance Report for the month of March 2017

MOTION: Motion to approve in its entirety.

Motion by: Councilmember Gillian Second: Councilmember Burton 5/0/0 PASSED

BUSINESS ITEMS:

- 3. Consideration and **ACTION** to approve a Resolution declaring the results of the General Election held in Balcones Heights, Texas, on Saturday, May 6, 2017, for the election of Council Place Three, Four, and Five.

MOTION: So moved. (To approve Resolution)

Motion by: Councilmember Valverde Second: Councilmember Lara 5/0/0 PASSED

- 4. Discussion and possible **ACTION** to amend Code of Ordinances Section 71.02 Certain Parking Prohibitions in Residential Areas. (Members of Council/Hoyl)

City Administrator David Harris informed council of issues with the current ordinance regarding RV's and the Director of Community Development Rita Hoyl also pointed out some conflicting sections in the code.

MOTION: I make a motion to discuss.

Motion by: Councilmember White Second: Councilmember Burton Vote not taken

A committee was assigned to work on the proposed changes and revisions to the conflicting sections of the code. There was no action taken. This item will be brought back to a future meeting with the committee's recommendation. Members of the committee are Councilmember Stephen Lara, Councilmember Jack Burton, Rita Hoyl, and David Harris.

- 5. Consideration and **ACTION** to amend Code of Ordinances Chapter 51:40 Obstruction of Sewer Line on Property; Excavation; Payment of Costs. (White)

Councilmember White stated his recommendation that any breaks, obstruction, or repairs of clean outs or laterals located in the residential R1 easement or roadways to the main be paid by the City of Balcones Heights.

Rita Hoyl gave background on this item and information on survey of what other cities are doing as far as responsibility of cost for the sewer lateral.

This item was tabled indefinitely.

- 6. Consideration and **ACTION** to amend fee schedule to reduce variance application fee for residents. (White)

Councilmember White made a recommendation that the application fee to apply for a variance for the Board of Adjustments be reduced for the residential zoned R1 property.

MOTION: I make a motion to reduce the application fee for variance to \$250.00 for homeowners with property zoned R1.

Motion by: Councilmember White Second: Councilmember Burton 4/1/0 PASSED

Nay Vote: Councilmember Lara

7. Discussion and possible **ACTION** to increase homeowner exemption and place freeze on the city's ad valorem rate. (White)

MOTION: Motion to approve. (Homestead Exemption for Seniors over 65 and Disabled from 50,000 to 65,000)

Motion by: Councilmember Gillian Second: Councilmember Valverde 5/0/0 PASSED

8. Discussion and **ACTION** regarding the take home vehicle for Public Works Supervisor. (Burton)

Councilmember Burton brought forth this item and recommended that the city vehicle not be taken home by the Public Works Supervisor.

MOTION: I make a motion to discontinue taking the Public Works vehicle home.

Motion by: Councilmember Burton Second: Motion failed for lack of second

9. Discussion and possible **ACTION** regarding the re-evaluation of Vivian Lane on prioritization list after Leisure Phase II project. (Burton)

Councilmember Burton recommended that the priority list for repairs of streets be re-evaluated.

Staff recommends that the Infrastructure committee meet along with other citizens to come up with a list of projects for CDBG dollars. Councilmember Gillian suggested to include an Engineer.

No Action was taken.

10. Consideration and **ACTION** to adopt an ordinance amending Article 5: Attendance and Leave of the Personnel Policy – Office Hours. (Mayor)

City Administrator brought forth this item to allow for citizens to have more access for services during the week.

MOTION: Motion to approve. (Effective September 4th – City hours: M-Thr 7:30 a.m. – 5:30 p.m. and Fri 7:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.)

Motion by: Councilmember Gillian Second: Councilmember Valverde 5/0/0 PASSED

11. Consideration and **ACTION** to amend Ordinance 2013-13 effective date to enforce Ordinance 2013-11 Regulating Credit Access Businesses. (Harris/Garza)

This item was discussed in Executive Session per Attorney's recommendation.

12. Discussion and update on the Gateway Project. (Mayor)

Lorenzo Nastasi came up and gave an update on the status.

13. Discussion regarding AACOG Weatherization Program for low income residents. (Mayor)

Mayor de Leon informed Council on this item and directed staff to print flyers to hand out to the homeowners of the City of Balcones Heights.

City Council went into Executive Session at 7:56 p.m. before Item 14.

City Council reconvened in open session at 8:31 p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REQUESTS:

14. Department Report Q&A (*Reports included in Packet*)

Q&A – Police Department – Lt. Jahanara

15. Announcements by City Administrator

- a. Citizen Kudos
- b. Recognition of City employee actions
- c. New Departmental Initiatives

16. Requests by Mayor and Council Members for items to be placed on a future City Council agenda.

Councilmember White – Grant Writer request

City Administrator informed council that there is a grant service through AACOG. Quotes will be requested for grant writer contractor during budget time.

17. Announcements by Mayor and Council Members

- a. City and community events attended and to be attended
- b. City Council Committee and Liaison Assignments
- c. Continuing education events attended and to be attended
- d. Recognition of actions by City employees
- e. Recognition of actions by community volunteers

Councilmember White - Update on Infrastructure Committee meeting

	Audit/Investment/Budget	BHPOA Negotiations	Code Enforcement	Infrastructure & Facilities	Planning & Zoning	Website
Mayor de Leon	+	+	+		+	+
Council Pl. 1- Stephen Lara						
Council Pl. 2-Valverde	X	X	X		X	
Council Pl. 3-Burton				X	X	
Council Pl. 4-Gillian	X	X				
Council Pl. 5-White			X	X		X
City Administrator	X	X		X	X	
Community Development Dir			X	X		
Economic Development Dir						X
Fire Chief				X		
Police Chief		X	X			
Finance Director	X					

+ = Ex Officio

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

- 18. Discussion pursuant to §551.086 (Economic Development) of the Texas Government Code regarding economic development project utilizing city owned property.
- 19. Discussion pursuant to §551.071 (Consultation with Attorney) of the Texas Government Code regarding Visitor Center lease at Wonderland of the Americas.
- 20. Discussion pursuant to §551.072 (Deliberations about Real Property) to discuss real estate - potential lease city property at the justice center.

RE-CONVENE IN OPEN SESSION:

- 21. Council may take **ACTION** in open session on items discussed in Executive Session.

No Action was taken.

ADJOURNMENT:

Meeting adjourned at 8:46 p.m.

Submitted by:

DELIA R. SANCHEZ
City Secretary

Minutes approved – City Council meeting 6-26-2017