

City of Balcones Heights
Regular City Council Meeting
VIDEO/TELE CONFERENCE (ZOOM) and In Person
Minutes

DATE: April 26, 2021

TIME: 6:00 p.m.

Members Present: Suzanne de Leon Stephen Lara (ZOOM) Gloria Cantu
 Lamar Gillian Miguel C. Valverde

Members Absent: John Halpin

Signed in Sheet: Claudia Mora Elizabeth Cook Agnes Lecea
 Juan Lecea Charles White

CALL TO ORDER AND RECORDING OF QUORUM

Meeting was called to order and quorum was present.

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

Councilmember Lara gave the invocation and led pledges.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

- Jack Burton – Park, Courtroom, and #11 on the agenda
- Lili Cruz – Enforcement of Ordinances



PRESENTATIONS:

1. Badge-Pinning Ceremony – Captain Thomas Marroquin and Lt. Bradley Tellander

Fire Chief Brock Ward made the following presentations:

- Lt. Bradley Tellander introduced - Badge was removed by his Dad and pinned by his Wife.
- Capt. Thomas Marroquin was introduced – Badge was removed by his Mom and pinned by his Wife.

2. Introduction – Community Relations Manager

Director of Economic Development Andrew Lugo was introduced as the new Community Relations Manager.

3. **CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS:**

- a. Approval of minutes for Special Meeting of March 8, 2021
- b. Approval of minutes for Regular Meeting of March 22, 2021
- c. Finance Report for the month of March 2021

MOTION: Motion to approve in their entirety.

Motion by: Lamar Gillian Second: Miguel C. Valverde 4/0/0 PASSED

BUSINESS ITEMS:

4. **Public Hearing:** Establishing Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) Program

Public Hearing opened at 6:14 p.m.

Diane Rath from AACOG gave a power point presentation with information on the PACE Program. Elizabeth Cook from AACOG and Charlene Heydinger form the Texas PACE Authority were also in attendance.

Public Hearing closed at 6:25 p.m.

5. Discussion and **ACTION** to approve a Resolution establishing the City of Balcones Heights PACE Program. (Harris)

MOTION: I'd like to make a motion to approve.

Motion by: Lamar Gillian Second: Gloria Cantu 4/0/0 PASSED

6. Discussion and **ACTION** to approve a PACE Program Interlocal Agreement with Alamo Area Council of Governments (AACOG) for the purpose of providing the program administration services needed to implement and administer the PACE Program. (Harris)

MOTION: Motion to approve.

Motion by: Lamar Gillian Second: Stephen Lara 4/0/0 PASSED

7. Discussion and **ACTION** to approve a consulting agreement for the Comprehensive Land Use and Economic Development. (Harris)

City Administrator David Harris briefed council on this item and introduced consultants being considered.

MOTION: I make a motion to approve.

Motion by: Stephen Lara Second: Lamar Gillian 4/0/0 PASSED

Item #11 was addressed before Item #8

8. Consideration and **ACTION** to adopt a resolution approving initial membership of a Board of Directors and bylaws for an Economic Development Corporation in the City of Balcones Heights. (Harris/Nastasi)

Orlando “Jay” Juarez, Jr. from the legal team of McCall, Parkhurst, & Horton briefed council.

City Administrator stated that the initial Board of Directors would be made up with the following:

Suzanne de Leon, Miguel Valverde, Gloria Cantu, Stephen Lara, Scott Rausch, and Madeline Slay

MOTION: Motion made to approve the initial membership of the Board of Directors and By-Laws for the Economic Development Corporation of the City of Balcones Heights.

Motion by: Councilmember Gillian Second: Councilmember Valverde 4/0/0 PASSED

9. Discussion and **ACTION** to approve a Cost-of-Living Adjustment (COLA) for employees. (Holland)

MOTION: So, moved. (To approve 1.3% COLA)

Motion by: Miguel Valverde Second: Gloria Cantu 4/0/0 PASSED

10. Discussion and **ACTION** on recommendation from Finance Committee to move Sweep Funds to Capital Fund. (Holland)

MOTION: I would like to make a motion to sweep \$729,585.00 from the General Fund to the undesignated Capital Fund for FY ending 2021.

Motion by: Lamar Gillian Second: Stephen Lara 4/0/0 PASSED

11. Discussion regarding complaints received during the brush/bulky pick up due to the 8 square yard maximum requirement. (Harris)

Discussion was had and there was no action to be taken.

Item #8 – Item #10 was addressed after Item #11

12. Discussion and **ACTION** directing staff to explore safety and ADA enhancements on Crossroads Blvd. and North Crossroads Blvd. (Thelen)

Director of Community Development gave a power point presentation on Crossroads Safety and ADA Enhancements.

MOTION: I make a motion for staff to proceed with these investigations and outline the areas that need improvement and how to attack that with the businesses involved and what their participation would be.

Motion by: Stephen Lara Second: Gloria Cantu 4/0/0 PASSED

13. Consideration and **ACTION** in regards to volunteer work to revitalize the Sand Volleyball Court at Rogiers Park. (Lara)

Councilmember Lara introduced his daughter Isabel Lara who came up and presented her desire to volunteer to revitalize the Sand Volleyball Court through community involvement.

MOTION: I would like to make a motion for approval to outline the next stage as far as the criteria that we need to meet in order to facilitate this at the park.

Motion by: Stephen Lara Second: Lamar Gillian 4/0/0 PASSED

14. Discussion regarding the street lighting and safety walking corridor. (Lara)

Councilmember Lara gave a presentation on the city's street lights and the need to place more lights for safety and health awareness.

15. Discussion regarding Parks and Greenway Master Plan. (Lara)

Councilmember Lara presented a comprehensive sketch that overlaid the potential for park redevelopment and greenway.

16. Strategic Plan Update. (Nastasi)

- Dr. Lewis – One on One Interviews
- Tracking changes on Strategic Plan and how to move forward
- June 3rd – Strategic Plan Update

17. Finance Committee Update. (Gillian)

- Sales Tax – 8 % down
- Consumer interest way up
- Positive – Revenue over Expense

18. Department Reports and Q&A (Police Department, Fire Department, Community Development, Finance, and Economic Development & Public Affairs)

- 16 applicants for Fire Department openings
- Leisure Dr. not completed
- CDBG submitted
- AAMPO Interview – May 14th
- New Businesses
- Car Show
- Newsletter released
- Meeting with Wonderland (Jazz Festival)

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REQUESTS:

19. Announcements by City Administrator

- Chief Jahanara attending seminar
- HB 1209 set for hearing (to void red light camera contracts)
- May 5th and 19th – Meetings at Bijou for the Wonderland Project

20. Announcements by Mayor and Council Members

None

21. Agenda Item Requests by Mayor and Council Members to be placed on a future City Council agenda.

None

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

22. Discussion pursuant to §551.086 (Economic Development) of the Texas Government Code regarding possible business development near or around Fredericksburg Road.

RE-CONVENE IN OPEN SESSION:

23. Council may act in open session on item discussed in Executive Session.

Council did not meet in Executive Session.

ADJOURNMENT:

Meeting adjourned at 8:19 p.m.

Submitted by:

DELIA R. SANCHEZ
City Secretary

Minutes approved at the Regular City Council meeting held 5-24-2021.