

THE CITY OF
BALCH SPRINGS
GROWING COMMUNITY

**REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING
CITY OF BALCH SPRINGS
MAY 28, 2019
7:00 PM**

MINUTES

Identification of a quorum.

Present: Councilmember Moon
Councilmember Shelby
Councilmember Segroves
Councilmember Rushing
Councilmember Tucker
Mayor Pro Tem Hill
Mayor Gorwood

A quorum was present and Mayor Gorwood called the meeting to order at 7:00PM.

Staff: Susan Cluse, City Manager
Mark Morris, Assistant to City Manager
Cindy Gross, City Secretary
Jon Haber, Police Chief
Randy Smith, Fire Chief
Lupe Baladez, Building Inspector
William Freeman, Public Works
Chris Dyser, Planning
Monte Akers, City Attorney

Invocation was given by Susan Cluse, City Manager.

Pledge to the US Flag and the Texas Flag was led by Guadalupe Keno.

Items of Community Interest - City Secretary:

June 11th – Charter Review Commission Meeting at 6:00pm, at the Civic Center.

June 15th – City of Balch Springs Basketball Tournament at the Young Women’s STEAM Academy.

June 17th – City Council Workshop – Subdivision Ordinance Re-Write and Balch Springs Mobility Plan Study at 6:00pm at the City Hall.

June 29th – 4th of July Fireworks Celebration at 5:00pm at Irwin Park.

Neighborhood Pride Award Winners – Winners for April 2019 are Ernesto Espraza and Rosa Gonzalez. Winner for May 2019 is Gloria Rodriguez.

NUSA Neighborhoods, USA Newsletter Competition – The City of Balch Springs Placed 1st in the Neighborhood Newsletter Competition for the Government Print Category.

Presentation(s):

Community Recognition of the Balch Springs Police Department.

Julie Greer, Citizen's Police Academy, along with other members of the Citizen's Police Academy gave a presentation to the Balch Springs Police Department. She announced that May was Police Appreciation month and gave her thanks and appreciation to the Police department. She announced the display of posters and signs were created by different schools in Balch Springs, in thanks of the police officers. Each member of the Citizen's Police Academy read a thank you letter from one of the kids from the schools, thanking them for their service.

2020 Census: What's at stake for Balch Springs.

Nancy Gurrero, Census Bureau, gave a presentation to the City Council and spoke in regards to what lies ahead for Balch Springs and preparation for the 2020 Census.

Citizen Comments.

Speaker: Jason Singletary, 3216 Balch Springs Rd., #203, Balch Springs, TX. 75180
Subject: Spoke to City Council in regards to commending Shawn Monk to Flood & Drainage Committee.

Speaker: Angela Singletary, 3216 Balch Springs Rd., #203, Balch Springs, TX. 75180
Subject: Spoke to City Council in regards to the appointment of a new Mayor Pro Tem and commend Shawn Monk to Flood & Drainage Committee.

Speaker: Johnny Adams, 2721 Cumberland Trail, Balch Springs, TX. 75181
Subject: Spoke to City Council in regards to appointing board members to the Parks & Recreation Board.

Speaker: Shirley Knight, 12308 Seagoville Rd., Balch Springs, TX. 75180
Subject: Spoke on behalf of Eddy Hannon, in regards to issues with mailbox being knocked down on a regular basis, due to location of home on Seagoville Rd. and Shepherd Ln.

Mayor Gorwood closed citizen's comments.

CONSENT AGENDA:

- A. Approval to amend Sections 78-142 and 78-144 of Chapter 78, of the Code of Ordinances to amend boundaries of the school zone for W.O. Gray Elementary and Calvary Temple Christian Academy.**
- B. Approval to amend Section 78-173 of Chapter 78, Code of Ordinances to specify the side of North Spring Ridge where parking is prohibited and to change the time when such prohibition is in effect.**
- C. Approval to amend Section 62.18, Titled 'Unlawful Depositing; Penalty' of the Code of Ordinances in order to revise the period of time from 48 hours to seven days for removal of improperly deposited solid waste and to correct typographical errors in Section 62.18.**

Mayor Gorwood removed Items B and C from the consent agenda to be discussed under Individual Items.

Councilmember Moon moved to approve the consent agenda with the exception of B and C. Councilmember Rushing seconds the motion. Voting for this motion were Councilmember Moon, Councilmember Shelby, Councilmember Segroves, Councilmember Rushing, Councilmember Tucker and Mayor Pro Tem Hill. **Motion passed. (6-0)**

REPORTS/UPDATES:

- 1. Report by the Executive Staff regarding any significant event that has occurred since the last regular Council meeting.**

No reports at this time.

INDIVIDUAL ITEMS:

- 1. Consideration and action regarding the appointment of Mayor Pro Tem.**

Councilmember Tucker moved to appoint Dawn Segroves as Mayor Pro Tem. Councilmember Rushing seconds the motion. Voting for this motion were Councilmember Moon, Councilmember Shelby, Councilmember Segroves, Councilmember Rushing, Councilmember Tucker and Councilmember Hill. **Motion passed. (6-0)**

- B. Approval to amend Section 78-173 of Chapter 78, Code of Ordinances to specify the side of North Spring Ridge where parking is prohibited and to change the time when such prohibition is in effect. (Ord. 3194-19)**

Councilmember Moon addressed concerns regarding the no parking ordinance and how it would be enforced. Chief Haber's response was that the "No Parking Zone" would only be during the school times, between 7:30am and 8:30am, and between 2:30pm and 3:30pm. Those times are the only time it will be enforced, signs will be posted.

Councilmember Hill moved to approve consent agenda items B and C. Councilmember Shelby seconds the motion. Councilmember Hill moved to amended the motion to approve "B" of the consent. Councilmember Shelby accepts the amendment. Voting for this motion were Councilmember Moon, Councilmember Shelby, Mayor Pro Tem Segroves, Councilmember Rushing, Councilmember Tucker and Councilmember Hill. **Motion passed. (6-0)**

- C. Approval to amend Section 62.18, Titled 'Unlawful Depositing; Penalty' of the Code of Ordinances in order to revise the period of time from 48 hours to seven days for removal of improperly deposited solid waste and to correct typographical errors in Section 62.18.**

Mayor Gorwood explained that the City Attorney made changes to the ordinance and wanted it to comeback before City Council for approval.

Councilmember Rushing moved to approve the amendment to Section 62.18, Titled 'Unlawful Depositing; Penalty' of the Code of Ordinances in order to revise the period of

time from 48 hours to seven days for removal of improperly deposited solid waste and to correct typographical errors in Section 62.18, along with the changes discussed as stated by City Attorney. (Ord. 3195-19) Councilmember Moon seconds the motion. Voting for this motion were Councilmember Moon, Councilmember Shelby, Mayor Pro Tem Segroves, Councilmember Rushing, Councilmember Tucker, and Councilmember Hill. **Motion passed. (6-0)**

2. Consideration and action regarding approval of a professional engineering service for infrastructure improvements for the Alexander Village Development.

Chris Dyser, Planning & Zoning, is requesting approval to hire Freeman-Millikan Inc. to conduct engineering, design and project management services to infrastructure improvements for Alexander Village development, funds not to exceed \$30,000.

Councilmember Hill moved to approve the professional engineering service for infrastructure improvements for the Alexander Village Development, not to exceed \$30,000. Councilmember Rushing seconds the motion. Voting for this motion were Councilmember Moon, Councilmember Shelby, Mayor Pro Tem Segroves, Councilmember Rushing, Councilmember Tucker and Councilmember Hill. **Motion passed. (6-0)**

3. Consideration and action regarding appointment(s) to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board.

Councilmember Shelby moved to approve the appointment(s) to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board: Wanda Adams, Linda Sprowl, Johnny Cox, Marie Tedei, and Shawn Monk. Councilmember Hill seconds the motion. Voting for this motion were Councilmember Moon, Councilmember Shelby, Mayor Pro Tem Segroves, Councilmember Rushing, Councilmember Tucker and Councilmember Hill. **Motion passed. (6-0)**

4. Consideration and action regarding approval to appoint Shawn Monk to the Flood and Drainage Committee.

Councilmember Moon moved to approve the appointment of Shawn Monk to the Flood and Drainage Committee. Councilmember Hill seconds the motion. Voting for this motion were Councilmember Moon, Councilmember Shelby, Mayor Pro Tem Segroves, Councilmember Rushing, Councilmember Tucker and Councilmember Hill. **Motion passed. (6-0)**

5. Discussion regarding ideas to encourage citizens to volunteer to serve on City Boards.

Mayor Pro Tem Segroves explained that after her research on data, ordinances and policies, she discovered that the City Council was not upholding the vision of the constituents that created the policies. She stated that City Ordinance Section 2-186; a (2) states that all City Councilmembers shall seek nominees to participate in the operation of municipal government. She explained that there are a few districts that aren't being represented, and that it is the responsibility of the City Council to encourage and nominate participants from their districts to serve. She said that guidance in the form of a brochure to inform constituents. She also explained that the form for appointment can be done

differently, such as using an online form. Paper forms that aren't completed in full are not considered; having an online form that requires certain questions to be completed, will prevent incomplete forms from being submitted.

City Council went into discussion in regards to seeking solutions to encourage participation and seeking volunteers for city Boards/Commissions. **No action taken.**

6. Consideration and action regarding customer service for the departments.

Councilmember Tucker explained that there was an issue with a citizen that came in to pay his water bill on disconnect day. After the citizen paid their water bill, his water was disconnected several hours afterwards, and was then required to pay a reconnection fee. Councilmember Tucker questioned why the payment of the reconnection fee wasn't mentioned to the citizen at the time he arrived to pay his water bill.

Susan Cluse, City Manager explained that the citizen was a repeat offender, and they can no longer continue to waive the fee for repeat offenders. She stated that the water bill and the disconnect notice states that the citizen is subject to reconnect fees, and water will be disconnected on a disconnect date specified by the city.

City Council went into further discussion regarding the matter of customer service. Mark Morris, Human Resources Director, explained to City Council that they are currently working on solutions to better their customer service.

Councilmember Moon moved to change the water bill policy to allow citizens till 10am the day after disconnect date to pay their water bill. Councilmember Tucker seconds the motion. Voting for the motion were Councilmember Moon, Councilmember Shelby, Mayor Pro Tem Segroves, Councilmember Rushing, Councilmember Tucker and Councilmember Hill. **Motion passed. (6-0)**

7. Consideration and action to form a volunteer group for code enforcement.

Councilmember Hill explained that a lot goes on during the weekend when code enforcement is unavailable. Councilmember Hill suggested a Code Enforcement Volunteer group, instead of hiring a Code Enforcement Officer.

City Council and City staff went into further discussion in regards to forming a volunteer group for code enforcement compliance. **No action taken.**

8. Discussion regarding the responsibility of setting grade and cleaning out bar ditches in the City.

Councilmember Tucker discussed the responsibility of setting grade and cleaning out bar ditches in the City. Councilmember Tucker wanted to know why an underground, street drainage system that gets clogged, is the responsibility of the city and not the bar ditches. Mr. Freeman explained that in the City Ordinance, the bar ditches are considered open property, which would place the responsibility of maintenance on the property owners. The underground water drainage system was installed by the city; therefore, it's the city's responsibility to maintain it. He explained that the Public Works department is going around

the city cleaning them out, but issue is the lack of man power and other departments and/or mechanisms may have to be shut down for that day, in order to clean it out.

Susan Cluse, City Manager, commented that having the resources to do the work plays a tremendous part in the matter as well. The lack of staff members to do the work makes it difficult to get the bar ditches cleaned out efficiently and in a timely manner. **No action taken.**

9. Discussion regarding additional staff needed for proper maintenance crews for streets, bar ditches and culvert clean outs.

Mayor Gorwood made the request to combine Agenda Items 8 and 9 together for further discussion.

City Councilmember and City staff went into further discussion in regards the budget and lack of staff for maintenance crews. **No action taken.**

10. Discussion regarding the corrections to the construction of the battlefield monument.

Councilmember Tucker addressed concerns with standing water and handicap ramp at the monument site.

Mr. Baladez explained that the site was engineered and designed to run-off water, but paver stones can be unlevelled and vary in size, so the site may have the tendency to hold water in some areas. He explained that the sprinklers can be adjusted to where they're not draining on certain areas of the monument, but since the facility is outside there will be minimal problems with holding water in particular areas.

Mrs. Cluse agreed that they will look into the matter and see if there are any possible solutions. **No action taken.**

11. Consideration and action regarding sidewalk priorities for the new budget.

Councilmember Moon requested that this item be postponed until the next meeting.

12. Announcements, requests for information, and/or new business to be placed on future agendas.

Mayor Gorwood

- Appointment of Linda Sprowl to the Flood & Drainage Committee
- Report by the Planning & Zoning Chair at their convenience
- Proposal & Budget for the Boards/Commissions Volunteer Brochures

Councilmember Hill

- Volunteer Application submitted by Linda Sprowl, needs to be signed to complete her application
- Information from City Attorney, in regards to Walking Quorum.

Councilmember Moon

- City Council to hold a future Town Hall meeting

Councilmember Rushing

- Stormwater Drainage Fees
- Ways to supplement next year's budget
- Concerns with Luedeke Park
- Curb & Gutter Maintenance

13. Closing prayer.

Mayor Gorwood gave the closing Prayer.

14. Adjourn.

Mayor Gorwood adjourned the council meeting at 9:51pm.

PASSED AND APPROVED AT A REGULAR MEETING HELD ON JUNE 24, 2019.