

THE CITY OF
BALCH SPRINGS
GROWING COMMUNITY

**SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING
CITY OF BALCH SPRINGS
JUNE 17, 2019
7:00 PM**

MINUTES

Identification of a quorum.

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

A quorum was present and Mayor Gorwood called the meeting to order at 7:12PM.

Staff: Susan Cluse, City Manager
Cindy Gross, City Secretary
Jon Haber, Police Chief
Chris Dyser, Planning & Zoning
William Freeman, Public Works Director
Mark Horak, Code Enforcement
Charles Anderson, City Attorney

Invocation was given by Susan Cluse, City Manager.

Pledge to the US Flag and the Texas Flag was led by city resident Johnny Red Cloud Cox.

Items of Community Interest - City Secretary:

June 29th – 4th of July Fireworks Celebration at 5:00pm at Irwin Park and Veterans Memorial
Dedication at 3:30pm.

August 10th – 3rd Annual Unity in the Community at 6:30pm at the Recreation Center.

Citizen Comments.

Speaker: Marie Tedei, 4708 Pioneer Rd., Balch Springs, TX. 75180
Subject: Spoke to City Council in regards to spending and illegal business.

Speaker: Misty Davis, 14328 Spring Oaks, Balch Springs, TX. 75180
Subject: Spoke to City Council in regards to code enforcement of alleys.

Speaker: Glenda Taylor, 14129 Marsha Dr., Balch Springs, TX. 75180
Subject: Thanked the Fire and Police Departments for volunteering to replace her gate.

Speaker: Gwendolyn Gardner, 13125 Valley Forge, Balch Springs, TX. 75180
Subject: Spoke to City Council in regards to togetherness/community.

Speaker: Charlene Rushing, 11704 Manon Dr., Balch Springs, TX. 75180
Subject: Spoke to City Council in regards to fairness and politics.

Mayor Gorwood closed citizen's comments.

CONSENT AGENDA:

- A. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**
 - 1. May 13, 2019 - Regular Meeting**
 - 2. May 15, 2019 – Special Meeting - Canvass**
- B. Approval of a resolution adopting the Water Conservation Plan. (Res. 838-19)**
- C. Approval a resolution in support of the submission of a reservation system application for funding from the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs, for the Amy Young Barrier Removal program. (Res. 839-19)**

Councilmember Moon moved to approve the consent agenda. Councilmember Shelby 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)

REPORTS/UPDATES:

- 1. Update on Keep Balch Springs Beautiful 2019 Don't Mess with Texas Trash Off and volunteer partnership with Neighborhood Services.**

Linda Highwood and Santosha Pratt gave a power point presentation regarding Keep Balch Springs Beautiful 2019 Don't Mess with Texas Trash Off and volunteer partnership with Neighborhood Services.

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

Brad Harris, updated the City Council regarding the severe weather and power outage from June 9, 2019.

INDIVIDUAL ITEMS:

- 1. Consideration and action to approve a resolution in support of the Balch Springs Safe Routes to School Sidewalk Application for Projects by the Texas Department of Transportation.**

Chris Dyer, Planning Department, is requesting approval of a resolution in support of the Balch Springs Safe Routes to School Sidewalk Application, for Projects by the Texas Department of Transportation. Mr. Dyer explained to the City Council that the grant is 100% reimbursed if awarded funding for sidewalk improvements. If awarded, the project

funding would be made available by May, 2020 and 2021. Mr. Dyser stated that the goal of this project is implementation of the 2036 Balch Springs Comprehensive Plan, and to establish alternative and safe modes of transportation, by offering sidewalk connections to local schools.

Councilmember Rushing moved to approve a resolution in support of the Balch Springs Safe Routes to School Sidewalk Application for Projects by the Texas Department of Transportation (Res.840-19). 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)

City Council recessed at 7:51pm

City Council reconvened at 8:01pm

2. Consideration and action to amend the Master Fee Schedule regarding update on building permit fees.

Lupe Baladez, Building Department, updated the City Council regarding House Bill 852, affecting many municipalities. Mr. Baladez is requesting approval to amend the City's Master Fee Schedule regarding building permit fees to include a flat fee or a fee based on square footage.

Councilmember Moon moved to approve the amendment to the Master Fee Schedule regarding building permit fees. 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)

3. Consideration and action regarding code enforcement letter.

Council Rushing would like to postpone agenda item #3 until the next meeting regarding the code enforcement letter, until Mr. Akers could be present.

4. Consideration and action regarding approval for the City Attorney to prepare a termination letter to Redflex, and to repeal ordinances related to Redflex.

Charles Anderson, City Attorney, updated the City Council regarding House Bill 1631 regarding the Photo Red Light Camera Program. Mr. Anderson informed the City Council that the red-light cameras have been prohibited with some narrow exceptions, that do not apply for Balch Springs. Mr. Anderson stated that Mr. Akers is seeking authorization from the City Council to prepare a termination letter to Redflex, and to repeal ordinances related to Redflex.

Councilmember Rushing moved to direct the City Attorney to prepare a termination letter to Redflex. Councilmember Moon seconds the motion. Councilmember Rushing moved to amend the motion to include the repeal ordinances related to Redflex. Councilmember Moon 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)**

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

Councilmember Moon held a discussion regarding that the City Manager has indicated that she placed \$500,000 in next year's budget. Ms. Cluse stated that the \$500,000 is for the Safe Route School grant.

City Council and staff held a discussion regarding the sidewalk properties and safe route to school grant, and allocation of funding. Councilmember Moon would like to postpone until the next meeting, in order for staff to provide City Council information regarding the sidewalk priorities. Councilmember Moon removed this agenda item.

6. Consideration and action regarding appointment(s) to the Flood and Drainage Committee.

Councilmember Shelby moved to appoint Linda Sprowl and Angela Foutz 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)

7. Consideration and action regarding a future Town Hall Meeting.

Councilmember Moon moved to have a Town Hall Meeting with a date to be determined with a format that was discussed with citizen comments and seven councilmember tables. 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)**

8. Consideration and action regarding approval of the storm water drainage fees.

Mr. Anderson stated that the city would need to establish a municipal drainage district in order to charge a fee. City Council and staff held discussion regarding drainage district and addressed concerns with adding additional fees to the residents.

Councilmember Rushing move to direct the City Attorney to do some research and bring the information at the next meeting. Councilmember Hill seconds the motion. Voting for this motion were Councilmember Shelby, Mayor Pro Tem Segroves, Councilmember Rushing, and Councilmember Hill. Voting in opposition were Councilmember Moon Councilmember Tucker **Motion passed. (4-2)**

9. Discussion regarding concerns with Luedeke Park.

Councilmember Rushing stated that she has some issues at Luedeke Park, and would like to discuss them with the City Manager later in the week.

10. Discussion regarding debris in the curbs and gutters.

Councilmember Rushing addressed concerns regarding debris in the curbs and gutters and the issue that needs to be addressed with Good Earth.

City Staff will address concerns and issues addressed by City Council regarding Good Earth.

11. Discussion by City Attorney regarding a Walking Quorum.

Mr. Anderson held a discussion regarding the Walking Quorums and the Texas Open Meetings Act. Mr. Anderson explained that a walking quorum is when a governmental body meets outside of a regular meeting, with less than a quorum, and the violations and elements of crime.

12. Consideration and action regarding approval to purchase a John Deere mower for the Parks Department.

City Staff removed this agenda item.

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

Councilmember Tucker - Items for the next City Council Meeting:

- Discussion regarding making the food pantry a designated school bus stop for MISD
- Discussion to install an awning for food pantry deliveries and sidewalk to the front door

Councilmember Rushing – Items for the next City Council Meeting:

- Executive session regarding Judge Huffman's duties and responsibilities in regards to code enforcement

Councilmember Segroves

- Workshop regarding volunteers and spreading them out within community

14. Closing prayer.

Gwendolyn Gardner gave the closing prayer.

15. Adjourn.

Mayor Gorwood adjourned the meeting at 9:08pm.

PASSED AND APPROVED AT A REGULAR MEETING HELD ON JULY 8, 2019.