

**CITY OF CASTROVILLE CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR CALLED COUNCIL MEETING**

**1209 Fiorella
City Council Chambers**

January 12, 2021

Tuesday

5:00 P.M.

MINUTES

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 5:02 p.m. by Mayor Pro Tem Schroeder

II. ROLL CALL

Present:

Mayor Pro Tem Darrin Schroeder

Councilmember Sheena Martinez

Councilmember Paul Carey

Councilmember Phil King

Councilmember Todd Tschirhart

Debra Howe, City Secretary

Brian Jackson, Police Chief

John Gomez, Public Works Director

Devin Fredrickson, Parks and Recreation Director

Absent:

Leroy Vidales, Interim City Administrator

III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

IV. INVOCATION

Councilmember Phil King gave the invocation.

V. CITIZEN COMMENTS

The public will be permitted to offer public comments telephonically as provided by the agenda and as permitted by the presiding officer during the meeting. Written questions or comments may be submitted up to two hours before the meeting. A recording of the telephonic meeting will be made and will be available to the public in accordance with the Texas Public Information Act upon request.

No one requested to speak.

VI. Updates on safety measures for city staff and the public during the COVID 19 pandemic

Councilmember Martinez reported the numbers of COVID 19 cases in Medina County and surrounding areas were still going up. Ms. Martinez urged everyone to continue to wear mask in public and continue to socially distance.

VII. CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Minutes for December 8, 2020 Regular Called Meeting.
- B. Minutes for December 11, 2020 Special Called Council meeting.
- C. Minutes for December 17, 2020 Special Called Council meeting.
- D. Purchase of an additional vehicle for Public Works.
- E. Acceptance of the Wastewater Treatment Plant Expansion Project.

Mayor Pro Tem Schroeder recommended in the future placing purchases of vehicles or equipment on the regular agenda.

A motion was made by Councilmember King and duly seconded by Councilmember Tschirhart to approve the consent agenda. A vote was taken (5:0 all ayes) the motion carried by all present.

VIII. Discussion and appropriate action on the appointment of Randall Scott Dixon for the position of City Administrator and approval of related employment contract

Mayor Pro Tem Schroeder stated the search for the city administrator had been a very lengthy process but the city had received some very good quality candidates for the position. He said the city council had narrowed down the search to two candidates and was pleased to extend the offer to Mr. Scott Dixon.

A motion was made by Councilmember Tschirhart and duly seconded Councilmember Carey to appoint Randall Scott Dixon for the position of City Administrator and approval of related employment contract. A vote was taken (5:0 all ayes) the motion carried by all present.

IX. Oath of Office of new City Administrator Randall Scott Dixon

City Secretary Debra Howe administered the oath of office to the new City Administrator Scott Dixon. The Mayor Pro Tem and City Council welcomed Mr. Dixon to the city.

X. Consider and take appropriate action on approving an ordinance amending the 2021 Budget for Phase I Electrical Improvements in the River Bluff Subdivision in the amount not to exceed \$636,463.84. (John Gomez, Public Works Director)

Public Works Director John Gomez briefed the city council on the ordinance amending the current budget for funding for the Phase I Electrical Improvements for the River Bluff Subdivision. Mr. Gomez said he had increased the estimate by 20% to allow for possible increases. Mayor Pro Tem Schroeder asked new City Administrator Scott Dixon his opinion on using reserves to fund the first phase of the project. Mr. Dixon said he would recommend going out for a bond for large projects and keep the reserve in tack but would like to look at the project and history to be able to make a better determination of what would be best for the city. Councilmember Martinez spoke on the issues her area had in the past and about the project being placed on hold for several years. She agreed to wait on voting on the ordinance at this meeting to allow Mr. Dixon to become more familiar with the project and bring back his recommendation. Council agreed.

A motion was made by Councilmember Martinez and duly seconded by Councilmember Carey to table and bring back at the next council meeting for action. A vote was taken (5:0 all ayes) the motion carried by all present.

XI. Consider and take appropriate action on a citizen's request for speed control and directing the Police Chief to conduct a traffic study at the intersection of Houston and Angelo Streets with a follow up report to the city council. (Devin Fredrickson, Parks and Recreation Director/Streets)

Parks and Recreation Director/Streets Devin Fredrickson briefed the city council on a citizen contacting him on issues with speeding in the city. Mr. Fredrickson said the intersection of Houston and Angelo Streets was the area the citizen had spoken to him about and understood the police department would need to do a traffic study to determine if a stop sign was necessary to control the speed.

Councilmembers felt more police presence would probably help the situation but Police Chief Jackson said they would need to hire more officers to be able to provide that service.

A motion was made by Councilmember Carey and duly seconded by Councilmember Martinez to direct the Police Chief to conduct a traffic study at the intersection of Houston and Angelo Streets with a follow up report to the city council. A vote was taken (5:0 all ayes) the motion carried by all present.

XII. Consider and take appropriate action on a request to relocate the polling place for the jointly held City 2021 General Election and Medina Valley Independent School District to the Medina County Precinct 1 Facility. (Debra Howe, City Secretary)

City Secretary Debra Howe briefed the city council on the request to change the current polling place to the Medina County Annex Building. Ms. Howe said the city and school would be having a joint election this year together and with the COVID 19 restrictions the city hall could not handle the amount of voters and uphold the restrictions for a smooth voting process. Ms. Howe said the change would allow the citizens additional voting hours with a Saturday added. Council members agreed with the recommended change.

A motion was made by Councilmember Tschirhart and duly seconded by Councilmember Martinez to approve the request to relocate the polling place for the jointly held City 2021 General Election and Medina Valley Independent School District to the Medina County Precinct 1 facility. A vote was taken (5:0 all ayes) the motion carried by all present.

XIII. Consider and take appropriate action on adopting a resolution declaring various equipment and vehicles to be surplus and or salvage and authorize city administrator to dispose of property in a manner which is beneficial to the city and authorizing any additional actions reasonably necessary to dispose of surplus/salvage property. (John Gomez, Public Works Director/Brian Jackson, Police Chief)

Public Works Director John Gomez and Police Chief Brian Jackson briefed the city council on adopting a resolution to declare the listed equipment and vehicles their departments wanted to sale. City Secretary Howe said there were more items submitted after the deadline and another resolution would be brought back at the next meeting.

A motion was made by Councilmember Carey and duly seconded by Councilmember Martinez to adopt a resolution declaring various equipment and vehicles to be surplus and or salvage and authorize the city administrator to dispose of property in a manner which is beneficial to the city and authorizing any additional actions reasonably necessary to dispose of surplus/salvage property. A vote was taken (5:0 all ayes) the motion carried by all present.

XIV. Review and possible action on updated Guiding Principles Policy and guidance to developers pertaining to the principles. (Darrin Schroeder, Mayor Pro Tem)

Mayor Pro Tem Schroeder briefly spoke on the updating of the guiding principles policy he was working on. Mr. Schroeder said these principles should reflect the lifestyle and what the community stood for when in talks with future developers. Council members asked new City Administrator Dixon his opinion on having this type of policy. Mr. Dixon said he had dealt with this before and would look at the draft policy and provide input on how the council would use in decision making. Mr. Dixon said this would be a working document. Mayor Pro Tem Schroeder said he would send back out the updates and this would be brought back at a later date.

Mayor Pro Tem Schroeder asked council if the executive session on evaluations could be skipped and placed on an upcoming meeting. Council agreed.

XV. EXECUTIVE SESSION

The City Council will meet in Closed Session pursuant to the Texas Government Code, Section 551.074 (entitled “personnel matters”) to deliberate the evaluation, and performance and duties of the Interim City Administrator, the City Secretary and the Police Chief.

XVI. Reconvene in Open Session

XVII. Consider possible action or give direction on items legally discussed in Executive Session

XVIII. Discussion on future agenda items

City Administrator Dixon would be bringing back an update on the electrical Phase I River Bluff Subdivision funding options.

Council requested they start receiving weekly/bi-weekly reports from the City Administrator. City Administrator Dixon said he made it a practice to provide a monthly report to council on projects and other items of interest.

XIX. Adjourn

Mayor Pro Tem Schroeder adjourned the meeting at 6:24 p.m.

Darrin Schroeder
Mayor Pro Tem

ATTEST:

Debra Howe
City Secretary