

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

**1209 Fiorella
City Council Chambers**

May 11, 2021

Tuesday

5:00 P.M.

MINUTES

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Pro Tem Darrin Schroeder called the meeting to order at 5:04 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL

Present:

Mayor Pro Tem Darrin Schroeder
Councilmember Sheena Martinez
Councilmember Paul Carey
Councilmember Phil King

Scott Dixon, City Administrator
Debra Howe, City Secretary
Devin Fredrickson, Parks and Recreation Director

Absent:

Councilmember Todd Tschirhart

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.

Robert Lee, 1314 Gentilz, spoke to the city council on the city's needing to improve the water and sewer systems. Mr. Lee suggested that during the budget discussions the council make the wells, generators, and system improvements a priority. Mr. Lee commented on the automatic meter-reading program saying that during his tenure, the council had put in place a program to have smart meters installed in new subdivisions for future integration to a new system in the future. He was unsure if this practice was still in place.

VI. Canvassing the May 1, 2021 General Election Results for District 1 and Mayor

City Secretary Debra Howe briefed the city council on the results of the General Election. Ms. Howe provided the unofficial results for the Mayor, District 1. Ms. Howe announced for Mayor - Darrin Schroeder received 269 votes and Mickey Gallegos received 78 for a total of 347. For District 1 - Sheena Martinez received 52 votes and Phyllis Santleben received 7 for a total of 59 votes cast. For District 2 - Paul Carey was unopposed.

A motion was made by Councilmember King and duly seconded by Councilmember Carey to accept the General Election results declaring Darrin Schroeder Mayor, Sheena Martinez Councilmember for District 1 and Paul Carey for Councilmember District 2. A vote was taken (4:0 all ayes) the motion carried by all present.

VII. Swearing In Ceremony for Mayor, District 1, District 2, and Municipal Judge

City Secretary Debra Howe proceeded to administer the oath of office to Municipal Judge Tom Cate, District 1 Sheena Martinez, District 2 Paul Carey and new Mayor Darrin Schroeder for two-year terms ending May 2023.

Mayor Schroeder recessed the meeting at 5:16 p.m. for refreshments.
Mayor Schroeder reconvened in open session at 5:30 p.m.

VIII. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Minutes for April 27, 2021 Regular Called Council Meeting.

A motion was made by Councilmember Carey and duly seconded by Councilmember Martinez to approve the consent agenda. A vote was taken (2:1(abstain) (King)) the motion carried by a majority vote.

IX. City Administrator Report:

- a. Utility Payment Credit Policy**
- b. Drainage concerns**
- c. Siren Protocols – Emergency Management Services**
- d. Property Damage**
- e. Airport Fencing Project**
- f. Airport Property Analysis**
- g. Pool Improvements**
- h. HR Outsourcing**
- i. Council Retreat**
- j. COVID Relief Bill Funding**
- k. Fiber for City Hall and Police Department**
- l. Ameresco – AMR Contract**

City Administrator Scott Dixon briefed the city council on current and recent weather issues and the emergency management policy. Mr. Dixon said updates to the policy had not been since 2007 and he, the Mayor, Police Chief, and County Emergency Coordinator would be meeting in the future to look at updates. Mayor Schroeder said they needed to look at safety protocols and the comfort level of the citizens. Councilmember Martinez said the plan should be reviewed yearly by city staff, with re-adoption every five years. She said the plan had to be submitted to the State and approved for the plan to be official. Councilmember King stated he had spoken with some of the citizens on the sirens and they liked to hear the testing, it gave them comfort knowing they were working. Mr. Dixon said he would be setting up a training for the city council on the plan so they would be

familiar with the protocols. Mr. Dixon provided pictures of the recent storm showing the high water and Airport Terminal Building damage. Mr. Dixon said the terminal building had been inspected by a structural engineer and they were waiting on the report to determine the next step to repair/rebuild and possibly enlarge the building, if financially feasible. Mr. Dixon spoke of a donation from Ken and Arlene Smith of an Olympic diving board for the city pool. Mr. Dixon said Vernon Jackson had officially retired and the retirement lunch had been well attended. Mr. Dixon spoke briefly on outsourcing HR duties and would bring back a contract; upgrading the internet service to fiber for city hall and police department; planning a retreat for council; the city probably receiving some Covid funds; and the automatic meter reading program still being looked at. There were no questions on the reports.

X. Discussion and possible action on setting a date, time, place and topics for an Airport work session

Mayor Schroeder briefed the city council on holding town hall meetings for discussions with the Medina Valley Baseball Association and River Bluff Electrical upgrades. Mayor Schroeder wanted to have a more in-depth discussion for a better understanding on the ballfields and the FAA requirements. City Administrator Dixon suggested contacting the association and getting dates they could work with and scheduling a meeting. Mr. Dixon said the River Bluff Electric upgrades meeting should be later and there would be a presentation on the upgrades at the next meeting from Schneider Engineering.

XI. Declare vacant seat for District 5 with applications accepted until May 20, 2021, 5 p.m.

City Secretary Debra Howe briefed the city council on process of filling the vacant seat for District 5. Ms. Howe said the application was available on the website and at city hall with the deadline for acceptance until May 20, 2021 at 5p.m. This would allow the council to review any applications at the May 25th meeting and appoint to fill the vacancy.

XII. Discussion on future agenda items

Councilmember Martinez had a request for an update on the Spring Cleaning from Code Enforcement. Mayor Schroeder requested dates be sent out for the council retreat. No other requests were received.

XIII. ADJOURN

Mayor Schroeder adjourned the meeting at 6:15 p.m.

Darrin Schroeder
Mayor

ATTEST:

Debra Howe
City Secretary

*Signatures on file

