

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

**1209 Fiorella
City Council Chambers**

February 12, 2019

Tuesday

6:00 P.M.

MINUTES

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Mayor Timothy Kelley.

II. ROLL CALL

Present:

Mayor Tim Kelley

Mayor Pro Tem Paul Carey

Councilmember Phyllis Santleben

Councilmember Jesse Byars

Councilmember Herb Dyer

Lee Elliott, Interim City Administrator

Jeri Rainey-Hinojosa, Assistant City Administrator

Debra Howe, City Secretary

Brian Jackson, Interim Police Chief

Mary Jo Vargas, HR Director

Devin Fredrickson, Park Superintendent

Absent:

Councilmember Todd Tschirhart

III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

IV. INVOCATION

Pastor Greg Knippa, Zion Lutheran Church gave the invocation.

V. Mayor's comments on activities within the city

Mayor Kelley began the meeting with an announcement of one of the city's long time employees, Dorothy Bernard passing away. Mayor Kelley talked of the various positions she had held in the 19 years of her employment and the loss to the city and staff. Mayor Kelley gave an update on the new trash cans being installed at Regional Park; the first late night at the Library was well attended; the Library received \$10,000 for non-fiction materials from the Tocker Foundation; and the internet problems related to low band width was being addressed; security of the city buildings was also being updated.

VI. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Minutes for January 22, 2019 Regular Called Council Meeting.

B. Appointment of Interim City Administrator Lee Elliott.

Councilmember Santleben asked about the appointment of the Interim City Administrator being shown under the consent agenda. Ms. Santleben felt it should be a line item to allow for discussion. Ms. Santleben asked if it was a formality since he had already started working for the city. Mayor Kelley said it was.

Councilmember Dyer made a point of inquiry on agenda items he had requested not being place on the agenda for discussion. Mayor Kelley felt it was not legal to discuss something that was not listed for discussion on the agenda at that time. Mr. Dyer read a state law allowing him to speak on a subject not on the agenda if he stated a point of inquiry. Mayor Kelley took note of his request. Mr. Dyer wished to vote on allowing his items to be placed on the next agenda.

A motion was made by Councilmember Dyer to place his items on the next agenda for discussion. There was no second to his motion. The motion died from a lack of a second.

A motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Carey and duly seconded by Councilmember Byars to approve the consent agenda. A vote was taken (3 ayes:1 nay (Santleben)) the motion carried by a majority vote.

VII. CITIZENS COMMENTS

The City Council will hear comments from any citizen or visitor. Speakers must address their comments to the presiding officer rather than individual council members or staff; stand at the podium, speak clearly into the microphone and state your name and residential address before speaking. Speakers will be allowed a maximum of 3 minutes for testimony. Speakers making personal, impertinent, profane or slanderous remarks will be given one warning before losing the privilege to speak or may be removed from the room. Unauthorized remarks from the audience, stamping of feet, whistles, yells and similar demonstrations/distractions will not be permitted. No placards, banners or signs will be permitted in the Chambers or in any other room in which the council is meeting. In accordance with the State Open Meetings Act, the City Council is restricted from discussing or taking action on items not listed on the agenda. Action can only be taken at a future meeting.

Sheena Martinez, 113 River Trail, Castroville, introduced herself and stated she was running for District 1 council seat.

Eli Arroyo, 1531 Old Hwy 90 West, Castroville, introduced himself and stated he was running for District council seat and was there to help the city in any way he could.

Priscilla Garrett, 702 Florence, Castroville, updated the city council on the completion of the barn at Steinbach Haus. Ms. Garrett said the wagon and wine barrel had been stored at the Public Works yard for the last 20 years and they were now on display at the Steinbach Haus. Ms. Garrett said no tax payers' money was used on the project. The project had been completed with lots of free help and donations from the Garden Club and Castroville Conservation. Ms. Garrett said a mural was planned for the back wall with a dedication ceremony planned for April. Ms. Garrett said they had collected \$634.00 in the donation box, received \$1191.00 from tours, and a donation of \$200 was given to Living History Center (Biry-Ahr House) for opening the house outside of normal hours for the historical tours. Ms. Garrett said they had a balance to date of \$8202.90 and hoped to start on the final phase of an observation deck overlooking the river behind the Steinbach Haus at some point in the future.

VIII. Presentation on Castroville Volunteer Fire Department hosting Wintergarden pumper truck event to be held on March 24, 2019. (Terry Beck, Volunteer Fire Department Board Chairman)

Volunteer Fire Department Board Chairman Terry Beck introduced the Fire Chief Rick Lair and Assistant Fire Chief Don Hueber to the city council. Chief Lair briefed the city council on the annual business meeting for the area fire departments. Chief Lair said on March 24, 2019 the

Castroville department would be hosting the event at the Braden Keller Center for a business meeting and lunch followed by Pumper Truck races. The fire department requested to use the east side of Houston Square and have Lorenzo Street along Houston Square closed during the event. Council members were in favor of the request.

No formal action was taken.

**IX. Presentation on Employee Insurance Plan and projected premiums.
(Mary Jo Vargas, Human Resource Director/ TML-IRP Representatives)**

HR Director Mary Jo Vargas briefed the city council on the current insurance provided to the city employees. Ms. Vargas provided a graph showing the years with no increases and recent increases. Ms. Vargas said the recommendation was to change the medical plan year to October 1st through September 30th to be in line with the city's fiscal year, at the current premium rate for the medical coverage and COBRA Continuation Coverage Administrative Agreement with TML MultiState IEBP. Ms. Vargas said if the council approved, in June the city would get a rerate and this would give the city time to make comparisons with other companies. Mayor Kelley state this agenda item was a presentation only and would need to be brought back for council action.

X. Presentation on Park Garden. (Devin Fredrickson, Park Superintendent/Patrick Connor, Park Garden Committee)

Park Garden Committee member Patrick Connor thanked the city council for allowing the committee to update the city council on this project and staff for helping make the city a better place to live. A presentation was prepared but the program would not open. Mr. Connor said the project was originally approved by a previous council in 2014. Mr. Connor said they prepared plans and had fundraisers to fund the projects. The Friends of Regional Park are a 501C and over saw the financials. The Botanical Garden Subcommittee was involved with this phase of the project. Mr. Connor said they had received \$5000 cash from Vulcan Materials and they pledged to provide all of the materials for the project. Greater Edwards Aquafer Alliance had donated \$10,000 toward the project. Mr. Connor said no city funds would be used for the improvements and the work would be done by volunteers. The current project was to build a sidewalk from the pool area to the main part of the park. Mr. Connor said the triangle area on the roadway leading up to the wastewater treatment plant would be stone terraces with flowers with a sidewalk. Mayor Kelley stated the committee may want to wait as the ponds may be eliminated and that part of the planned walkway would be gone. Mr. Connor said the areas in which they plan to work on would not be affected, if TCEQ requirements made the removal of the ponds necessary. Mr. Connor said once the wastewater treatment plant was complete they would landscape the area. Councilmember Santleben asked if any of the improvements would help with parking during soccer season. Mr. Connor said no help with parking but with the walkway coming from the parking area it would be safer for visitors to get to the park by not having to walk on the street. Mr. Connor said they were doing these projects for the birding and plants to bring more visitors. He also wanted to thank Darrin Schroeder for helping with the project. City Secretary Debra Howe told the city council she would send them a copy of the presentation for their records.

XI. Update on Warrant Officer Program. (Brian Jackson, Interim Police Chief)

Interim Police Chief Brian Jackson briefed the city council on the Warrant Officer Program put into place a few months previously. Interim Police Chief Jackson said the city had never had a program in place for collecting on outstanding warrants so it was taking time to get the process started. Interim Police Chief Jackson said they were working to get more information when officers made a stop so they could have a better tracking system such as listing their work address. The police department had a new program called Lexus/Nexus that had several different ways to conduct a search for the people. The Warrant Officer was going out and leaving door hangers and they were getting a good response with this type of notice. Interim Police Chief Jackson said to date there had been 42 pre-warrant notices and 36 warrant letters sent out. He said to help with the arrest process they would like have a holding cell in the future. Mayor Kelley asked for a report on collections. Assistant City Administrator Jeri Rainey-Hinojosa said they had collected \$4,400 over what was collected at the same time last year. Mayor Kelley asked if the program was paying for itself. Ms. Rainey-Hinojosa said it was. Councilmember Byars asked what the timeline from the time a ticket was written to collection. Interim Police Chief Jackson said from the time the citation was written and the person did not appear in court it was a minimum of 60 days before a warrant could be issued and that was by State Law. Interim Police Chief Jackson said they were working to collect on the old outstanding warrants and looking to improve the court proceedings with additional help in the future. Council was pleased with the progress report.

Before Agenda Item XII Mayor Kelley announced “*pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 551.071 (entitled “consultant with attorney”)* Council shall convene in executive session to receive legal advice from the City Attorney regarding agenda item XII.”

Mayor Kelley recessed the meeting at 6:54 p.m.

X. RECONVENE IN OPEN SESSION

Mayor Kelley reconvened the meeting in open session at 7:23 p.m.

X. CONSIDER POSSIBLE ACTION RESULTING FROM ITEMS POSTED AND LEGALLY DISCUSSED IN EXECUTIVE SESSION

No action was taken in Executive Session.

XII. Consider and take appropriate action on approving an Ordinance amending the budget for unforeseen weather related Sludge Removal at the Wastewater Treatment Plant. (Jeri Rainey-Hinojosa, Assistant City Administrator)

This item was not discussed.

XIII. Council input on Capital purchases and projects for 2019/2020 Budget. (Tim Kelley, Mayor)

Mayor Kelley said he placed this item on the agenda so council would have a chance to provide input for staff as they started the budget process. Mayor Kelley wanted to focus on the electrical updates to River Bluff and doing more streets. Councilmember Dyer provided a list of projects as did other councilmembers for staff to incorporate. The recommendations were: Meter Replacement Program, East Side Elevated Water Tank, East Side Well, Water Looping, Electrical Infrastructure Repairs for River Bluff and Country Village, Athens Street Flood Control, Bask-up Generators, Cross Hill Distribution, Airport Development, Street Projects and a Holding Cell at the Police Department.

XIV. Adjourn.

Mayor Kelley adjourned the meeting at 7:27 p.m.

Timothy Kelley
Mayor

ATTEST:

Debra Howe
City Secretary