

**REGULAR MEETING AND PUBLIC HEARING
OF THE GOVERNING BODY OF
THE CITY OF BLANCO**

**Meeting Minutes
January 14, 2025**

A regular meeting and public hearing of the City Council, City of Blanco, Texas was held on January 14, 2025, at 6:00 pm at the Byars Building, 308 Pecan Street, Blanco, Texas.

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm by Mayor Arnold, followed by roll call announcing a quorum was present. The Invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Pastor Carlos Cloyd. Council members present: Mayor Arnold, Mayor Pro-Tem Mack-McClung and Council Members Swinson, Moses, Cargill, and Moore.

City staff present: Warren Escovy, City Administrator, Laurie Cassidy, City Secretary, Dana Bundick, Interim Finance Director, Jose Martinez, Finance Director, and Chief Jerry Thornhill.

Mayor Arnold made the following announcements:

- The City is under Stage 3 Drought Restrictions
- The Blanco County Burn Ban is on

The Mayor presented Dorothy Trimble with a plaque for her late husband Ryan Trimble's six years of service as Mayor of the City of Blanco.

Public Comments:

- Eric Burkhart, not a City of Blanco resident, spoke regarding Founders Day and old friends reuniting. Looking for cooperation and seeing everyone working together at this event.
- Tonia Martinets, not a City of Blanco resident, spoke in support of Founders Day.
- Amy Arnold, City of Blanco resident, spoke regarding Founders Day and asked for the Council's support and participation at the event.
- Gene Triesch, not a City of Blanco resident, spoke in support of Founders Day.
- Kenneth Welch, Blanco County resident, spoke in support of New Business item 7, Council-manager form of Government. He also shared his thoughts regarding New Business item 9 in support of the Streetscape Committee. Lastly, he spoke regarding New Business item 10, asked for this item (281 Relief Route) to be tabled.
- Michael Ethridge, Blanco County resident, spoke out in opposition of the 281 relief route, he is completely opposed to putting route through his property.
- Julie Alexander, City of Blanco resident, shared her concerns with the 281 relief route and asked the Council to advocate for the bypass to remain outside the ETJ.
- Waymond Lightfoot, City of Blanco resident, spoke regarding the 281 relief route, saying he is in favor of any bypass route within the city limits or the ETJ. He asked what the council's current position is on the issue.

Opened Public Hearing at 6:27 pm. There being no public comments, closed Public Hearing at 6:27 pm.

1. Approval of Short-Term Rental Permit Application at 1312 Greenlawn Pkwy. (Greenlawn Place Subdivision, Lot 06, 0.2767 Acres), Blanco, Texas 78606, (Property Owner: Tejas Heritage Homes, LLC).

AD-HOC COMMITTEE PRESENTATION:

Streetscape Committee 2025 Update presented by Retta Martin and Stefanie Wright. They also shared the next mixer will be held on Thursday, January 16 from 5-7 pm.

Staff Presentations:

1. City Hall, Warren Escovy, City Administrator, shared the following, new Finance Director, Jose Martinez was introduced, election application period opens tomorrow and continues until February 14, safety issues on Pecan Bridge, rock wall pre clearing being done, installing generators at the police department and portable generator for public works facilities, replacing 10 fire hydrants, roller for pothole repair has been received, new projects, fence at WTP, replacement of pumps at WTP, working on bond for future of the City.
2. City Hall, Dana Bundick, Interim Finance Director and Jose Martinez, Finance Director shared the December Monthly Financial Report.
3. Police Department, Chief Thornhill presented the December 2024 monthly report. Chief Thornhill discussed the Christmas Day parade and suggested that it not be allowed on the same weekend as market days, high risk of danger, two accidents during the parade. Staff update: Lt. McMains has taken a job with the AG's office. He discussed the December monthly report and shared that he is still working on the lighting survey, carefully reviewing.

Consent Agenda: *The following items may be acted upon in one motion.* No separate discussion or action is necessary unless requested by the Mayor or a Council Member, in which those items will be pulled for separate consideration.

1. Approval of Minutes from the December 10, 2024, Regular Meeting.
2. Approval of Minutes from the December 30, 2024, Special Meeting.

A motion was made by Council Member Moore to approve the consent agenda items one and two as presented, seconded by Council Member Moses all in favor, motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS: Consider, discuss, and take appropriate action on the following:

1. Consideration, Discussion, and Take Possible Action on Approval of Short-Term Rental Permit Application at 1312 Greenlawn Pkwy. (Greenlawn Place Subdivision, Lot 06, 0.2767 Acres), Blanco, Texas 78606, (Property Owner: Tejas Heritage Homes, LLC). The application meets all the requirements and P&Z recommends approval. **A motion was made by Council Member Moses to approve the short-term rental permit at 1312 Greenlawn Pkwy, seconded by Council Member Moore, all in favor, motion carried unanimously.**
2. Consideration, Discussion, and Take Possible Action on Approval of Street Closures for Founders Day, March 22, 2025. Betty Jones, Blanconians and Friends, discussed details of the second annual Founders Day event to include a street dance with live music by Bobby Mack, Jesse Stratton Band and Middle of the Fiddle (their last event), free kids zone, food and drinks, and local community booths. They are asking for approval of street closures on 3rd Street from US 281 to Pecan Street and Pecan St from 3rd St. to just past the Byars Building between the hours of 10 am to 11 pm. Chief Thornhill is good with the street closures requested.

A motion was made by Council Member Cargill to approve the street closures for Founders Day as requested, seconded by Council Member Moore, all in favor, motion carried unanimously.

3. Consideration, Discussion, and Take Possible Action on Approval of an Election Services Contract between the City of Blanco and the Blanco County Elections Officer for the May 3, 2025, Uniform Election and Related Services (Laurie Cassidy, City Secretary). **A motion was made by Council Member Moses to approve the Election Services Contract between the City and Blanco County Elections Office, seconded by Council Member Swinson, all in favor, motion carried unanimously.**
4. Consideration, Discussion and Take Possible Action on Approval of Ordinance 2025-O-001 General Election Order, Providing for the Holding of a General Election on May 3, 2025, for the Purpose of Electing One Mayor and Two Council Members at Large (Laurie Cassidy, City Secretary). **A motion was made by Council Member Moses to approve Ordinance 2025-O-001 General Election Order, Providing for the Holding of a General Election on May 3, 2025, for the Purpose of Electing One Mayor and Two Council Members at Large, seconded by Council Member Moore, all in favor, motion carried unanimously.**
5. Consideration, Discussion, and Take Possible Action on Approval of Budget Amendment in the amount of \$47,052.84 for Replacement of Pumps at the Water Treatment Plant. Warren Escovy shared the water treatment plan (WTP) is now working but the pumps are outdated and need to be replaced. He shared the City has \$55,000 in reserves that could be taken from I&S or the Enterprise Fund. AAW Pumps Motors Control provided a quote of \$47,052.84. The Council discussed ongoing maintenance of the pumps. **A motion was made by Council Member Moore to approve the budget amendment from I&S funds, seconded by Council Member Moses, all in favor, motion carried unanimously.**
6. Consideration, Discussion and Take Possible Action on Creation of a Bond Committee and Bond Election Procedures to fund Restoration and/or Replacement of Water, Wastewater, and Street Infrastructure. The CIAMAC committee is working on this at this time and needs proposal to act on bond, set up a committee. The Mayor asked for discussion only at this time, discuss further at the next special meeting/workshop and delay voting until the next regular meeting in February. The Council discussed and is in favor of forming a committee to discuss further. **No Action Taken.**
7. Consideration and Discussion Only regarding possible Change from Mayor-council form of government to Council-manager form of government. The Council discussed and shared more discussion is needed at the next special meeting/workshop. **No Action Taken.**
8. Consideration, Discussion and Take Possible Action on hiring a contractor to replace existing fence at the Water Treatment Plant at a cost not to exceed \$30,000. The council discussed. Proposed new fence would meet TCEQ requirements. Need to involve the Chief in the design for security reasons. **No Action Taken.**
9. Consideration, Discussion and Take Possible Action on Restructure of Streetscape Committee and Possible Related Memorandum of Agreement. The Mayor and the Council discussed adding more structure to the committee as well as possible bylaws and a future board of directors. **A motion was made by Council Member Swinson to keep the Streetscape Committee as is pending discussion at the next Council workshop, seconded by Council Member Cargill. A roll-call vote was requested by Council Member Moses and approved by Mayor Arnold. The roll call vote was as follows: Swinson: yes, Cargill: yes, Mack McClung: abstained, Moore: yes, and Moses: yes. The Motion carried 4-0 with Mayor Pro-Tem Mack-McClung abstained from the vote.**

10. Consideration, Discussion, and Take Possible Action on Communications with TXDOT Regarding Possible Relief Route on Hwy 281. Jay Palmer made a presentation to the Council. The Council then discussed. A motion was made by Council Member Swinson and then withdrawn. **A directive was made by Council Member Moses to issue unanimously directive to Attorney Tim Tuggey to contact TxDOT and reaffirm that our current stance on the possible by-pass route mirrors our previous letter/resolution from January 10, 2024 Resolution until further notice, affirmed by all Council Members: Swinson yes, Cargill yes, Mack-McClung yes, Moore, yes, and Moses, yes.**
11. Consideration and Discussion Only Regarding the Submission of a Community Development Block Grant – Downtown Revitalization Program Project Application to TDA-GO (Warren Escovy, City Administrator). The Council Discussed. **No Action Taken.**

OLD BUSINESS: Consider, discuss, and take appropriate action on the following:

1. Consideration, Discussion, and Take Possible Action on Approval of Contract between the City of Blanco and SPI. Warren Escovy, City Administrator introduced the new city engineer representatives Jerry Hendrix, Community Relations, Nick Dubose, office manager, and John Schmeling, P.E., Blanco representative. He also shared we will be using a Task Order system for all work performed. **A motion was made by Council Member Moore to approve the contract between the City of Blanco and SPI to include details worked out by attorney Tim Tuggey, seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Mack-McClung, all in favor, motion carried unanimously.**
2. Consideration, Discussion, and Take Possible Action on Approval of Contract between the City of Blanco and VC3 (Warren Escovy, City Administrator). The Council discussed the new IT Services contract and cyber security coverages. Tim Tuggey said he has reviewed and approved the contract. **A motion was made by Mayor Pro-Tem Mack-McClung to approve the contract between the City of Blanco and VC3, seconded by Council Member Cargill, all in favor, motion carried unanimously.**
3. Consideration, Discussion, and Take Possible Action on Approval of Ordinance approving policy for Tik-Tok ban on government-issued phones. **A motion was made by Council Member Moses to approve Ordinance approving policy for Tik-Tok ban on government-issued phones, seconded by Council Member Cargill, all in favor, motion carried unanimously.**

Closed regular meeting -9:04 pm and convened into executive session.

Executive Session in accordance with Texas Government Code: in accordance with the authority contained in the Texas Government Code, Sections 551.071, 551.072, and 551.074.

1. Texas Government Code Section 551.071 (Consultation with City Attorney) and Section 1.05, Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct. Confer with City Attorney regarding legal issues associated with the Water Treatment Plant Project; Bids, Contract. Award and Notice to Proceed.
2. Texas Government Code Sections 551.071 (Consultation with City Attorney) and Section 1.05, Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct; Consultation with City Attorney regarding Economic Development Project.
3. Texas Government Code Section 551.071 (Consultation with City Attorney) and Section 1.05, Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct. Confer with City Attorney regarding Pending Legal Matters.

Closed executive session at 9:54 pm and convened into regular meeting.

Adjournment:

A motion was made by Council Member Moses to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Council Member Moore, all in favor.

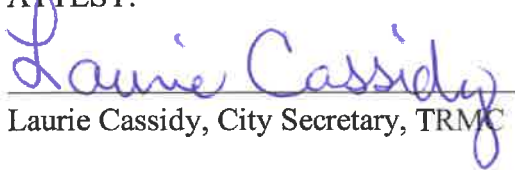
The meeting was adjourned at 9:54 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Mike Arnold, Mayor

ATTEST:



Laurie Cassidy, City Secretary, TRMC

These minutes were approved on the 11 day of February, 2025.

