

**SPECIAL MEETING  
OF THE GOVERNING BODY OF  
THE CITY OF BLANCO**

**Meeting Minutes  
February 4, 2025**

A special meeting of the City Council, City of Blanco, Texas was held on February 4, 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 Pledge of Allegiance was led by Candy Cargill. Council members present: Mayor Arnold, Mayor Pro-Tem Mack-McClung and Council Members Moses, Cargill, and Moore. Council Member Swinson was absent.

City staff present: Warren Escovy, City Administrator, Laurie Cassidy, City Secretary, and Chief Jerry Thornhill.

Mayor Arnold made the following announcements:

- The Blanco County Burn Ban is off.
- The City is under Stage 4 Drought Restrictions

**Public Comments:**

- Mike Ethridge spoke regarding the 281 relief routes 3 and 4, if TxDOT selects either of these routes they would go straight through his property. He is refusing to sign the right of entry agreement until the Mayor resigns. The Mayor and Mr. Ethridge discussed meeting at the property to discuss it further.
- Kenneth Welch, Blanco County resident, spoke regarding the Comprehensive Master Plan. Spoke in support of the Streetscape Committee. Asked City officials to fund the project.

**WORKSHOP:**

Council Discussion

- *Bond Program Discussion and Creation of Bond Committee* – Be Creation of the Bond Committee, Tim Tuggey emailed draft layout to all of the Council. Committee of 5 to 9 members. Order Bond Election. CIAMAC and City Administrator are putting the program together. The committee will move ideas toward the election to include educating the community as well as implementation if and when the bond passes at the election. Council names to be presented at next week's regular council meeting (all are residents of the City or own a business within the City). Possibly add two persons from Blanco County. Education vs advocating, briefing by Tuggey. What is the intention of the Bond? Steve Sheffe, CIAMAC said the bonds are for water, wastewater and street improvements. \$16 million over a ten-year implementation period. Total project cost is estimated at \$20 million, and the City already has \$4 million secured through the TWDB. Benefit of bond program, 2 key points: allows citizens to be involved in approval of needs (buy in) and secondly it saves money on financing costs and limits tax increases. City has **taxable assessed value** and encourages to stay at that asset value and don't extend its debt beyond that. Long term endeavor. HR Green study (2018-2019) asset management plan (part of grant).

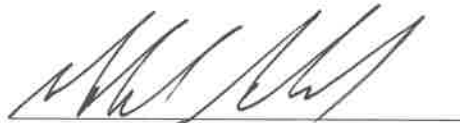
- *Possible Change from Mayor-council form of government to Council-manager form of government* – Warren Escovy said he misspoke at the last meeting to call this a grassroots effort. We currently have a strong Mayor-council form of government and some persons are asking to move to a Council-manager form of government which would call for a special election. The Council discussed. Council Member Cargill said she is the person who brought this forward. The election would formalize the current structure the City has in place.
- *Restructure of Streetscape Committee and Possible Related Memorandum of Agreement* – Mayor Pro-Tem Mack-McClung spoke regarding Streetscape Committee, waiting to see current plan and agrees the ADA needs to come into compliance and that the city needs to help with funding/ grants. Retta Martin, Chair, discussed the history of the Streetscape Committee and shared the committee has raised funds and is ready to begin surveys.
- *City Hall Relocation* – The Mayor and Council discussed feasibility options.
- *Discussion of Creation of AI Policy* – The Mayor shared what he has learned with the new AI technology. Faster city services, less paperwork and red tape, and smarter budgeting. Policy needed for managerial oversight.
- *Discussion – Other* – Mayor Pro-Tem Mack-McClung made a statement on behalf of City, some mistakes were made regarding a public information request, and we are taking steps to make sure this does not happen again.

**Adjournment:**

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

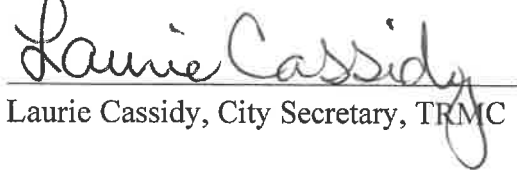
**The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 pm.**

Respectfully submitted,



Mike Arnold, Mayor

ATTEST:



Laurie Cassidy, City Secretary, TRMC

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

