

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

**Meeting Minutes  
April 9, 2024**

A regular meeting and public hearing of the City Council, City of Blanco, Texas was held on April 9, 2024, 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 David Mayer. Council members present: Mayor Arnold, Mayor Pro-Tem Thraikill and Council Members Smith, Swinson, and Moses.

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

Mayor Arnold made the following announcements:

- Founders Day was a success!
- Eclipse went smoothly!
- The burn ban is currently off.
- Water restrictions are currently at Stage 2, please be mindful of your water usage.

**Public Comments:**

- Jay Palmer, Blanco County resident, spoke regarding negative social media/Facebook posting and also about the US 281 Relief Route and his concerns with the TxDOT Bypass Routes 3, 4, and 5.
- Kristen Jones shared a story and spoke out against the TxDOT US 281 Relief Route.
- Retta Martin, City of Blanco resident, spoke regarding KBB Trash Off, this Saturday, 8 am to noon (truck brigade). She also spoke about the Comprehensive Master Plan (CMP), the citizens plan and the Historic District. Mayor Arnold pointed out no plan has been worked on; the council is only discussing restructuring of committee(s).
- Kenneth Welch, Blanco County resident spoke regarding New Business item 9, the TxDOT US 281 relief route. He also spoke on Old Business item 1, CMP should be discussed in open session, and he said Executive Session item 5 is puzzling.
- Courtney Trent, Blanco County resident, spoke out against the TxDOT US 281 Relief Route. She is in support of the NO build option.
- Janie Jones, Blanco County resident, spoke out against the TxDOT US 281 Relief Route.
- Gail McClellan, City of Blanco resident, thanked the City Council for being such faithful supporters and friends to Keith McClellan.
- Waymond Lightfoot, City of Blanco resident at 1334 Sunset Ridge spoke out against the TxDOT US 281 Relief Route.

- Randall Pawlik, not a Blanco resident, but has family in Blanco and spoke out against Route 3 and 4 of the TxDOT US 281 Relief Route, his choice is the NO Build option.
- Stephanie Wright, City of Blanco resident spoke out as a resident and NOT on behalf of the Blanco County New paper. She spoke regarding observations made to increased traffic on US 281 as well as arterial streets after the eclipse. She also said she looks forward to the discussion on New Business item 5, concept plan for street repair and maintenance fee.
- Brian Faris, not a Blanco resident, but a property owner near routes 4 and 5, spoke in favor of the NO build option, regarding the TxDOT US 281 Relief Route study.

**Public Hearing: Opened at 6:32 pm with no comments and closed at 6:32 pm.**

- Final Public Hearing for the TxCDBG 7220040 Lift Station Grant (Janell Foster, Langford Community Services).

Mayor Arnold read the National Preservation Month 2024 Proclamation.

**Staff Presentations:**

- City Hall, Warren Escovy, City Administrator, shared the following: -Eclipse, was not what we expected, lower turnout, the police department and Lt. Thornhill did a great job managing the traffic; -Blanco Founders Day #1 was a huge success; -Election is coming up May 4, 2024, -Meter audit update to be discussed later tonight, and -the Lift Station has been moved out of the floodplain.
- Police Department, Lt. Thornhill presented the March Monthly Report. He also spoke about the Speed Trailer positioned near Peterson's, 6 am and midnight, 45 thousand vehicles passed through, 4/8/24, no accidents, great coordination. Appreciates the hard work of the Blanco Police Department.

**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 March 4, 2024, Special Meeting.
2. Approval of Minutes from the March 12, 2024, Regular Meeting and Public Hearing.
3. Approval of Minutes from the March 20, 2024, Special Meeting.

**A motion was made by Mayor Pro-Tem Thrailkill to approve the consent agenda items one and two as presented, seconded by Council Member Smith, all in favor, motion carried unanimously. A motion was made by Council Member Smith to approve consent agenda item 3, seconded by Council Member Swinson, motion carried 3-0, with Mayor Pro-Tem Thrailkill abstaining from the vote.**

**New Business: Consider, discuss, and take appropriate action on the following:**

1. Consideration, Discussion and Take Possible Action on Approval of Resolution 2024-R-008 Performance Guarantee Contract with Performance Services, Inc. (Warren Escovy, City Administrator). **Warren asked to table, to be restructured and brought back in May 2024, no action taken.**

2. Consideration, Discussion and Take Possible Action on Approval of Resolution 2024-R-009 Award of Professional Services Contract to Langford Community Services, Resilient Communities Program of the TX GLO CDBG-MIT Program (Jerri Conrado, Langford Community Services). **A motion was made by Council Member Smith to approve Resolution 2024-R-009 Award of Professional Services Contract to Langford Community Services, Resilient Communities Program of the TX GLO CDBG-MIT Program, seconded by Council Member Moses, all in favor, motion carried unanimously.**
3. Consideration, Discussion and Take Possible Action on Approval of Resolution 2024-R-010 and Amendment to the current construction contract with M&C Fonseca for the Tx CDBG Grant #7220040 and CDV21-0456 – City of Blanco’s Lift Station improvement projects to allow the 7220040 CDBG grant to be closed with TDA and the CDV21-0456 Generator grant to continue through completion. (Janell Foster, Langford Community Services). Ms. Foster explained the original Lift Station grant needs to be closed out. The part for the generator (second grant) is in and ready to be installed. **A motion was made by Council Member Smith to approve Resolution 2024-R-010 an amendment to the current construction contract with M&C Fonseca for the Tx CDBG Grant #7220040 and CDV21-0456 – City of Blanco’s Lift Station improvement projects to allow the 7220040 CDBG grant to be closed with TDA and the CDV21-0456 Generator grant to continue through completion, seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Thraillkill, all in favor, motion carried unanimously**
4. Consideration, Discussion and Take Possible Action on Approval of Possible Voluntary Annexation of Properties Around the City Wastewater Treatment Plant and any Properties along the future US Highway 281 Relief Route (Mayor Arnold). Council discussed. **Council Member Smith asked to table this item, no action taken.**
5. Consideration, Discussion, and Take Possible Action on Approval of Concept Plan for Street Repair and Maintenance Fee. Warren Escovy, City Administrator spoke regarding new street repair and maintenance program to be supported by a fee program and purchased with certificates of obligation money. The program would consist of one additional employee, supervised by Inframark and purchase of equipment, \$100,000 pothole filling machine (funded by certificates of obligation). A two person crew would fill potholes, trim ROW, and complete minor maintenance. Council discussed. The Mayor would like to wait until May after the new Council has been sworn in and the residents have had the opportunity to provide feedback. **Council Member Smith asked to table this item, no action taken.**
6. Consideration, Discussion, and Take Possible Action on Approval of Use of HOT Funds to Employ Part Time Code Enforcement Officer to Enforce 15 Dark Sky Violations. Warren Escovy discussed the process, speak to the violator first, make them aware, due to limited staff, would need to hire part time person, cost is approximately \$100 per violation and staff’s recommended is that council authorize city administration to use HOT funds to hire code enforcement officer to work on dark sky violations. Council discussed. **Table item to next month, Mayor Arnold and Council Member Moses to split up list and call each violator to inform/educate them. Council Member Swinson mentioned there are also about ten short-term rentals in violation. Warren said staff will work on these as well. No action taken.**
7. Consideration, Discussion, and Take Possible Action on Acceptance of Utilities at Los Altos Phase 1. Warren Escovy, City Administrator discussed and said staff recommendation is to allow city engineering and administrator to accept water and sewer lines for Los Altos Subdivision Phase I. **A motion was made by Council Member Swinson to accept the utilities at Los Altos Phase 1, seconded by Council Member Smith, all in favor, motion carried unanimously.**

8. Consideration, Discussion, and Take Possible Action to provide traffic calming on 12th Street from Mesquite to Greenlawn. Warren Escovy, City Administrator spoke asking Council for staff guidance and input from Acting Police Chief Thornhill, who recommended installing two stop signs. **A motion was made by Council Member Smith to approve recommendation of two stop signs, one at each end of 12<sup>th</sup> Street at a cost not to exceed \$1,000, seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Thrailkill, all in favor motion carried unanimously.**
9. Consideration, Discussion and Take Possible Action relating to TXDOT Study of Possible Relief Route on Hwy 281 (Mayor Arnold). Council discussed and shared the timeline of events. Transportation Committee Chair, Kenneth Welch recommended doing nothing at this time and he will give monthly updates on his communications with TxDOT. **A motion was made by Council Member Smith to NOT rescind the letter of January 10, revisit item, and listen to Kenneth Welch, Transportation Committee Chair to not do anything right now, seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Thrailkill, motion carried 3-1 with Council Member Moses opposed.**

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

1. Consideration, Discussion and Take Possible Action on Authority and Structure of Comprehensive Master Plan Committee. Council discussed concerns regarding the structure of committee, ongoing fundraising of large amount of funds and current bookkeeping practices. Suggestion made to move the Streetscape Committee under the CMP Committee to allow the city to oversee the finances and to see the goals of the Streetscape plans to completion. Council suggested staff receive input from the Historic Preservation Commission and the Streetscape Committee. **No action taken.**
2. Consideration, Discussion, and Take Possible Action on Approval of Extension of City Services or Disannexation of 4.99 Acre Property at 1917 N. US Hwy 281 located in the H. Eggleston Survey No. 24, Abstract No. 0001, Blanco County, Texas. Warren Escovy shared with council the property owner has petitioned for deannexation. Council needs to make a decision on how to move forward. Tim Tuggey and the council discussed. **No action taken.**

**Closed regular meeting and convened into executive session at 7:51 pm.**

**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 the Authority and Structure of Comprehensive Master Plan Committee.
2. 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 Approval of Extension of City Services or Disannexation of 4.99 Acre Property at 1917 N. US Hwy 281 located in the H. Eggleston Survey No. 24, Abstract No. 0001, Blanco County, Texas.
3. Texas Government Code Sections 551.071 (Consultation with City Attorney) and Section 1.05, Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct; Confer with City Attorney regarding City Water Agreements with Texas Water Company

4. 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.
5. 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 Budget Amendment to City Council, Accounts 100-01-5102 through 5904.
6. 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.

**Council Member Swinson left the meeting at 9:00 pm.**

**Closed executive session at 9:25 pm and convened into regular meeting.**


**Executive Session Item 4:** 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. **A motion was made by Council Member Smith on the Water Treatment Plant project to authorize our Administrator to confirm ACP Change Order #15, total \$542,733.81, confirmation to execute the Change Order seconded by Council Member Thraikill, all in favor, motion carried unanimously.**

**Adjournment:**

**A motion was made by Council Member Smith to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Thraikill, all in favor.**

**The meeting was adjourned at 9:27 pm.**

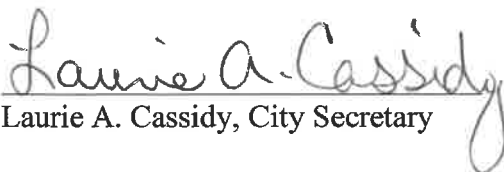
Respectfully submitted,




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Mike Arnold, Mayor

ATTEST:



Laurie A. Cassidy, City Secretary

These minutes were approved on the 14 day of May, 2024.

