

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

**Meeting Minutes  
May 14, 2024**

A regular meeting of the City Council, City of Blanco, Texas was held on May 14, 2024, at 6:00 pm at the Gem of the Hills, 2233 US-281, 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 Dan Murrah. Council members present: Mayor Arnold, Mayor Pro-Tem Thrailkill and Council Members Smith, Swinson, and Moses.

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

Mayor Arnold made the following announcements:

- The burn ban is currently off.
- Water restrictions are currently at Stage 2, please be mindful of your water usage.
- This is National Police Week; he expressed his gratitude for the men and women in blue

**Public Comments:**

- William Depew, not a resident, spoke regarding election law and Dennis Moore's eligibility.
- Kenneth Welch, Blanco County resident, spoke regarding the election. He shared Grady Achilles removed himself from the ballot and spoke regarding Dennis Moore's eligibility.
- Jay Palmer, Blanco County resident, spoke regarding the election. He questioned Dennis Moore's eligibility and stated if Mr. Moore is appointed this will go to a District Court to decide.
- Waymond Lightfoot, City of Blanco resident, spoke about the election, Mr. Moore and horse racing fouls. He questioned Mr. Moore's eligibility and whether Mr. Smith should be elected.
- Gary Currier, Blanco ETJ resident, said he was going to speak about chickens but since the major topic is about elections he spoke regarding the dispute with Mr. Moore's voter registration and candidate eligibility.
- Susan Moore, City of Blanco resident spoke regarding the election. The city spoke and elected three persons and she believes these three should be our new city council members.
- Wayne Gosnell, wrote a letter to be read by Laurie Cassidy, City Secretary regarding Dark Sky Ordinance violations.

**Staff Presentations:**

- City Hall, Warren Escovy, City Administrator, shared the following: Lavender Festival is scheduled for June 7-9, meter audit update, lift station completion, discussed budget calendar, TWDB awards \$3.9 million, total \$512,000 in green funding grant. There will be no Finance presentation due to Sasha Ricks absence, the second quarter financials are in your packet.
- Police Department, Acting Chief/Lt. Thornhill did not present the April Monthly Report, except to say the numbers are down. He also spoke about police incentives program. The department is currently staffed at five and looking for new officers. The Receptionist position has been filled.

**Mayor Arnold made a statement. Spoke with numerous persons, all said he has no choice but to certify this election as it stands. Where there is a dispute, he should rule in favor of eligibility.**

**Mayor Arnold certified new Council Members Bobby Mack-McClung, Candy Cargill, and Dennis J. Moore, Jr.**

**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 April 9, 2024, Regular Meeting and Public Hearing.
2. Approval of Minutes from the April 19, 2024, Special Meeting.
3. Approval of Budget Adjustment from Minor Equipment, Account 100-03-5801 to Building Maintenance, Account 100-03-5402 in the amount of \$2,603.00.
4. Approval of Ordinance 2024-O-003 General Election Canvassing the Returns and Declaring the Official Results of the May 4, 2024, General Election to Elect Three (3) City Council Members.

**Council Member Smith requested Item 4 be pulled from the consent agenda and moved to New Business Item 2. Council Member Swinson requested Item 1 be pulled from the consent agenda and moved to New Business Item 1. Warren Escovy spoke regarding budget adjustment from minor equipment.**

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

**New Business, Item 1, Let the minutes reflect Council Member Swinson left Executive Session at 9:00 pm, A motion was made by Council Member Smith to approve the minutes from the April 9, 2024 regular meeting, as amended, seconded by Council Member Swinson, all in favor, motion carried unanimously.**

**New Business Item 2, Council Member Smith thanked all for running for council and recused himself from the vote. A motion was made by Council Member Moses to approve Ordinance 2024-O-003 General Election Canvassing the Returns and Declaring the Official Results of the May 4, 2024 General Election to Elect Three (3) City Council Members, seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Thrailkill, motion carried 3-0 with Council Member Smith recused.**

**Laurie Cassidy, City Secretary, Administered the Oath of Office to Newly Elected Officers Bobby Mack-McClung, Candy Cargill, and Dennis J. Moore, Jr.**

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

1. Consideration, Discussion and Take Possible Action on Possible Vacancy on the Governing Body of the City of Blanco, including Possible Appointment to the Governing Body or Call of Special Election to fill a Vacancy, and any related, required Oath of Office. **No Action Taken**
2. Consideration, Discussion, and Take Possible Action on Approval of Mayor Pro-Tem. for the Term May 2024 through May 2025. **A motion was made by Council Member Moses to appoint Bobby Mack-McClung as Mayor Pro-Tem for the term May 2024 to May 2025, seconded by Council Member Cargill, motion carried 4-0 with Mack-McClung abstained.**
3. Consideration, Discussion, and Take Possible Action on Approval of Resolution 2024-R-011 Amending Resolution 2023-R-007 Designating Persons Authorized to Sign on the City's Depository Accounts as the Official Signatories of the City of Blanco. **A Motion was made by Council Member Moses to Approve Resolution 2024-R-011 Amending Resolution 2023-R-007 Designating Persons Authorized to Sign on the City's Depository Accounts as the Official Signatories of the City of Blanco and appoint Council Member Swinson and Mayor Pro-Tem Mack-McClung as new check signers, seconded by Council Member Moore, all in favor, motion carried unanimously.**
4. Consideration, Discussion, and Take Possible Action on Approval of Street Closures and use of Byars Building for Lavender Festival (June 7-9, 2024). Libbey Aly, Chamber of Commerce spoke of the need for street closures for Lavender Festival. They do not need access to the Byars Building. She also requested variance to allow vendors to park at the Pecan Bottom. **A motion was made by Council Member Moses to allow for all necessary street closures, seconded by Council Member Moore, all in favor motion carried unanimously.**
5. Consideration, Discussion, and Take Possible Action on Approval of Ordinance 2024-O-004 Repeal Ordinance – Chapter 7 Health and Sanitation, Height of Weeds and Chapter 3 Animal Control Livestock (Ratifying and Confirming Previous Resolution of Council). **A motion was made by Council Member Cargill, seconded by Council Member Swinson, all in favor, motion carried unanimously.**
6. Consideration Discussion and Take Possible Action on Approval of Six Month Building Rental Contract Between the City and Gem of the Hills in the Amount of \$1,200.00 (June-November 2024). Council Member Moses does Council want to spend the \$200 per month to meet at Gem of the Hills. It was suggested that Council Members could use their stipend to pay this fee. Could we commit on a month by month basis? **No Action Taken**

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

1. Consideration, Discussion and Take Possible Action on Creation of Police Department Incentive Program (Warren Escovy, City Administrator). Council is asked to consider item 1, Implementation of a \$5,000 retention/recruiting incentive program and item 2 bi-lingual incentive program. **A motion was made by Council Member Moses to give the current four employees (this includes Mr. Thornhill), \$5,000 bonus 1b, plus item 2, seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Mack-McClung, all in favor, motion passed unanimously.**
2. Consideration, Discussion and Take Possible Action on Approval of Resolution 2024-R-012 Performance Guarantee Contract with Performance Services, Inc. Warren Escovy, City Administrator asked to move this item to Executive session. **No Action Taken**

**Closed regular meeting and convened into executive session at 7:13 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 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
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 legal issues associated with the Water Treatment Plant Project; Bids, Contract. Award and Notice to Proceed.
3. 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.
4. Texas Government Code Sections 551.071 (Consultation with City Attorney) and Section 1.05, Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct; Consultation with City Attorney, including but not limited to a) initial officeholder briefing on open government compliance; b) budget process compliance; c) legal review of vendor contracts; and d) potential litigation and other legal matters.
5. Texas Government Code Section 551.074 (Personnel Matters) to deliberate the appointment, employment, evaluation, reassignment, duties, discipline, or dismissal of City Administrator (review of contract).

**Closed executive session at 9:30 pm and convened into regular meeting.**

**Adjournment:**

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

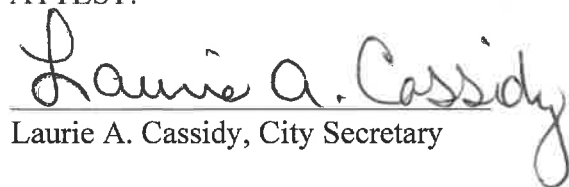
**The meeting was adjourned at 9:33 pm.**

Respectfully submitted,



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Mike Arnold, Mayor

ATTEST:



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Laurie A. Cassidy, City Secretary

These minutes were approved on the 11 day of June, 2024.

