

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING

April 8, 2020

SHENANDOAH CITY COUNCIL

The meeting was called to order by Mayor M. Ritchey Wheeler at 7:00 p.m. City Council members present, Councilmember McLeod, Councilmember Bradt, Councilmember Gristy, Councilmember Fletcher and Councilmember Raymaker. City Administrator Kathie Reyer, City Secretary Courtney Clary, City Attorney William Ferebee, Finance Director Lisa Wasner, Public Works Director Joseph Peart, Police Chief Raymond Shaw, Communications Manager Debbie Pilcher, CVB Director John Mayner, and IT Manager Chris Grizzaffi were also present.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Wheeler called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

2. CALL OF ROLL

Mayor Wheeler stated for the record that all members were present.

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

4. INVOCATION

Mayor Wheeler gave the invocation.

5. CITIZENS FORUM

Responses to inquiries are limited by state law to a recitation of existing policy or a statement of specific factual information given in response to the inquiry. Any deliberation or decision by Council shall be limited to a proposal to place the subject on the agenda of a future meeting.

Mayor Wheeler stated for the record that there were no citizens that wished to speak.

6. COUNCIL'S INQUIRY

Pursuant to Texas Government Code Sect. 551.042, the Mayor and Council Members may inquire about a subject not specifically listed on this Agenda. Responses are limited to a recitation of existing policy or a statement of specific factual information given in response to the inquiry. Any deliberation or decision shall be limited to a proposal to place the subject on the agenda of a future meeting.

Mayor Wheeler stated for the record that there were no Councilmembers wishing to speak.

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INDIVIDUAL CONSIDERATION:

7. Proclamation declaring April 2020 as Child Abuse Prevention and Awareness Month.

Mayor Wheeler presented a Proclamation declaring April 2020 as Child Abuse Prevention and Awareness Month.

8. Discussion and possible action to amend the Planning and Zoning Commission bylaws.

COUNCILMEMBER BRADT MADE A MOTION TO AMEND THE PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION BYLAWS SECTION 6.1 TO PROVIDE FOR THE COMMISSION TO MEET ON THE THIRD TUESDAY OF EACH MONTH AT 6:00 P.M. INSTEAD OF 7:00 P.M., COUNCILMEMBER FLETCHER SECONDED. THE MOTION CARRIED 5/0.

9. Discussion and possible action to ratify the purchase of a pump for the Research Forest lift station.

COUNCILMEMBER RAYMAKER MADE A MOTION TO RATIFY THE PURCHASE OF A PUMP FOR THE RESEARCH FOREST LIFT STATION, COUNCILMEMBER GRISTY SECONDED. THE MOTION CARRIED 5/0.

10. Discussion and possible action to fund an advertising campaign for local retail and restaurants.

COUNCILMEMBER MCLEOD MADE A MOTION TO FUND AN ADVERTISING CAMPAIGN FOR LOCAL RETAIL AND RESTAURANTS, COUNCILMEMBER BRADT SECONDED. THE MOTION CARRIED 4/1 WITH COUNCILMEMBER RAYMAKER AS THE OPPOSING VOTE.

11. Discussion regarding incentives for hotel guests.

Ms. Reyer stated that the Mayor requested at the previous meeting for staff to look into incentives for hotel guests in the City. Mr. Mayner contact the Hotel Lodging Association and was informed that providing an incentive for hotel guests is legal, but it would only be allowed at restaurants in the City. Ms. Reyer suggested parameters be set.

Mayor Wheeler suggested \$30 per night at a minimum stay of two nights. He suggested

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finding out hotel rack rates for the previous year to get better numbers.

Ms. Reyer stated that Ms. Wasner was researching the virtual pay option and one concern was theft of physical cards or vouchers.

Councilmember McLeod stated that he felt some hotels would be generating less and felt the \$30 rate might be too high and suggested that there be expiration dates attached to. He also suggested finding a way to guarantee the incentive funds were spent only at restaurants in the City.

Councilmember Bradt stated that he wanted to keep everything as simple as possible.

Councilmember McLeod stated that he would like restaurants to register to participate in the incentive program and that one requirement be that the address listing shows as Shenandoah rather than Conroe, spring, and other surrounding cities. He stated this would potentially help with tracking the program. Councilmember McLeod also suggested more advertising for hotels regarding the incentive.

Councilmember Fletcher suggested a \$25 limit for each voucher.

Mayor Wheeler requested the item be brought back at the next meeting.

12. Discussion and possible action to approve the minutes of the February 12, 2020 and the February 26, 2020 regular meetings.

COUNCILMEMBER BRADT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 12, 2020 AND THE FEBRUARY 26, 2020 REGULAR MEETINGS, COUNCILMEMBER GRISTY SECONDED. THE MOTION CARRIED 5/0.

13. Discussion and possible action to ratify the accounts payable for February, 2020.

COUNCILMEMBER BRADT MADE A MOTION TO RATIFY THE ACCOUNTS PAYABLE FOR

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FEBRUARY, 2020, COUNCILMEMBER RAYMAKER SECONDED. THE MOTION CARRIED 5/0.

14. CITIZENS FORUM

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Mayor Wheeler stated for the record that there were no citizens wishing to speak.

15. City Administrator Updates

Ms. Reyer presented the following updates:

- Community room under construction
- Kenny Eickelberg has found a job in Alabama closer to family. We wish him the best
- David Memorial and Tamina intersection work will be done to fix sunken pavers and there will be some lane closures
- Officers have slowed down contact with senior residents in order to limit face to face contact due to the potential spread of COVID-19
- Regular calls for service are down and officers are monitoring and enforcing the guidelines put in place for businesses
- The April 29, 2020 meeting will be moved back to the original April 22, 2020 date
- Mr. Ferebee filed stated that a suit was filed in late March against Jacobson Hotel due to a variety of issues including past due payments, bedbugs, and a small child was stuck with a used syringe in the one of the rooms. An injunction hearing was set for April 3, 2020. On April 2, 2020 the Jacobson Hotel paid \$52,000 in past due property taxes, \$7,008 in past due HOT taxes, and filed their past HOT tax reports. A hearing was held and the hotel was forced to close until the bedbugs were removed. Permanent residents of the hotel will be removed after the disaster declarations and bans are lifted.

Mayor Wheeler stated that the action taken against the hotel was more for human safety and health conditions, especially when children are involved.

16. COUNCIL'S INQUIRY

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policy or a statement of specific factual information given in response to the inquiry. Any deliberation or decision shall be limited to a proposal to place the subject on the agenda of a future meeting.

Councilmember Mcleod thanked the staff for great communication with the residents and the police for their presence in the City during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Councilmember Gristy also thanked the staff for keeping everyone informed and the officers for everything they did to keep the residents safe.

Councilmember Fletcher also stated that City staff and the police department had done a phenomenal job and that Ms. Reyer was doing a wonderful job leading the City.

Councilmember Raymaker thanked Ms. Reyer for leading the City and helping the staff and residents.

Mayor Wheeler stated that at the previous meeting he shared an idea about deferring some property tax and sales from City restaurants tax to the City. He stated that he would like staff to look at whether the City would have the funds to do something for restaurants and retail stores in the City. Mayor Wheeler stated that while on a conference call with Governor Abbott and Congressman Brady he learned that the state of Texas was deferring payroll taxes until the end of the year, and those businesses would have two years to pay it back. He stated that he was then told that the City could come up with creative ideas to help local businesses and restaurants. Mayor Wheeler asked that staff continue to explore this option.

Mayor Wheeler stated that Judge Keough shared that he was impressed with City staff, police officers, and local businesses for their hard work and for following guidelines in place. Mayor Wheeler

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also suggested a potential future event for the community due to the cancelation of the Easter Egg Hunt.

Mayor Wheeler stated that only 3 cases were reported in Montgomery County as of the time of the meeting.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Public notice is given that the City Council may elect to go into Executive Session at any time during the meeting in order to discuss any matters listed on the Agenda when authorized by the provisions of the Open Meeting Act, Chapter 551 of the Texas Government Code, to receive advice from legal counsel, to discuss matters of land acquisition, personnel matters or other lawful matters that are specifically related to items listed on this Agenda. Prior to any such closed session, the Mayor, in open session, will identify the agenda item to be discussed and the Section or Sections of Chapter 551 under which the closed discussion is authorized.

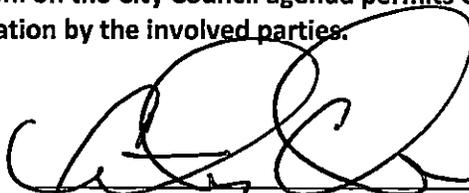
There being no further business, Mayor Wheeler adjourned the meeting at 7:56 p.m.

ADJOURN

The Council may vote and/or act upon each of the items listed on this Agenda. One agenda item will be discussed at a time unless logic and practical consideration allow similar topics to be considered together for purposes of convenience and efficiency. The Council may retire into executive session concerning any of the items listed on this Agenda, whenever it is considered necessary and legally justified under the Open Meetings Act.

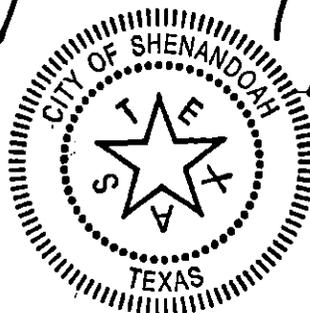
Any discussion item on the City Council agenda permits City Council to question the involved parties or receive a presentation by the involved parties.

SUBMITTED BY:


Courtney Clary, City Secretary

DATE APPROVED:

05/13/2020




M. Ritchey Wheeler, Mayor