

DRAFT

MINUTES REGULAR MEETING January 10, 2023

A Regular Meeting was held by the Schertz City Council of the City of Schertz, Texas, on January 10, 2023, at 6:00 p.m. in the Hal Baldwin Municipal Complex Municipal Courtroom, 1400 Schertz Parkway, Building#1 Schertz, Texas. The following members present to-wit:

Present: Mayor Ralph Gutierrez; Mayor Pro-Tem Allison Heyward; Councilmember Mark Davis; City Council Place 2 - Vacant; Councilmember Jill Whittaker; Councilmember Michael Dahle; Councilmember David Scagliola; Councilmember Tim Brown

City Staff: City Manager Steve Williams; Assistant City Manager Brian James; City Attorney Daniel Santee; Assistant to the City Manager Sarah Gonzalez; Interim City Secretary Sheila Edmondson;

Call to Order

Mayor Gutierrez called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Opening Prayer and Pledges of Allegiance to the Flags of the United States and State of Texas. (Mayor Pro-Tem Heyward)

Mayor Gutierrez recognized Mayor Pro-Tem Allison Heyward who provided the opening prayer followed by the Pledges of Allegiance to the Flags of the United States and the State of Texas.

City Events and Announcements

- Announcements of upcoming City Events (B. James/S. Gonzalez)

Mayor Gutierrez recognized Assistant to the City Manager Sarah Gonzalez who provided the following information:

Thursday, January 12

NEP Monthly Meeting

11:30 AM-1:00 PM

Olympia Hills Golf Course

Monday, January 16

City Offices Closed in Observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

Tuesday, January 17

Canvassing Election and Swearing in the Mayor and Councilmember, Place 2

5:00 PM

Municipal Courtroom

Tuesday, January 24

Next regular scheduled Council meeting

6:00 PM

Municipal Courtroom

- Announcements and recognitions by the City Manager (S. Williams)

City Manager Steve Williams congratulated Bryan Timmons, Manny Casas and Daniel Roman who all were promoted this past month.

CM Williams shared that he was able to meet some of the Chamber Leadership Core participants with a mock city council meeting. He wishes them great success in the future.

- Announcements and recognitions by the Mayor (R. Gutierrez)

Mayor Gutierrez congratulated the staff who were promoted this past month: Bryan Timmons, Manny Casas and Daniel Roman. Mayor Gutierrez also wanted to thank the EMS Crew who took good care of his father-in-law when he fell earlier this week.

Hearing of Residents

This time is set aside for any person who wishes to address the City Council. Each person should fill out the speaker's register prior to the meeting. Presentations should be limited to no more than 3 minutes.

All remarks shall be addressed to the Council as a body, and not to any individual member thereof. Any person making personal, impertinent, or slanderous remarks while addressing the Council may be requested to leave the meeting.

Mayor Pro-Tem Allison Heyward recognized the following residents:

Mr. Samuel Johnson: Mr. Johnson thanked the Council for being part of the mock City Council meeting today.

Mr. Dana Eldridge on Gallant Fox: Mr. Eldridge asked why for the last 3-4 months the Closed Sessions in the meetings have discussed the vacancy of the City Secretary. He asked them to make a decision soon.

Ms. Amelia Hamilton, 608 Mitchell Ave: Ms. Hamilton has had a disagreement with the Senior Center Manager, Mr. Bob Fishback. She was relieved of her duty on the board and was frustrated.

Ms Maggie Titterinton, 1730 Schertz Parkway: Ms. Titterinton thanked the city staff for hosting the Chamber Leadership class with a mock city council meeting. She expressed that it is a wonderful opportunity for these young leaders to experience local government. She also mentioned that the Business Directory had been mailed out to all residents.

Mr. Kevin Majors, 10320 Gage Connell: Mr. Majors asked for more police presence, better lighting, and better street conditions in the Reserve subdivision.

Consent Agenda Items

The Consent Agenda is considered self-explanatory and will be enacted by the Council with one motion. There will be no separate discussion of these items unless they are removed from the Consent Agenda upon the request of the Mayor or a Councilmember.

Mayor Gutierrez read the following into record:

1. **Minutes** – Consideration and/or action regarding the approval of the minutes of the regular meetings of December 6, 2022, and December 13, 2022. (S.Edmondson)
2. **Resolution No. 22-R-142** - Consideration and/or action approving a Resolution by the City Council of the City of Schertz, Texas approving a request for expenditure in an amount not to exceed seventy-five thousand dollars for the purchase of the WatchGuard in-car video camera system.
3. **Resolution No. 23-R-04** - Consideration and/or action approving a Resolution by the City Council of the City of Schertz, Texas authorizing EMS debt revenue adjustments, Utility Billing debt revenue adjustments and Schertz Magazine Debt Revenue Adjustments for certain inactive outstanding receivables and other matters in connection therewith. (S.Williams/J. Walters)
4. **Resolution 23-R-05** - Consideration and/or action approving a Resolution by the City Council of the City of Schertz, Texas authorizing an agreement with Texas Utility Help.

Mayor Gutierrez asked if any items needed to be removed. No items needed to be removed. No items were removed so Mayor Gutierrez asked for a motion.

Moved by Mayor Pro-Tem Allison Heyward, seconded by Councilmember Michael Dahle

AYE: Mayor Pro-Tem Allison Heyward, Councilmember Mark Davis,
Councilmember Jill Whittaker, Councilmember Michael Dahle,
Councilmember David Scagliola, Councilmember Tim Brown

Passed

Workshop

5. Workshop Discussion on the Benefits of Trails and a Review of the Schertz Trails Plan.

Mayor Gutierrez recognized Parks Director Lauren Shrum who gave a PowerPoint presentation on the Benefits of Trails and the Schertz Trail Plan. The Parks Master Plan was written in 2014 based on Citizen input. Walking and biking trails consistently rank at the top in surveys. There are natural benefits of trails which include drainage, preservation of land, and protection of wildlife; community health benefits from increased outdoor activity, and economic benefits because trails attract businesses. Surveys consistently show that everyone wants parks and trails but no one wants them in their backyard citing safety and crime concerns. Studies have shown that these concerns have not come to fruition.

Mayor Gutierrez recognized Councilmember Scagliola who thanked Ms. Shrum for the presentation. He added that Council had to fight to get mandatory dedicated space for parks. Greenspace adds quality of life that the City needs to embrace. Councilmember Scagliola offered his support with speaking with residents and addressing concerns.

Mayor Gutierrez recognized Mayor Pro-Tem Heyward. She stated she likes the idea of Great Springs and feels we are moving systematically in the right direction.

Mayor Gutierrez recognized Councilmember Tim Brown. Thanked Ms. Shrum for the presentation and stated that when he questioned his parents on what they were looking for in a new residential area they said trails and trees.

Mayor Gutierrez added that the presentation was a good rendition of how nice parks and trails could be in someone's backyard and asked that the citizens be open to the idea and give it a chance.

Roll Call Vote Confirmation

Mayor Gutierrez recognized Interim City Secretary Sheila Edmondson who provided roll call confirmation on Consent Agenda Items 1-4.

Closed Session

6. The City Council will meet in Closed Session under Section 551.074 of the Texas Government Code, Personnel Matters, to discuss the vacancy of the City Secretary position.

Mayor Gutierrez recessed the Regular Meeting at 6:43 p.m. into Closed Session.

Reconvene into Regular Session

Mayor Gutierrez reconvened into Regular Session at 7:00 p.m.

Take any action on discussions held in Closed Session under Agenda Item 6.

No action was taken.

Roll Call Vote Confirmation

Information available in City Council Packets - NO DISCUSSION TO OCCUR

7. Monthly Update on FY 2022-23 Approved Expanded Programs (S. Williams/S. Gonzalez)

Requests and Announcements

- Announcements by the City Manager

No further announcements.

- Requests by Mayor and Councilmembers for updates or information from Staff

Councilmember Whittaker requested information on the graffiti issue, update on situation, costs incurred for the damage, and share with citizens what they can do to help minimize the problem.

Councilmember Dahle asked for a follow-up to the issue brought forward regarding the Senior Center.

Councilmember Davis requested documents regarding the Senior Center operations, Bylaws, and contract of facility. Also, requested a presentation from Parks Department regarding Senior Center operations and daily activities.

- Requests by Mayor and Councilmembers that items or presentations be placed on a future City Council agenda

Councilmember Davis requested a presentation from Parks Department regarding Senior Center operations and daily activities.

- Announcements by Mayor and Councilmembers

- City and Community Events attended and to be attended

Mayor Pro-Tem Heyward attended the Schertz Assistant Police Chief promotions, the Schertz Development Subcommittee meeting, and went to the Texas Capitol for the 88th Legislature swearing in ceremony for Donna Campbell. Looking forward to being in Austin and testifying to ensure cities stay safe.

Councilmember Davis attended the TIRZ meeting tonight and the Schertz Housing

Authority meeting last night. The SHA potential redevelopment of Clyde Ford Village.

Councilmember Whittaker attended the TIRZ meeting and the Library Advisory Board meeting. They are in need of volunteers in the bookstore.

Councilmember Dahle attended Schertz Assistant Police Chief promotions, the Countdown New Year's Eve event at Pickrell Park, and the Development subcommittee meeting.

Councilmember Scagliola attended the New Year's Eve event at the Park. He expressed thanks to Mr. James, Ms. Shrum, and everyone involved in making it a successful event.

Councilmember Brown participated in the Polar Plunge, and he talked to Scouts about City government.

Adjournment

Mayor Gutierrez adjourned the meeting at 7:07 p.m.

Ralph Gutierrez, Mayor

ATTEST:

Sheila Edmondson, Interim City Secretary