

Draft Copy Not Official Until Approved by Council

ELLIS CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING

Minutes January 4, 2021

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor David McDaniel called the regular meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. Present were Council members Kellie Crnkovich, Martin LaBarge, Jolene Niernberger, and John Walz. Also present were Public Works Director John Leiker, City Clerk Amy Burton, Police Chief Chris Krom, and City Attorney Olavee Raub. Council members Devin Henderson and Tricia Pritchett were absent.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

AMENDMENTS TO AGENDA

Consideration of the proposed ordinances establishing lot coverage provisions will be tabled until the January 18, 2021 Council meeting.

PUBLIC PRESENT

James Bell and Nickole Byers.

CONSENT AGENDA

Council member John Walz moved to approve the consent agenda containing the Minutes from the Regular Meeting on December 21, 2020 and Bills Ordinance #2108. Council member Jolene Niernberger seconded the motion. The Council approved the consent agenda 4-0.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

PRESENTATIONS OF AWARDS, PROCLAMATIONS, REQUESTS & PETITIONS (HEARINGS)

None

SPECIAL ORDER

None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

General Government: Zoning

Consideration of ordinances establishing lot coverage provisions will be tabled until the January 18, 2021 Council meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

General Government: Financial

Council member John Walz moved to approve Resolution No. 570 waiving Generally Accepted Accounting Principles for financial statement reporting for 2021. Council member Jolene Niernberger seconded the motion. The motion carried 4-0.

General Government: Policy

Annually, the Council designates the official newspapers and official banks for the City to use. Council member Jolene Niernberger moved to designate the Hays Daily News and Ellis Review as official newspapers; Equity Bank and Golden Belt Bank as official banks within the City limits; and Emprise Bank and Commerce Bank as the official banks outside the City limits. Council member Martin LaBarge seconded the motion. The motion carried 4-0.

General Government: Policy

Council discussed voluntarily extending the Emergency Paid Sick Leave mandated by the Federal Government during the COVID-19 pandemic. Under that mandate, employers were required to provide eighty (80) hours of sick leave if an employee was absent from work due to COVID-19 circumstances. The Federal mandate to provide those additional eighty (80)

hours of sick leave expired December 31, 2020. Council member John Walz moved to provide eighty (80) total hours of emergency paid sick leave for COVID-19 related absences under the provisions established under the Federal Emergency Paid Sick Leave Act, for the period April 1, 2020 – December 31, 2021. Council member Jolene Niernberger seconded the motion. The motion carried 4-0.

General Government: Policy

Council then discussed City staff procedures currently in place to reduce the spread of COVID-19 in City offices. Council member John Walz moved to continue the following procedures: record daily temperature checks, stagger rest breaks, limit two employees per City vehicle, close City Hall to public access until January 22, 2021, and require employees to wear face coverings when dealing with the public. Council member Jolene Niernberger seconded the motion. The motion carried 3-1, with Council member Martin LaBarge voting opposed.

General Government: Policy

City Clerk Amy Burton asked for Council guidance on how to address customers that refuse to wear a face covering in City Hall during the Governor's mandate. City Attorney Olavee Raub suggested signage at the front door stating that face coverings are required to enter; however, if the customer has a medical exception to wearing a face covering, special accommodations can be made by calling and setting up an appointment with the applicable City department. If a customer is disruptive, a complaint should be filed with the Police Department.

General Government: Policy

Mayor David McDaniel announced that City Council meetings will return to the Zoom platform through January.

Water: Acquisition

Council member Martin LaBarge moved to approve the purchase of chlorine for the Water Treatment Plant from Brenntag in the amount of \$1,299.00, with funds to come from the Water Utility Fund. Council member Kellie Crnkovich seconded the motion. The motion carried 4-0.

General Government: Zoning

On July 6, 2020, Council approved an ordinance rezoning 600 Jefferson Street to a General Commercial District (C-2) with the condition that the front trailer houses be removed and the dirt work completed to finished grade by December 31, 2020. Josh Eaton, property owner, did not receive the State floodplain fill permit until December 17, 2020 and is requesting a 30-day extension. Council member Martin LaBarge moved to grant Mr. Eaton a 30-day extension to fulfill the conditions established in the approved rezoning of 600 Jefferson St. Council member John Walz seconded the motion. The motion carried 4-0.

REPORTS FROM CITY OFFICIALS

Public Works

Public Works Director John Leiker reported the Christmas stars will be taken down January 7th. Department Update

Police

Police Chief Chris Krom presented the Monthly Activity Report for December and the January staff calendar. No applications have been received for the open provisional positions in the Department. Driggs Design Group has begun the residential speed study.

City Clerk

City Clerk Amy Burton announced that Council Orientation will be January 11th at 6:30 p.m.

Attorney

Mayor Update and Announcements

Mayor David McDaniel reminded Council to have 4-5 goals for 2021 in mind to discuss at the January 18th meeting. A local resident would like to donate their outdoor Christmas decorations to the City.

Council member Jolene Niernberger inquired about the increasing trash problem between Memorial Park and the railroad tracks.

ADJOURNMENT

Council member Martin LaBarge moved and Council member Kellie Crnkovich seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried 4-0. The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Mayor

City Clerk