

MINUTES FROM THE HUNTSVILLE CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING HELD ON THE 2nd DAY OF MARCH 2021, IN THE CITY HALL, LOCATED AT 1212 AVENUE M, IN THE CITY OF HUNTSVILLE, COUNTY OF WALKER, TEXAS, AT 6:00 P.M.

The Council met in a regular session with the following:

COUNCILMEMBERS PRESENT: Daiquiri Beebe, Blake Irving, Russell Humphrey, Bert Lyle, Joe P. Rodriguez, Andy Brauning, Pat Graham, Vicki McKenzie

COUNCILMEMBERS ABSENT: Dee Howard Mullins

OFFICERS PRESENT: Aron Kulhavy, City Manager; Leonard Schneider, City Attorney

MAIN SESSION [6 P.M.]

CALL TO ORDER – Mayor Brauning called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

INVOCATION AND PLEDGES

U.S. Flag and Texas Flag: Honor the Texas Flag. I pledge allegiance to thee, Texas, one state, under God, one, and indivisible.

Councilmember Lyle gave the invocation and Mayor Brauning led the pledges.

1. CONSENT AGENDA

Public Comments will be called for by the presiding officer before action is taken on these items. (Approval of Consent Agenda authorizes the City Manager to implement each item in accordance with staff recommendations. An item may be removed from the Consent Agenda and added to the Statutory Agenda for full discussion by request of a member of Council.)

- a. **Approve the minutes of the City Council meeting held February 23, 2021. [Ashley Newsome, Deputy City Secretary]**
- b. **Consider authorizing the City Manager to apply for and accept the FY 2021-2022 Victims' Service Coordinator Grant for \$79,394.50, plus \$20,348.62 City match and adopting Resolution 2021-07 in support of same. [Kristie Hadnot, Grants Manager]**
- c. **Consider the award of a fiber optic line installation project to Network Cabling Services, Inc (NCS) to route conduit and fiber optic line from the Aquatic Center to the Lower Pressure Plane Water Plant facility. [Bill Wavra, IT Director, Y.S. "Ram" Ramachandra, City Engineer]**

Councilmember Graham made a motion to approve the consent agenda of the draft minutes; the motion was seconded by Councilmember Lyle . The motion was adopted, 8-0.

2. STATUTORY AGENDA

- a. **FIRST READING-Consider authorizing the City Manager to enter into a contract with Burditt Consultants, LLC for design and construction of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Center. [Penny Joiner, Parks and Leisure Director]**

First Reading, No action necessary.

- b. **Consider authorizing the City Manager to apply for the FY 2020 Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) Grant through the U.S. Department of Homeland Security for \$973,804.44 and adopting Resolution 2021-08 in support of same. [Greg Mathis, Fire Chief]**

Councilmember Beebe made a motion to authorize the City Manager to apply for the FY 2020 Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) Grant through the U.S. Department of Homeland Security for \$973,804.44 and adopting Resolution 2021-08; the motion was seconded by Councilmember Graham. The motion was adopted, 8-0.

3. CITY COUNCIL/CITY MANAGER/CITY ATTORNEY

- a. **Consider resolution 2021-09 in opposition to House Bill 749 and Senate Bill 234 that would end the use of public funding for lobbyists. [Daiquiri Beebe, Councilmember Ward 1]**

Councilmember Beebe made a motion adopt resolution 2021-09 in opposition to House Bill 749 and Senate Bill 234 relating to the use of public funding for lobbying activities.; the motion was seconded by Councilmember Lyle. The motion was adopted, 8-0.

4. REQUESTS FOR CITIZEN PARTICIPATION

An opportunity for citizens to be heard on any topic and for the City Council to participate in the discussion. No action will be taken.

None submitted.

5. MEDIA INQUIRIES RELATED TO MATTERS ON THE AGENDA

None

6. ITEMS OF COMMUNITY INTEREST

(Hear announcements concerning items of community interest from the Mayor, Councilmembers, and City staff, for which no action will be discussed or taken.)

Mayor Brauning spoke the events that he attended on Feb 27, South End cemetery historical marker and the 40th Annual Texas Independence and Sam Houston birthday celebration on March 2. The Walker County Historical Commission hosted the unveiling and dedication of the newest historical marker at Southend Cemetery located on Montgomery Rd between Bowers Blvd and South Sam Houston Ave. This cemetery is the first African American cemetery in Huntsville/Walker County to receive this historic recognition. March 2 was a special day as; the City of Huntsville celebrated the 40th annual Texas Independence Day and General Sam Houston Birthday Celebration to celebrate the birth of an American hero and a great state.

Councilmember Beebe spoke about her experience at the Prison City film festival dinner celebration that ended the four-day event in Huntsville. She thanked the Prison City Film Festival for bringing their films and filmmakers to Huntsville. The four-day festival brought out the best of the best in film.

Councilmember McKenzie announced that the Huntsville Walker County Chamber of Commerce will be hosting the 11th Annual DIVA NIGHT on April 23rd. This event will be sponsored by Wisner of Huntsville at the Walker County Fairgrounds. The first 350 ladies through the door will get a "Swag Bag"!! Tickets will be on sale soon.

Councilmember Lyle announced that the 18th Annual Shot in the Dark Golf Tournament and Helicopter Golf Ball Drop sponsored by Wiesner of Huntsville will be held Friday, May 14th at Raven Nest Golf Club. For more information, call 936-295-8113.

7. EXECUTIVE SESSION

- a. **City Council will convene in closed session as authorized by Texas Government Code, Chapter 551,Section 551.071 – to receive legal advice in regards to the Walker County Hospital Corporation d/b/a Huntsville Memorial Hospital (Bankruptcy No. 19-36300) filed in US Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of Texas**
- b. **City Council will convene in closed session as authorized by Texas Government Code, Chapter 551,Section 551.074 – personnel matters regarding the appointment, employment, evaluation, reassignment, duties, discipline, or dismissal of a public officer or employee, concerning the position of City Secretary.**

The Council convened into Executive Session at 6:42 p.m.

8. RECONVENE

The Council reconvened at 7:40 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Brauningger adjourned the meeting without objection at 7:42 p.m.

Ashley Newsome, Deputy City Secretary

ATTEST:

CITY OF HUNTSVILLE

Ashley Newsome, Deputy City Secretary

Andy Brauningger, Mayor