

CITY OF BLUE RIDGE  
CITY COUNCIL MINUTES  
MAY 5, 2020

THE BLUE RIDGE CITY COUNCIL MET IN REGULAR SESSION AT 7:00 P.M. ON TUESDAY, MAY 5, 2019 AT THE BLUE RIDGE COMMUNITY CENTER, LOCATED AT 200 W. TILTON, BLUE RIDGE, TEXAS 75424 AT 7:00 P.M. WITH THE FOLLOWING ITEMS ON THE AGENDA FOR CONSIDERATION AND/OR ACTION.

1. Mayor Williams called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and called roll with the following members present, Mayor Rhonda Williams, Christina Porath, Keith Chitwood, Amber Wood, and Allen Cunnyingham.
2. City Secretary Edie Sims offered the prayer and lead the Pledge of Allegiance to the American and Texas Flags.
3. Announcements relating to items of public interest: The Blue Ridge ISD will be holding a Class of 2020 Senior Parade on May 9, 2020 at noon; Proclamation proclaiming the month of June 2020 as Men's Health Month  
Mayor Williams announced the Class of 2020 Senior Parade and read the Proclamation regarding Men's Health Month.
4. Public Comment  
No one signed up or spoke at this time.
5. Consent Agenda: a) Discuss, approve or disapprove the minutes from Session held March 3, 2020, Regular Session held March 3, 2020, and Emergency Session held March 31, 2020; b) Public Works Update; c) City Financial Report; d) Fire Department Report; and e) Animal Control Report  
Christina Porath motioned to approve the Consent Agenda as presented with Amber Wood seconding the motion. Motion carried unanimously.
6. Consider, discuss and act upon a Special Event Application to close the square on May 9, 2020 from 11am to 1:30pm for the Blue Ridge ISD Class of 2020 Senior Parade  
Tonya Harrison spoke for the parents of the Seniors who are putting together the parade and requested the square be closed, if the City would close Ridgeway and East Lamm and if the fee would be waived. The School Resource Officer will be working closely with Collin County Sheriff's Office to have the major roadways blocked.  
Christina Porath motioned to approve the square closure with the City blocking the requested streets and that the fee be waived. Amber Wood seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.
7. Consider, discuss and act upon Resolution 2020-0505-001 denying Texas New Mexico Power Company's application for a distribution cost recovery factor increase within the City of Blue Ridge  
Amber Wood motioned to approve the Resolution as presented with Christina Porath seconding the motion. Motion carried unanimously.
8. Consider, discuss and act upon purchasing a vehicle for the Public Works Director  
Public Works Director Brad Meserole came before the Council expressing the issues with his current vehicle, of which the wiring harness will need replacing which is very costly,

transmission is out, the front end needs rebuilding and the vehicle is a 2007. It was purchased used and since we have attained the vehicle, it has approximately 120,000 miles. Mr. Meserole was not clear what the mileage was when the vehicle was purchased from the City of Little Elm.

City Secretary Edie Sims stated since the City did not hold an election, we have \$6,925 which would be transferred from the Elections line item to use as a down payment for a vehicle and finance the remainder.

Council reviewed the different opportunities provided for a Chevrolet and Ford. The Chevrolet thru Ray Huffines has the least price and best options for the City. The General Manager for this dealership also lives in Blue Ridge, so the keeping local is still prevailing.

Christina Porath motioned to approve an ordinance moving funds from the Elections line item of the budget to Vehicle Purchase and purchasing a vehicle with financing thru Ray Huffines Chevrolet. Amber Wood seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

9. Consider, discuss and act upon insurance and financing issues with Well #3 behind post office and the issues and maintenance for the well

Public Works Director Brad Meserole stated to the Council an issue occurred with Well #3 when he noticed production was dropping from 220 to 160 gallons per minute. After an investigation, Mr. Meserole contacted CCS Water Specialists to make repairs. CCS found holes in the stem and the motor aged out. The last time this motor was touched was approximately 12 years ago. The motor was replaced with a larger motor and the only item left undone is the screen cleaning. This will need to be done later and CCS will not re-charge for entering the well, only the labor for the cleaning.

The estimate for the repairs has been submitted to our insurance and we are awaiting their response. The estimate is for \$57,432.76. Council concurred to wait for the response from our insurance before going forward. No further action at this time.

10. Consider, discuss and act upon a Service Agreement with MVA Services for ongoing maintenance of electrical/instrumentation and mechanical repair with replacement of all pumps, valves, motors, controls, switchgears and all instruments pertaining to our water and wastewater operations

MVA is the same provider who has recently rescued the City's wastewater issues. The Service Agreement is recommended for ongoing maintenance. The key to longevity of our equipment is ongoing maintenance. Christina Porath motioned to approve the Service Agreement as presented with Amber Wood seconding the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

11. Consider, discuss and act upon a Service Agreement with Streamline Systems for the two heat/air conditioning units at City Hall

The Streamline Systems services are less expensive than the current provider. Christina Porath motioned to approve the service agreement as presented with Amber Wood seconding the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

12. Consider, discuss and act upon the resignation of RexAnne Braswell as Court Clerk

Judge Terry Douglas investigated and confirmed he is allowed to serve as both Judge and Court Clerk which will save us \$2,400 per year. He will continue to serve as both for \$200 per month.

Christina Porath motioned to accept the resignation with Amber Wood seconding the motion.

13. Consider, discuss and act upon extending the declaration of local state of disaster due to public health emergency and how to re-open the City of Blue Ridge and other matters related to the COVID-19 Pandemic

Council discussed all aspects of opening City Hall and the pros/cons and staying within the CDC guidelines as well as the orders per Governor Abbott. During the required closing of City Hall to the public, our customers made their payments either online, by phone using their credit/debit card, or utilized the drop box at City Hall. No change has been made when customers pay with cash. Any overages are accounted to their bill and reflected as a credit.

Christina Porath motioned to open City Hall with the following stipulations: all customers must wear face covering; only one (1) customer at a time; public restrooms will not be accessible. Further discussion was had regarding employees and all attempts to keep employees safe. Amber Wood motioned add to the above motion by Christina Porath adding all employees are to return to full time work effective May 6, 2020. Keith Chitwood seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

14. EXECUTIVE SESSION – In accordance with Texas Government Code, Section 551.001, et. Seq., the City Council will recess into Executive Session (closed meeting) to discuss the following: §551.071: Consultation with City Attorney regarding pending litigation – Cause/Civil Action No. 416-01906-2020, Willard Hancock v. The City of Blue Ridge, et al

Council exited Regular Session into Executive Session at 7:53pm.

15. RECONVENE INTO OPEN SESSION – In accordance with Texas Government Code, Chapter 551, the City Council will reconvene into Open Session to consider action, if any, on matters discussed in Executive Session

Council Reconvened into Open Session at 8:21pm with no action being taken.

16. Discussion of placing items on future agendas

Keith Chitwood requested a discussion of the donated land and how it can be used for Open Spaces.

17. Adjournment. Christina Porath motioned to adjourn with Amber Wood seconding the motion. Council adjourned at 8:22pm.

APPROVED:



Rhonda Williams, Mayor

ATTEST:



Edie Sims, City Secretary