

CITY OF BLUE RIDGE
CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 1, 2020

THE BLUE RIDGE CITY COUNCIL MET IN REGULAR SESSION AT 7:00 P.M. ON TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 2020 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, Keith Chitwood, Amber Wood, and Allen Cunnyngham. Christina Porath was absent.
2. Tom Pierson offered the prayer and lead the Pledge of Allegiance to the American and Texas Flags.
3. Announcements relating to items of public interest: According to The Leonard Graphic, the City's sales tax income has increased 70% for this year's sales tax payments.
4. Public Comment
No one signed up or spoke at this time.
5. Consent Agenda: a) Discuss, approve or disapprove the minutes from Special Session held August 4, 2020 and Regular Session held August 4, 2020; and Special Session held August 25, 2020; b) Public Works Update; c) City Financial Report; d) Fire Department Report; and e) Animal Control Report
Amber Wood motioned to approve the Consent Agenda as presented with Keith Chitwood seconding the motion. Motion carried unanimously.
6. Consider, discuss and act upon closing the downtown square for the 2020 Homecoming Parade on Wednesday, September 16, 2020 between 6:45pm – 7:45pm
Amber Wood motioned to approve closing the square for the parade and waive the fee with Keith Chitwood seconding the motion. Motion carried unanimously. The Homecoming Parade Committee does know to contact the Sheriff's Office to close the highways.
7. Consider, discuss and act upon the Blue Ridge Masonic Lodge Drive Thru BBQ on the square on September 19, 2020 from 7:00am – 3:00pm (the square will not need to be closed)
The Masonic Lodge's event will be extended to 6:00pm. Amber Wood motioned to approve the request to utilize the square, amend the time to 6:00pm and to waive the fee with Keith Chitwood seconding the motion. Motion carried unanimously.
8. Consider, discuss and act upon approving the Community Development Corporation Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year 2020-2021
The Blue Ridge Community Development Corporation's budget was presented with Amber Wood motioning to approve the budget. Keith Chitwood seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.
9. Consider, discuss and act upon Ordinance 2020-0901-001 to adopt the budget for Fiscal Year 2020-2021
This budget will raise more revenue from property taxes than last year's budget. The property tax revenue to be raised from new property added to the tax roll this year is \$884, which is an increase of 4.60% from last year's budget. The property tax revenue to be raised from new property added to the tax roll this year is \$884. Amber Wood motioned to approve the budget as presented with Keith Chitwood seconding the motion. A record vote is as

follows: Amber Wood – yes, Keith Chitwood – yes, Allen Cunnyingham – no. The vote passed 2 to 1.

10. Consider, discuss and act upon Ordinance 2020-0901-002 to adopt the Tax Rate for Fiscal Year 2020-2021

Amber Wood motioned that the property tax rate be increased by the adoption of a tax rate of .56, which is effectively a 4.42 percent increase in the tax rate. This year's levy to fund maintenance and operations expenditures exceeds last year's maintenance and operations tax levy. Also, this year's M&O tax rate is higher than the effective maintenance and operations tax rate. This tax rate will raise more taxes for maintenance and operations than last year's tax rate. The tax rate will effectively be raised by 3.50% and will raise taxes for maintenance and operations by approximately 9.12. Keith Chitwood seconded the motion. A record vote was taken as follows: Amber Wood – yes, Keith Chitwood – yes, Allen Cunnyingham – no. The vote passed 2 to 1.

11. Consider, discuss and act upon Ordinance 2020-0901-003 to adopt the 2020 Tax Appraisal Roll

Amber Wood motioned to approve the ordinance as presented with Keith Chitwood seconding the motion. A record vote was taken as follows: Amber Wood – yes, Keith Chitwood – yes, Allen Cunnyingham – yes. Motion carried unanimously.

12. Consider, discuss and act upon Resolution 2020-0901-001 approving a negotiated settlement between Atmos Cities Steering Committee and Atmos Energy Corp, Mid-Tex Division regarding the company's 2019 rate review mechanism filing

John Manganilla represented Atmos Energy was prepared to answer any questions by the Council. With no questions, Amber Wood motioned to approve the Resolution as presented with Keith Chitwood seconding the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

13. Consider, discuss and act upon voting for a Board of Trustee member for the Texas Municipal League Intergovernmental Risk Pool

Council reviewed each candidate and made the following choices:

Robert Herrera (Incumbent) for Place 1; John W. Fullen (Incumbent) for Place 2; Jeffrey Snyder (Incumbent) for Place 3 and Kimberly Meismer for Place 4. Amber Wood motioned to approve the choices as stated with Keith Chitwood seconding the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

14. Consider, discuss and act upon a lease agreement with Texas Data and VoIP regarding lease space on the Standpipe for wireless internet service

Tom Pierson, owner of Texas Data and VoIP, came before Council proposing to enter a lease agreement to provide High Speed Wireless Internet Service with the following: City Hall to receive free internet, the first year of the agreement to pay \$100 per antenna equaling \$400 monthly; the second year increase to \$200 per antenna equaling \$800 monthly and the third year at \$250 per antenna equaling \$1,000 monthly. Further, due to other providers not a part of our community, Mr. Pierson stated he would like to offer a percentage of the sales to the City after the third year to allow for growth.

Mr. Pierson stated his internet service has the most up-to-date equipment and expects this equipment to be outdated within 3-5 years and has business modeled for upgrades so that outdated equipment is not utilized with slower access. The pricing of his packages will remain the same as his competitors with higher speeds and will allow for growth. A basic

package now is \$100 monthly for 20mg; with his internet, he plans on \$100 for 50mg. Mr. Pierson is also investing in fiberoptics to increase opportunities to our City. The distance he offers is 8 square miles. He would also like to offer TV in the near future.

Also, this will allow AT&T and other providers opportunity to compete and provide more growth and funding for the City. Also, the equipment is the newest on the market and it is not bouncing off microwave antennas. It is time to treat IT as an asset and not a liability.

Council asked the timeframe for this service to begin, with Mr. Pierson stating if all goes well - he anticipates November 5th to have fiberoptics available and to start next week for the final design work to produce the antennas. Each antenna will be specific to the Standpipe and to each specific direction – North, South, East and West. They will be affixed to the Standpipe by rare earth magnets.

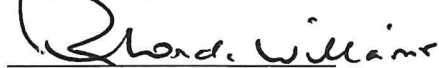
Amber Wood motioned to enter into a lease agreement with D&P Digital Forensics, LLC with Keith Chitwood seconding the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

15. Discussion of placing items on future agendas

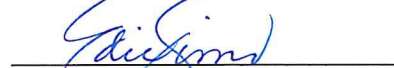
Keith Chitwood requested information regarding the FloTrend lawsuit. Allen Cunnyingham requested information about the Rappold lawsuit. No one else requested an item to be placed on a future agenda.

16. Adjournment Amber Wood motioned to adjourn with Allen Cunnyingham seconding the motion. Council adjourned at 7:45pm.

APPROVED:


Rhonda Williams, Mayor

ATTEST:


Edie Sims, City Secretary