

**CITY OF CASTROVILLE CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING**

**1209 Fiorella
City Council Chambers**

February 26, 2019

Tuesday

6:00 P.M.

MINUTES

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Mayor Timothy Kelley.

II. ROLL CALL

Present:

Mayor Tim Kelley

Mayor Pro Tem Paul Carey

Councilmember Phyllis Santleben

Councilmember Jesse Byars

Councilmember Todd Tschirhart

Councilmember Herb Dyer

Lee Elliott, Interim City Administrator

Jeri Rainey-Hinojosa, Assistant City Administrator

Debra Howe, City Secretary

Brian Jackson, Interim Police Chief

Mary Jo Vargas, HR Director

III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

IV. INVOCATION

Mayor Pro Tem Paul Carey gave the invocation.

V. Mayor's comments on activities within the city

Mayor Kelley briefed the city council on activities and training completed by City Employees. Mayor Kelley said Daniel Paxton had received his Class C operations license, Utility Worker II classification. The Public Library was having "Love Your Library" celebration on Thursday, February 25th. The Library received donations from the silent auction items totaling \$1,100.00; The History of Quihi, Texas and Dr. Seuss Story Time was planned for the month of March. Mayor Kelley said the Airport Security-Phase 3 was complete. The Airport Terminal now had the capability of lockdown security measures and security of the Fuel Farm was in place.

Councilmember Dyer spoke up and made a point of inquiry on agenda items he had requested and was not placed on the agenda for discussion. Mayor Kelley felt proper procedures were not being followed and did not wish to discuss as it was not on the agenda. Councilmember Dyer stated by state statute he was allowed to discuss.

A motion was made by Councilmember Dyer and duly seconded by Councilmember Santleben to allow discussion. (There was no vote taken)

Councilmember Dyer said he wanted to be able to place the five items he had submitted on the next meeting's agenda for consideration. Mayor Kelley felt it was not legal to discuss this because it was not posted and moved on to the next item.

VI. CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Minutes for February 12, 2019 Regular Called Council Meeting.
- B. Minutes for November 14, 2018 Library Advisory Board Meeting.
- C. Minutes for December 12, 2018 Library Advisory Board Meeting.
- D. Minutes for November 27, 2018 Historic Landmark Commission Meeting.
- E. Quarterly Investment Report.

Councilmember Dyer asked for a correction on the February 12, 2019 minutes. The minutes showed Councilmember Tschirhart as being present at Roll Call. Mr. Tschirhart was absent from that meeting. Councilmember Santleben had a question on the Friends of the Castroville Library's Budget shown in the November 14, 2018 approved minutes.

A motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Carey and duly seconded by Councilmember Byars to approve the Consent Agenda with the noted corrections to the City Council Meeting Minutes for February 12, 2019. A vote was taken (5:0 all ayes).

VII. CITIZENS COMMENTS

The City Council will hear comments from any citizen or visitor. Speakers must address their comments to the presiding officer rather than individual council members or staff; stand at the podium, speak clearly into the microphone and state your name and residential address before speaking. Speakers will be allowed a maximum of 3 minutes for testimony. Speakers making personal, impertinent, profane or slanderous remarks will be given one warning before losing the privilege to speak or may be removed from the room. Unauthorized remarks from the audience, stamping of feet, whistles, yells and similar demonstrations/distractions will not be permitted. No placards, banners or signs will be permitted in the Chambers or in any other room in which the council is meeting. In accordance with the State Open Meetings Act, the City Council is restricted from discussing or taking action on items not listed on the agenda. Action can only be taken at a future meeting.

Terry Beck, 104 Harvest Moon, spoke to the city council on looking at growth in the future and what revenues it could bring for the city. Mr. Beck said the city council needed to choose the right type of development to bring in the most revenues. Mr. Beck also said filling the open positions the city had should be the number one priority.

VIII. Discuss and take appropriate action on approval to change the medical plan year to October 1st through September 30th and maintain the current premium rate for medical coverage through September 30th and COBRA Continuation of Coverage Administrative Agreement with TML MultiState IEBP. (Mary Jo Vargas, Human Resource Director)

Human Resource Director Mary Jo Vargas stated this agenda item had been discussed at the last council meeting and was being brought back for action. Ms. Vargas said TML-IEBP had agreed to extend the current rates until October 1st. This would allow the city to make rate comparisons with other insurance firms. Councilmember Santleben questioned the cost savings shown in the backup. She felt it was not correct. Ms. Vargas said the amount shown as a saving was an automatic increase of 8% included in the current budget for the months of June through October. With the rates staying the same those 4 months at the current rates, it was shown as a savings.

A motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Carey and duly seconded by Councilmember Dyer to approve the changes to the medical plan year to October 1st through September 30th and maintain the current premium rate for medical coverage through September 30th and COBRA

Continuation of Coverage Administrative Agreement with TML MultiState IEBP. A vote was taken (5:0 all ayes) the motion carried by all present.

XI. Report on Personnel Staffing and Turnover. (Mary Jo Vargas, Human Resource Director)

Assistant City Administrator Jeri Rainey-Hinojosa reported on the large number of vacancies the city was experiencing. Ms. Rainey-Hinojosa said of the thirteen shown 7 were voluntary, 5 were involuntary and some were seasonal employees. Ms. Rainey-Hinojosa said of the seven voluntary separations the feedback was the lack of leadership in the departments and city council. Councilmember Santleben took exception to the council members being the problem and wanted the organization to be reevaluated and to have more information. Mayor Pro Tem Carey asked as a council what could they do. Ms. Rainey-Hinojosa said give guidance to the staff. Interim City Administrator Lee Elliott said he would be evaluating Public Works and would be making organizational changes to that department within the next week. He also said he would be meeting with the city council members individually to discuss. Mayor Pro Tem Carey felt increases to pay might help with hiring. Ms. Rainey-Hinojosa said pay was not the factor she felt it was stress. Councilmember Tschirhart said the school district would have employee appreciation events to help keep moral up with the employees. Councilmember Dyer felt hiring a Public Works Director as soon as possible would help the city.

X. Accept Fiscal Year 2019 first Quarter Financial Report. (Kristie Zapata, Accountant)

Accountant Kristie Zapata briefed the city council on the first quarter financial report. Ms. Zapata said the first quarter was from October 1 through December 31, 2018 with the General Fund revenues on target but the Utility Fund revenues were slightly down due to a milder winter and the sludge removal cost not budgeted properly. The Airport revenues were down due to lower fuel sales. Ms. Zapata said over all the expenditures were down due to fiscal management and vacant positions. Councilmember Dyer thanked her for the report and asked why they were receiving the first quarter report for 2019 and not the fourth quarter to close out 2018. Assistant City Administrator Jeri Rainey-Hinojosa said the fourth quarter financial would be part of the auditor's report. Councilmember Santleben asked questions on Police Department and the number of employees shown in the Library.

XI. Consider and take appropriate action on ratifying prior payments for services rendered for work performed at the Wastewater Treatment Plant. Approve a payment in the amount of \$81,602.52 to United Professional Services for removal of Sludge. Approve an Ordinance authorizing a budget amendment in the amount of \$350,000 for anticipated costs for testing and sludge removal for the 2018-2019 budget year. (Lee Elliott, Interim City Administrator)

Interim City Administrator Lee Elliot briefly summarized what the city council discussed at the last meeting. Mr. Elliot said the amount budgeted in the current budget did not cover the cost to remove the sludge at the wastewater treatment plant. Heavy rains had caused additional problems and removal cost to increase significantly. Mr. Lee said with the possibility of TCEQ fines in the event of a spillage additional costs were incurred. Council members felt they should have been kept apprised of the issues and staff should have brought back the additional costs for approval.

Councilmember Dyer asked if there was a solution to keep rain water out of the clarifier in the future. Mr. Elliott said possibly a structure with a roof over the area but would do more research. Mayor Kelley said United Professional Services was not at fault and the invoice submitted for \$81,602.52 should be paid. Council members agreed but did not want to move forward with amending the budget for \$350,000 until they had more information on what the funds would be used for.

A motion was made by Councilmember Dyer and duly seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Carey to approve the payment of \$81,602.52 to United Professional Services for the removal of sludge at the wastewater treatment plant. A vote was taken (5:0 all ayes) the motion carried by all present.

XII. Discussion on future agenda items.

Mayor Kelley said this was placed on the agenda so that council members could identify items to be placed on future agendas. Councilmember Santleben said she had several items and it was suggested councilmembers email the Interim City Administrator their lists of items or bring them when they met with the Interim before the next meeting.

XIII. Adjourn.

Mayor Kelley adjourned the meeting at 7:06 p.m.

Timothy Kelley
Mayor

ATTEST:

Debra Howe
City Secretary

*Signatures on file