

MINUTES
ELGIN CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING
ELGIN PUBLIC LIBRARY ANNEX CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
404 NORTH MAIN STREET
FEBRUARY 7, 2023

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor McShan called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Roll Call

Present:

Theresa McShan, Mayor
Sue Brashar, Mayor Pro Tem
Joy Casnovsky, Council Member
Arthur Gibson III, Council Member
Chuck Swain, Council Member
Matthew Callahan, Council Member
Forest Dennis, Council Member
Al Rodriguez, Council Member.

Absent:

Skyler Maldonado, Council Member

Mayor McShan called roll call. Mayor Pro Tem Brashar made a motion to excuse Mr. Maldonado. Mr. Gibson seconded the motion. All voted in favor. The motion carried.

Staff:

Thomas L. Mattis, City Manager
Jennifer Stubbs, City Secretary
Amy Miller, Community Services Director
Michael Gonzalez, Public Works Director
Belen Pena, Finance Director
Kaley Frye, Assistant Director EDC
Pam Sanders, HR Director
Sonia Browder, Media Specialist

INVOCATION

Mayor McShan provided the invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor McShan led those in attendance in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America and Pledge of Allegiance to the Texas Flag.

PUBLIC HEARING

1. Public Hearing On An Ordinance Amending Ch. 16, Art. II Weeds, Wild Growth, & Unsanitary Conditions; Revised Code Of Ordinances, City Of Elgin, Texas; Repealing All Other Ordinances In Conflict Therewith; And Provide For A Savings Clause.

Mr. Mattis stated this item is for minor code amendments. He stated that those who violate the ordinance will have the option to appeal to the Board of Adjustments and that this item has been reviewed by the Planning & Zoning Commission.

2. Public Hearing To Review Performance And Obtain Comments Regarding Its 2021 Texas CDBG Program Community Development Contract #7220042.

Melinda Kapelka, Grant Works, provided a presentation over Section 3 and answered questions of the Council. She stated that the City has been awarded a grant for \$350,000 that will be used to build a SCADA system that will be installed in different locations around the city. She stated that this grant comes from the Texas Department of Agriculture and the money is coming from Housing and Urban Development (HUD). Ms. Kapelka provided information about Section 3 qualifications and answered questions of the Council.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Grant Hennig, 1116 Robin Road, stated that his concern is for the future of Elgin. He stated that Elgin is behind in keeping up with the grid demands. Mr. Hennig stated that the building of new homes hurts the electricity grid. He stated that he is tired of the infrastructure not keeping up with the growth and that this can be controlled by growth and site plans. Mr. Hennig recommended slowing down on projects to allow for catching up. He stated that he was blown away that residents were turned away for not paying \$5 to pay for showers.

Hallie Rock, 827 Savannah Cove, stated that she is the owner of Murphy's Mellows and invited the public to her business's ribbon cutting tomorrow at 3:30 p.m. located at 127 Roy Davis Road.

Courtenay Paris, 506 Lexington Road, stated that she is here tonight to raise awareness of something important to her. She stated the Accessory Dwelling Units are a huge, missed opportunity for this community and that these units provide an affordable and accessible solution for families with aging parents or disabled family members. Ms. Paris stated that the cost of long-term care is astronomical and these ADUs would offer an alternative.

Nick Whitfield, 210 MLK Drive, stated that he is here to discuss the lack of access to Accessory Dwelling Units. He stated that this is a great solution for aging parents to have independence. Mr.

Whitfield stated that in the 2016 comp plan, it was recommended that ADUs were allowed with some regulations in place. He asked to work together to make ADUs a reality for families in Elgin.

Christi Sanchez, 446 Roemer Road, stated that she moved to a little piece of land off of Roemer Road about three years ago, and was here tonight to discuss the response from the weather from last week and offer her thoughts as a newcomer. Ms. Sanchez thanked the citizens for all their help. She stated that the Mayor began her address with a statement about complaints posted on social media and the acknowledgment set a bitter tone for the entire conversation. Ms. Sanchez suggested the leaders of this community acknowledge and improve the culture that has existed over the years and singling out detractors as malcontents is not only offensive to those who are trying to help but gives the impression that there is no respect for the constituents. She stated that she spent her days at Girl Scouts of Central Texas inspiring young people to make mistakes and learn from them and is hopeful that this team of leaders will be inspired to do the same.

PRESENTATION

1. A PROCLAMATION DECLARING FEBRUARY 2023 AS NATIONAL BLACK HISTORY MONTH IN THE CITY OF ELGIN

Mayor McShan read the proclamation and presented it to Ms. Miller who would deliver the proclamation to the appropriate person.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

1. Report On City Of Elgin Response To Impacts Of Winter Storm Mara

Mr. Mattis stated that Emergency Management is when the staff and the Council are constantly working together to manage these operations to make sure the City can confirm all obligations before these events. He stated that the Mayor and Council have control over virtually everything but during an emergency, rely heavily on the staff. Mr. Mattis stated that the City had an appropriate response and during an emergency event, costs are never an issue or concern. Mr. Mattis stated that Oncor and Bluebonnet Electric Cooperative are the main electric providers in the city limits. He stated that there is some confusion about what the Emergency Shelter is supposed to be used for. He stated that inclement weather or power outages are not considered appropriate usage for the shelter. Mr. Mattis stated that an Emergency Shelter is different from a Warming Center. He stated that many calls took place but there were no requests made for shelter.

Chief Noble stated that 209.5 hours were devoted to the storm and that were no crashes related to the storm. Chief Noble stated that officers went door to door to deliver flyers and conduct welfare checks. He stated that Mayor could make a disaster declaration in a City.

Michael Gonzalez thanked the entire Public Works crew for their hard work. He stated that staff is prioritizing the needs of the city like roadways, alleyways, and city parks. Mr. Gonzalez stated

that residential brush pickup is not a typical service provided by the city but is being offered to the citizens. Texas A&M Forest Service is out working on the parks.

Amy Miller stated that news was posted on the website and social media platforms. She stated that there was direct communication with individual citizens. Ms. Miller stated that the Recreation Center was open Thursday-Sunday for free coffee, charging stations, Wi-Fi, and craft activities in the lobby.

Mr. Mattis stated that moving forward, the City will focus on city facilities to catch up. He stated that the City will pick up all debris. Mr. Mattis stated that permit fees and inspections typically required for electrical services installation or repairs will be waived. Mr. Mattis answered questions of the Council and thanked the staff for all their hard work.

2. Planning & Zoning Commission (PZC) Quarterly Report

Mr. Mattis stated that this item is in response to the Boards & Commissions Ordinance. There were no comments from the Council.

3. Quarterly Investment Report- 1st Quarter

Mr. Mattis stated that the Finance Director is here to answer any questions. There were no questions of the Council.

4. General Activity Report and/or Project Update

Mr. Mattis stated that the ESD is contemplating this evening approving a sales tax to apply all around the city limits to the ESD and provided additional information. He answered questions of the Council.

Ms. Miller stated that the City of Elgin is receiving a public art piece at Morris Memorial Park via donation. She stated that there will be more updates to come.

CONSENT AGENDA

1. City Council Regular Meeting Minutes January 17, 2023

The minutes passed on the consent agenda.

2. A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF ELGIN, TEXAS, AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO APPROVE PROFESSIONAL SERVICES FEES WITH FGM ARCHITECTS INC. RELATED TO THE ELGIN POLICE DEPARTMENT STATION PROJECT; AND MAKING CERTAIN FINDINGS RELATED THERETO.

The resolution passed on the consent agenda.

3. A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF ELGIN, TEXAS, AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO APPROVE DESIGN PLANS RELATED TO THE PISTOL HILL WATER TANKS AND SCADA PROJECT; AND MAKING CERTAIN FINDINGS RELATED THERETO.

The resolution passed on the consent agenda.

Mayor Pro Tem Brashar made a motion to approve the consent agenda. Mr. Callahan seconded the motion. All voted in favor. The motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

1. A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE A CONTRACT BETWEEN THE CITY OF ELGIN, TEXAS (CITY) AND ST. DAVID'S FOUNDATION FOR A GRANT TO SUPPORT THE EXPANSION OF VETERANS MEMORIAL PARK.

Ms. Miller introduced Abena Asante with St. David's and thanked Elizabeth Marzec for all her hard work in building a relationship with St. David's. Ms. Miller stated that last year, the city was invited to apply for a grant with St. David's for the Veterans Memorial Park Expansion. She stated St. David's is funding the park with a \$300,000 grant for Block A. She stated that with this grant and other funds, the City can renovate the entire block. Ms. Miller invited Ms. Asante up to the podium. Ms. Asante stated that St. David's has given 7 million dollars to Bastrop County and about \$600,000 to the City of Elgin. She stated that their mission is to invest in actions that help promote and advance health equity. Ms. Casnovsky made a motion to approve the resolution as presented. Mayor Pro Tem Brashar seconded the motion. All voted in favor. The motion carried. The Council left the dais to take a photo.

2. AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 16, ARTICLE II WEEDS, WILD GROWTH, AND UNSANITARY CONDITIONS; REVISED CODE OF ORDINANCES, CITY OF ELGIN, TEXAS; REPEALING ALL OTHER ORDINANCES AND PARTS OF ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT THEREWITH; AND PROVIDING FOR A SAVINGS CLAUSE.

The Council returned to the dais. Mr. Mattis stated that this item is amending the ordinance with minor updates. Mr. Gibson and Mr. Swain returned to the dais at 8:23 p.m. He stated that the one significant update is that if a citizen receives a violation, they can appeal the decision by going before the Board of Adjustments. Discussion followed. Mayor Pro Tem Brashar made a motion to adopt the ordinance recommended by the P&Z. Mr. Swain seconded the motion. All voted in favor. The motion carried.

3. AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF ELGIN, TEXAS, CALLING A GENERAL ELECTION ON MAY 6, 2023 FOR THE PURPOSE OF ELECTING CERTAIN CITY OFFICIALS; DESIGNATING ELECTION PRECINCTS AND POLLING PLACES; PROVIDING FOR EARLY VOTING AND ELECTION DAY VOTING; PROVIDING FOR PERFORMANCE OF REQUIRED ADMINISTRATIVE DUTIES; MAKING PROVISIONS FOR THE CONDUCT OF SUCH ELECTION; CERTIFYING PROVISION OF REQUIRED ACCESSIBLE VOTING SYSTEMS AT EACH POLLING PLACE; AND PROVIDING FOR OTHER MATTERS RELATING TO SUCH CITY ELECTION

Mr. Mattis stated this is a routine formality. Ms. Casnovsky stated that having to close the Rec Center for two weeks is not her first choice and asked if the elections could take place in the Council Chambers. Mr. Mattis stated that it is too late to change locations for this election, but staff will engage in a conversation with Council for the future elections. Mr. Callahan made a motion to approve the Ordinance. Discussion followed. Mr. Swain seconded the motion. All voted in favor. The motion was carried.

4. Home Town Heroes

Charlotte Thomas provided information on the Home Town Heroes program. She displayed a banner and stated that the families would order these and then would be placed on Main Street, North Ae. C, and Lee Dildy. She stated that the cost is less than \$100 and is based on a labor cost from the City. Ms. Thomas stated that there will be an option to accept donations for those who are unable to pay for the banners. Mr. Rodriguez made a motion to direct city staff to work with Ms. Thomas. Mr. Swain seconded the motion. All voted in favor. The motion was carried.

5. A Request Of Council To Begin Discussion On Revising And Amending The Current City Code Of Ordinances Pertaining To Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs) Or Garage Apartments - Councilmember Gibson

Mr. Gibson stated that he requested this item to be placed on the agenda. Mr. Mattis provided information. Mr. Gibson made a motion to direct staff to begin researching and compiling some recommendations to Council in regard to Accessory Dwelling Units. Mayor Pro Tem Brashar seconded the motion. All voted in favor. The motion was carried.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The City Council may announce that it will adjourn the public meeting at any time during the meeting and convene in Executive Session pursuant to Chapter 551 of the Texas Government Code to discuss any matter as specifically listed on the agenda and/or as permitted by Chapter 551 of the Texas Government Code

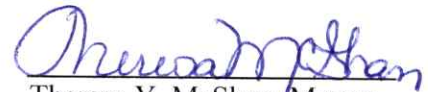
The City Council did not retire into Executive Session.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

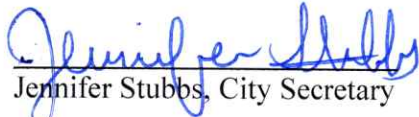
Ms. Miller stated that there is a TDEM survey for those who have had damage from the storm. Ms. Miller invited the public to Sip, Shop, and Stroll. Mayor Pro Tem Brashar stated that the 11th is the Project Celebration Dinner Dance and they have some tickets left for sale.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor McShan adjourned the meeting at 8:56 p.m.


Theresa Y. McShan, Mayor

ATTEST:


Jennifer Stubbs, City Secretary