

The City of Balcones Heights
Special City Council Meeting
3300 Hillcrest Drive
Balcones Heights, Texas 78201

MINUTES

DATE: April 10, 2006

TIME: 6:00 p.m.

Members Present: Jim Craven Bennie Cass Suzanne de Leon
Steve Walker Lamar Gillian Bill Johnson

Members Absent: None

Staff Present: Lanny S. Lambert Delia Flores Frank Garza

Others Present: Carol Walker Lili Cruz Robert Goetz
John Espinoza Pamela Hodges Elizabeth Wells
Beryl Jones Gloria & Jerry Cantu Rick Wall
Natalie G. Torres Lucille Wohlfarth Mr. & Mrs. D. Sellars
Dean Nelson Adam Mercado Frank Mercado
Charlie J. Marin Freddy Jones Lucille Garfin
Anita & Russell Campbell Cathy Craven

CALL TO ORDER AND RECORDING OF QUORUM

All members present.

**INVOCATION AND PLEDGES OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE U. S. A. AND TEXAS
FLAGS**

Councilman Lamar Gillian gave the invocation and led the pledges.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Lily Cruz resident of the city came up once again to ask City Council to implement into action a plan to clean up the city.

Police Chief Kenneth Menn came up to introduce the two newly hired Police Officers, Vincent Moreno and Michael Russo.

1. PRESENTATIONS and REPORTS:

- a. Convention & Visitors Bureau Report, including Norris Conference Centers updates.
(Nastasi)

Director of Tourism, Lorenzo Nastasi, came up to give his report on information he previously provided to Mayor and Council Members.

- b. Report from John Espinoza regarding the Woodlawn Creek Drainage Project and possible **ACTION** if necessary.

John Espinoza from Halff Associates gave Mayor and Council an update on the drainage project.

City Administrator, Lanny Lambert, advised Mayor and Council that the CDBG monies had to be allocated to some other area due to the hold on the drainage project. He gave them a list of options. Staff recommendation was for street reconstruction.

MOTION: My recommendation would be to go with street reconstruction.

Motion by: Lamar Gillian Second: Bill Johnson 5/0/0 PASSED

2. CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS:

- a. Approval of Minutes for the Regular Meeting of March 13, 2006.
- b. Approval of the March 2006 Check Register.
- c. Approval of Financial Report for month of March 2006.

Councilman Lamar Gillian pointed out an error in minutes and also recognized the finance department and the hotels on the positive results shown on graphs.

MOTION: I make a motion that we accept the consent agenda.

Motion by: Bill Johnson Second: Bennie Cass 5/0/0 PASSED

BOARD AND COMMISSION APPOINTMENTS:

3. Consideration and Action to appoint or re-appoint CVB Board Member's appointed by Council Member, Place 4 and Council Member, Place 5. (Nastasi)

MOTION: I nominate Wayne Kipp (TexSan Heart Hospital). (Council Member, Place 5 appointment)

Motion by: Bill Johnson Second: Lamar Gillian 5/0/0 PASSED

MOTION: I'd like to make a motion that we re-appoint Mrs. Pamela Hodges to the CVB. (Council Member, Place 4 appointment)

Motion by: Lamar Gillian Second: Bill Johnson 5/0/0 PASSED

PUBLIC HEARINGS:

ACTION ITEMS:

4. City Council will review, discuss and may take **ACTION** to approve a resolution adopting a fraud prevention and detection policy. (Miller)

MOTION: I make a motion we approve.

Motion by: Suzanne de Leon Second: Bennie Cass 5/0/0 PASSED

5. Consideration and **ACTION** to approve an ordinance to keep dogs in a fenced area. (Gillian)

Councilman Lamar Gillian gave an explanation for the purpose of this ordinance.

City Attorney mentioned he would be adding the two sections required by law to this ordinance.

MOTION: I make a motion that we accept as read by Mr. Lamar Gillian.

Motion by: Bennie Cass Second: Lamar Gillian 5/0/0 PASSED

6. Consideration and **ACTION** to approve hiring Jennifer Carillo as a full-time dispatcher, sister-in-law of Dispatcher Alice Colunga. (Menn)

Police Chief, Kenneth Menn due to a requirement according to policy asked for Council's approval to hire Jennifer Carillo who is related to Dispatcher Alice Colunga.

MOTION: I make a motion we approve.

Motion by: Steve Walker Second: Bennie Cass 5/0/0 PASSED

7. Consideration and **ACTION** to approve Federal Equitable Sharing Agreement. (Menn)

Police Chief, Kenneth Menn asked for approval of this agreement to be able to accept any monies when Task Force is dissolved.

MOTION: I make a motion we approve.

Motion by: Bill Johnson Second: Lamar Gillian 5/0/0 PASSED

8. Consideration and **ACTION** to approve an ordinance to amend budget dated September 19, 2005 to provide authorization to hire and fund two additional patrol officer positions. (Menn)

Police Chief, Kenneth Menn advised council of proposal submitted at the beginning of the budget to hire two additional officers.

Council asked for a monthly report of revenues.

MOTION: I make a motion we approve.

Motion by: Steve Walker Second: Bill Johnson 5/0/0 PASSED

Charlie Marin resident of Balcones Heights came up to comment the importance of Police and Fire Department protection.

9. Consideration and **ACTION** to accept Certification of Unopposed Candidate and declare unopposed candidate elected to office.

Council Member, Suzanne de Leon stated she would like her name to remain on the ballot therefore no action was taken.

10. Consideration and **ACTION** regarding request from Linebarger Goggan to waive taxes on property located at 219 Bobbies Lane.

City Administrator, Lanny Lambert stated that he has not received in writing what Linebarger Goggan has confirmed but wanted to let them know that they are scheduling for auction in May the property on Bobbies Lane. Linebarger Goggan is requesting the city cut the taxes owed on property to be able to get a bidder.

No Action.

PURCHASES/BIDS/CONTRACTS:

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

11. Discussion regarding the VIA monies to suburban cities (STEP). (de Leon, Gillian)

Councilwoman de Leon and Councilman Lamar Gillian suggested the monies be used for decorative lighting and green space. Recommendation was also made for signage i.e. Welcome to Balcones Heights.

12. Council will discuss the possibility of amending the fence ordinance to allow citizens the opportunity to have a front yard fence. (Walker)

Councilman Steve Walker stated there were concerns regarding robberies and dogs coming into the resident's yards and the desire for the zoning code to be changed to allow front yard fences to possibly prevent these occurrences.

Dave Sellars a resident of Balcones Heights stated he was in agreement to change the zoning code to allow front yard fencing.

City Administrator stated the appropriate step would be to send it to the Planning and Zoning Commission and City Attorney stated there would have to be a Public Hearing.

Lily Cruz stated her concerns with front yard fences in that it would promote more disabled cars parked in resident's yards.

13. Council will discuss property located at 222 Pleasant where a large number of cats were discovered for possible demolition. (Walker)

Councilman Steve Walker informed Council of situation with property regarding cats and spoke about possibly taking the necessary steps to demolish house.

Natalie Torres a resident of Balcones Heights spoke of the problems with this property and the health of her family.

City Administrator gave them the Health Inspectors report where he noted this property was not un-structurally unsound. He recommended that the city inform the property owners that they are in violation of the Health Ordinance and give them time to clean it up.

Open Session recessed at 7:03 p.m. for a Balcones Heights Crime Control and Prevention District meeting.

Regular session reconvened at 7:05 p.m.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

ADJOURNMENT:

Meeting adjourned at 7:06 p.m.

City of Balcones Heights, Texas

DELIA FLORES – City Secretary

Minutes approved by City Council on May 8, 2006.