

Councilmembers Present:

Mayor Robb Erickson
Mayor Pro-Tem Lisa Swint
Councilmember Kelly Smith
Councilmember Jesús Valdez
Councilmember Todd Arvidson
Councilmember Kay Bower

Councilmembers Absent: None**City Staff Present:**

Nancy Cain, City Manager
Marisa Spencer, City Secretary
Courtney Billi, Assistant City Secretary
Robyn Achu, Finance/HR Director
Ron Eberhardt, Police Chief
Steven Steinmetz, Public Works Director
Linda Crosland, Library Director
Cynthia Trevino, City Attorney

1. Call to Order/Roll Call

With a quorum of the City Councilmembers present, Mayor Erickson called the special meeting of the Garden Ridge City Council to order at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, October 10, 2023, in the City Council Chambers of the Garden Ridge City Hall, 9400 Municipal Parkway, Garden Ridge, Texas 78266.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Erickson led the Pledge of Allegiance and the Texas Pledge.

3. Proclamations**a) Domestic Violence Awareness Month Proclamation**

Mayor Erickson presented a Proclamation to the Crisis Center of Comal County declaring October 2023 as Domestic Violence Awareness Month in the City of Garden Ridge.

Jennifer Hinojosa, Crisis Center of Comal County, thanked the City of Garden Ridge for their continued support and spoke regarding the Crisis Center of Comal County.

b) Hill Country Night Sky Month Proclamation

Mayor Erickson presented a Proclamation to Comal County Friends of the Night Sky declaring October 2023 as Hill Country Night Sky Month in the City of Garden Ridge.

Michelle Molina, Comal County Friends of the Night Sky, thanked the City of Garden Ridge for their continued support and spoke regarding the Comal County Friends of the Night Sky.

4. Citizen Comment Period

Carmen McCaw, 21918 Paseo Corto Drive, spoke regarding development in the City of Garden Ridge.

Tim Sturman, 9404 Gardenia Bend Drive, spoke regarding development in the City of Garden Ridge.

5. Consent Agenda

THESE ITEMS MAY BE ACTED UPON IN A SINGLE MOTION. NO SEPARATE DISCUSSION OR ACTION ON THESE ITEMS WILL BE HELD UNLESS REQUESTED BY A COUNCILMEMBER. PUBLIC COMMENT ON THESE ITEMS MAY BE HEARD DURING CITIZENS' PARTICIPATION; HOWEVER, THAT DOES NOT MEAN THE ITEM WILL BE CONSIDERED OUTSIDE THE CONSENT AGENDA.

- a) Approval of Minutes for the September 6, 2023, City Council Regular Meeting.**
- b) Financial Statement, Summary Report, and Management's Discussion and Analysis of Results of Operations – August 30, 2023.**
- c) Resolution No. 511-102023 A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Garden Ridge, Texas, designating the New Braunfels Herald-Zeitung as the official newspaper of the City of Garden Ridge.**

Motion: A motion was made by Mayor Pro-Tem Swint, seconded by Councilmember Smith, to approve Consent Agenda items a)-c). The City Council voted five (5) for and none (0) opposed. The motion carried unanimously.

6. Staff Reports

a) City Manager Monthly Activity Report.

City Manager Nancy Cain reviewed employee anniversaries and City Staff recognitions. She stated there were 346.25 *Volunteer Garden Ridge!* hours for the month of September and spoke regarding First Friday.

Mayor Erickson announced the City of Garden Ridge received a Municipal Excellence Award in the City Spirit category for its First Friday events during the Texas Municipal League Annual Conference.

b) Finance/HR Monthly Activity Report.

Finance/HR Director Robyn Achu spoke regarding continuity of operations related to the Finance/HR Department.

c) City Secretary Monthly Activity Report.

City Secretary Marisa Spencer reviewed the monthly activity report and spoke regarding continuity of operations related to the Administrative Department.

d) Police Department Monthly Activity Report.

Chief Eberhardt reviewed the monthly activity report and spoke regarding continuity of operations related to the Police Department.

e) Public Works Department Monthly Activity Report.

Public Works Director Steven Steinmetz reviewed the monthly activity report and spoke regarding continuity of operations related to the Public Works Department.

f) Library Monthly Activity Report.

Library Director Linda Crosland reviewed the monthly activity report and spoke regarding continuity of operations related to the Library.

7. City Engineer Projects Status Reports

City Engineer Sam Johnson reviewed the City Engineer monthly activity report and addressed questions from Councilmembers.

8. City Commission and Committee Reports/Recommendations/Possible Actions

a) Planning and Zoning Commission:

- 1. Preliminary Plat combining a 1.4-acre tract and a 1.707-acre tract to create a 3.107-acre tract to be known as Lot 1, Block 1, The Revival, located at 19186 FM 2252, owned by Eric T. Fischer.**

1.1. Receive recommendation from Planning and Zoning Commission.

Chair Diaz stated the Planning and Zoning Commission recommends approval of the Preliminary Plat combining a 1.4-acre tract and a 1.707-acre tract to create a 3.107-acre tract to be known as Lot 1, Block 1, The Revival, located at 19186 FM 2252 and owned by Eric T. Fischer.

1.2. Discuss and take action.

The City Council discussed the preliminary plat and City Attorney Cynthia Trevino stated the preliminary plat meets all legal requirements.

Motion: A motion was made by Councilmember Valdez, seconded by Councilmember Arvidson, to approve the Planning and Zoning Commission's recommendation and approve the Preliminary Plat combining a 1.4-acre tract and a 1.707-acre tract to create a 3.107-acre tract to be known as Lot 1, Block 1, The Revival, located at 19186 FM 2252 and owned by Eric T. Fischer. The City Council voted five (5) for and none (0) opposed. The motion carried unanimously.

2. Receive monthly activity update as applicable.

Chair Diaz provided City Council with an update on topics discussed at the Commission's meeting.

b) Water Commission:

1. Expiring Terms (September 30, 2023) of Commissioners.

1.1. Receive recommendation to reappoint Commissioner Carmichael, Commissioner Mueller, and Commissioner Harshbarger to serve another term with terms expiring Sept. 30, 2025.

City Manager Nancy Cain stated the Commission recommends the reappointment of Commissioner Carmichael, Commissioner Mueller, and Commissioner Harshbarger to serve another term on the Water Commission.

1.2. Discuss and take action.

Motion: A motion was made by Councilmember Smith, seconded by Councilmember Valdez, to approve the Water Commission's recommendation and reappoint Commissioner Carmichael, Commissioner Mueller, and Commissioner Harshbarger to serve another term with terms expiring September 30, 2025. The City Council voted five (5) for and none (0) opposed. The motion carried unanimously.

2. Receive monthly activity update as applicable.

City Manager Nancy Cain provided City Council with an update on topics discussed by the Commission.

c) Parks Committee:

1. Receive monthly activity update as applicable.

Rod Chamberlain, Parks Committee, provided City Council with an update on the Committee's projects.

9. Approvals and Authorizations

The following items are for discussion, consideration, and action.

a) Community and Event Center Agreement.

City Manager Nancy Cain spoke regarding increased usage of the Community and Event Center and reviewed the proposed revisions to the Rental Agreement, Procedures and Guidelines, and Fee Schedules.

Motion: A motion was made by Councilmember Bower, seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Swint, to approve the proposed revisions to the Community and Event Center Agreement with one (1) amendment to remove "Pac 828" from Schedule B Usage Categories. The City Council voted five (5) for and none (0) opposed. The motion carried unanimously.

b) Oak Wilt Outbreak/Abatement/Trenching/Expense to City.

City Manager Nancy Cain provided City Council with an update regarding the oak wilt outbreak in the City and reviewed abatement, trenching, and expense to the City related to this oak wilt outbreak. She stated it is recommended that the City Council authorize City staff to move forward with the trenching necessary for oak wilt abatement along Bluebell and Sorrel at an estimated cost to the City of \$43,635 plus roadway repairs of approximately \$8,000. She stated it is further recommended that the City Council provide authorization to apply \$3,743.35 of the Texas A&M Forest Service Grant and \$11,502.50 of the City's Oak Wilt Cost Share Program to reduce the City's project cost to approximately \$28,389.15 and to direct City staff to include the oak wilt abatement project deficit in a FY2024 General Fund budget amendment.

Motion: A motion was made by Councilmember Bower, seconded by Councilmember Smith, to approve the oak wilt abatement, trenching, and expense to the City as presented by City Manager Nancy Cain. The City Council voted five (5) for and none (0) opposed. The motion carried unanimously.

- c) **Ordinance No. 240-102023 An Ordinance of the City Council of the City of Garden Ridge, Texas, establishing a hotel occupancy tax and setting forth the tax rate to be imposed on hotel occupancy within the corporate limits and extraterritorial jurisdiction of the City; setting forth the duties of persons responsible for collection of the tax; providing for criminal penalties and fines; and providing for findings of fact, savings, severability, repealer, an effective date, and proper notice and meeting.**

Mayor Erickson spoke regarding Ordinance No. 240 and short-term rentals.

Motion: A motion was made by Councilmember Arvidson, seconded by Councilmember Bower, to approve Ordinance No. 240-102023 An Ordinance of the City Council of the City of Garden Ridge, Texas, establishing a hotel occupancy tax and setting forth the tax rate to be imposed on hotel occupancy within the corporate limits and extraterritorial jurisdiction of the City; setting forth the duties of persons responsible for collection of the tax; providing for criminal penalties and fines; and providing for findings of fact, savings, severability, repealer, an effective date, and proper notice and meeting. The City Council voted five (5) for and none (0) opposed. The motion carried unanimously.

10. Updates

a) City Council Projects.

1. Mitigation of growth and encroachment impacts on Garden Ridge (Swint and Erickson).

Mayor Erickson and Mayor Pro-Tem Swint provided updates related to mitigation of growth and encroachment impacts on Garden Ridge.

2. Economic Development/Council Liaison to Tri-County Chamber of Commerce (Smith and Bower).

Councilmember Smith and Councilmember Bower provided updates related to Economic Development and Tri-County Chamber of Commerce.

3. Alamo Area Metropolitan Planning Organization Technical Advisory Committee Update (Valdez and Erickson).

Councilmember Valdez provided updates related to the Alamo Area Metropolitan Planning Organization Technical Advisory Committee.

4. Council Liaison to the Water Company/Utilities Department (Valdez and Erickson).

Councilmember Valdez stated there are no additional updates related to the Water Company/Utilities Department.

5. Council Liaison to Comal ISD (Arvidson and Erickson).

Mayor Erickson and Councilmember Arvidson provided updates related to Comal ISD.

6. City Welcome Signage (Bower and Smith).

Councilmember Bower and Councilmember Smith provided updates related to City Welcome Signage.

11. Discussion of Future Agenda Items

None at this time.

12. Citizen Comment Period

Rickie Baker, 21029 Hickory Bend, spoke regarding development in the City of Garden Ridge.

Thomas Klimas, 9610 Meadow Rue, spoke regarding development in the City of Garden Ridge.

13. Reports and Comments from Mayor and City Councilmembers

The Mayor and/or City Councilmembers may comment, make general announcements, and/or provide progress reports on events, activities and/or committees/board meetings concerning the following:

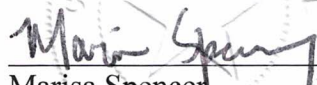
Alamo Area Metropolitan Planning Organization, Boy Scouts and/or Girl Scouts, City of Garden Ridge sponsored events and outreach efforts, Comal ISD (Garden Ridge Elementary/Danville Middle School/Davenport High School), Counties (Bexar/Comal/Guadalupe), Families of Garden Ridge, Garden Ridge Lions Club and Garden Ridge Women's Club, Garden Ridge Citizen Police Academy Alumni Association/Citizen Patrol, Great Springs Project, Greater Bexar County Council of Cities, Hill Country Alliance, Northeast Partnership, Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT), Tri-County Chamber of Commerce.

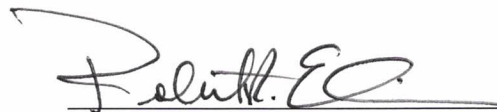
Councilmember Arvidson spoke regarding Davenport High School. Councilmember Valdez spoke regarding the Garden Ridge Citizen Police Academy Alumni Association Annual Car Show, TxDOT, and a new Northeast Lakeview College location opening in Comal County. Mayor Erickson spoke regarding Families of Garden Ridge Adopt-A-Highway Program and Northeast Partnership for Economic Development.

14. Adjournment

There being no further business, the Tuesday, October 10, 2023, City Council special meeting was adjourned at 7:56 p.m. by Mayor Erickson.

ATTEST


Marisa Spencer
City Secretary


Robb Erickson
Mayor