

Councilmembers Present:

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

Councilmembers Absent:

Councilmember Brian Reyes

City Staff Present:

Nancy Cain, City Manager
Cyndi Simmons, Assistant City Secretary
Michelle Hinojosa, Administrative Coordinator
Robyn Achu, Finance/HR Director
Ron Eberhardt, Chief of Police
Steven Steinmetz, Public Works Director
Wendy Bippert, Assistant Librarian
Cynthia Trevino, City Attorney

1. Call to Order/Roll Call

With a quorum of the City Councilmembers present, Mayor Erickson called the regular meeting of the Garden Ridge City Council to order at 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday, September 4, 2024, 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. Citizen Comment Period

Tony Frasco, 8802 Wild Wind Park, spoke regarding City Manager Nancy Cain's retirement.

Cyndie Segovia, 8435 Twisted Oaks, spoke regarding garbage/recycling services and communication opportunities with elected officials.

Dawn Hatch, 8377 Twisted Oaks, spoke regarding land use, zoning regulations, the Planning and Zoning Commission, and quarry operations.

4. 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 July 30, 2024, City Council Special Meeting.**
- b) **Approval of Minutes for the August 7, 2024, City Council Regular Meeting.**
- c) **Financial Statement, Summary Report, and Management's Discussion and Analysis of Results of Operations – July 31, 2024.**

Motion: A motion was made by Councilmember Valdez, seconded by Councilmember Smith, to approve Consent Agenda items a)-c). The City Council voted four (4) for and none (0) opposed. The motion carried unanimously.

5. Staff Reports

a) City Manager Monthly Activity Report.

City Manager Nancy Cain reviewed employee recognitions and employee anniversaries. She stated there were 180 *Volunteer Garden Ridge!* hours for the month of August and spoke regarding Community and Event Center upgrades, Events Committee meetings, and tree trimming within the City of Garden Ridge.

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.

Assistant City Secretary Cyndi Simmons 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.

Assistant Librarian Wendy Bippert reviewed the monthly activity report and spoke regarding continuity of operations related to the Library.

6. City Engineer Projects Status Reports

City Engineer Hank Krippen reviewed the City Engineer monthly activity report and addressed questions from Councilmembers.

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

a) Planning and Zoning Commission:

- 1. An amendment to the City of Garden Ridge Zoning Ordinance (Ordinance No. 13-032023) Section 2.04.02. Natural Features Overlay (NFO) District and Section 2.06.15. Development in the Natural Features (NFO) District related to the boundaries and location of the District, development within the District, and other matters in connection therewith.**

1.1. Receive recommendation from Planning and Zoning Commission.

Chair Jacaman stated the Commission recommends approval of an amendment to the City of Garden Ridge Zoning Ordinance (Ordinance No. 13-032023) Section 2.04.02. Natural Features Overlay (NFO) District and Section 2.06.15. Development in the Natural Features Overlay (NFO) District related to the boundaries, location, and development within the District, with an addition to Section 2.06.15., B. Buildings and Site Development, 1. Street Frontage Buffer stating, "The evergreen trees shall also be native to Texas."

1.2. Hold a public hearing.

Mayor Erickson opened the public hearing at 6:29 p.m.

No one wished to speak and Assistant City Secretary Cyndi Simmons stated no written comments were submitted.

Mayor Erickson closed the public hearing at 6:29 p.m.

1.3. Discuss and take action.

Motion: A motion was made by Councilmember Valdez, seconded by Councilmember Swint, to approve the Planning and Zoning Commission's recommendation with the exception of "the evergreen trees shall also be native to Texas" and approve the amendment to the City of Garden Ridge Zoning Ordinance (Ordinance No. 13-032023) Section 2.04.02. Natural Features Overlay (NFO) District and Section 2.06.15. Development in the Natural Features Overlay (NFO) District related to the boundaries, location, and development within the District as revised. The City Council voted four (4) for and none (0) opposed. The motion carried unanimously.

2. Expiring Terms (September 30, 2024) of Commissioners.

2.1. Receive recommendation to reappoint Commissioner Jacaman, Commissioner Diaz, and Commissioner Bates to serve another term with terms expiring September 30, 2026.

Chair Jacaman stated the Commission recommends the reappointment of Commissioner Jacaman, Commissioner Diaz, and Commissioner Bates to serve another term on the Planning and Zoning Commission.

2.2. Discuss and take action.

Motion: A motion was made by Mayor Pro-Tem Arvidson, seconded by Councilmember Smith, to approve the Planning and Zoning Commission's recommendation and reappoint Commissioner Jacaman, Commissioner Diaz, and Commissioner Bates to serve another term on the Planning and Zoning Commission with terms expiring September 30, 2026. The City Council voted four (4) for and none (0) opposed. The motion carried unanimously.

3. Receive monthly activity update as applicable.

Chair Jacaman provided City Council with an update on items discussed during the Commission meeting.

b) Water Commission:

1. Water Rate Structure.

1.1. Receive recommendation from Water Commission.

Chair Mueller stated the Commission recommends approval of the Water Rate Structure Option 4, consisting of a \$5.00 base rate increase and a 1% tier rate increase for FY2025.

1.2. Discuss and take action.

Motion: A motion was made by Councilmember Valdez, seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Arvidson, to approve the Water Commission's recommendation and approve the Water Rate Structure Option 4, consisting of a \$5.00 base rate increase and a 1% tier rate increase for FY2025. The City Council voted four (4) for and none (0) opposed. The motion carried unanimously.

2. Expiring Terms (September 30, 2024) of Commissioners.

2.1. Receive recommendation to reappoint Commissioner Pohl, Commissioner Stone, Commissioner Stedman, and Commissioner Dorsey to serve another term with terms expiring September 30, 2026.

Chair Mueller stated the Commission recommends the reappointment of Commissioner Pohl, Commissioner Stone, Commissioner Stedman, and Commissioner Dorsey to serve another term on the Water Commission.

2.2. Discuss and take action.

Motion: A motion was made by Councilmember Valdez, seconded by Councilmember Swint, to approve the Water Commission's recommendation and reappoint Commissioner Pohl, Commissioner Stone, Commissioner Stedman, and Commissioner Dorsey to serve another term on the Water Commission with terms expiring September 30, 2026. The City Council voted four (4) for and none (0) opposed. The motion carried unanimously.

3. Receive monthly activity update as applicable.

Chair Mueller provided City Council with an update on items discussed during the Commission meeting.

8. Approvals and Authorizations

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

a) 2024 Tax Rate.

1. Review and discuss the 2024 Tax Rate Proposal of \$0.255156.

City Manager Nancy Cain reviewed the 2024 Tax Rate Proposal.

2. Hold a public hearing.

Mayor Erickson opened the public hearing at 6:49 p.m.

No one wished to speak and Assistant City Secretary Cyndi Simmons stated no written comments were submitted.

Mayor Erickson closed the public hearing at 6:49 p.m.

3. Approve \$0.193423 as the 2024 Maintenance and Operation Rate for the City of Garden Ridge.

Motion: A motion was made by Mayor Pro-Tem Arvidson, seconded by Councilmember Valdez, to approve \$0.193423 as the 2024 Maintenance and Operation Rate for the City of Garden Ridge. The City Council voted four (4) for and none (0) opposed. The motion carried unanimously.

4. Approve \$0.061733 as the 2024 Debt Service Rate for the City of Garden Ridge.

Motion: A motion was made by Councilmember Swint, seconded by Councilmember Valdez, to approve \$0.061733 as the 2024 Debt Service Rate for the City of Garden Ridge. The City Council voted four (4) for and none (0) opposed. The motion carried unanimously.

5. Take action on Ordinance No. 242-092024 An Ordinance of the City Council of the City of Garden Ridge, Texas, adopting a Tax Rate of \$0.255156 per one hundred dollars (\$100.00) consisting of the approved Maintenance and Operation Rate and Debt Service Rate of assessed valuation for the City of Garden Ridge to be effective for the 2024 Tax Year (Fiscal Year 2025).

Motion: A motion was made by Mayor Pro-Tem Arvidson, seconded by Councilmember Smith, moving that the property tax rate be increased by the adoption of a tax rate of \$0.255156, which is effectively a 0.3028 percent increase in the tax rate, and that Ordinance No. 242-092024 is approved to adopt \$0.255156 as the 2024 tax rate for the City of Garden Ridge. The City Council voted by roll call:

Place 1, Councilmember Smith	aye
Place 2, Councilmember Swint	aye
Place 3, Councilmember Valdez	aye
Place 4, Mayor Pro-Tem Arvidson	aye
Place 5, Councilmember Reyes	absent

The City Council voted four (4) for and none (0) opposed. The motion carried unanimously.

b) Texas Municipal League Intergovernmental Risk Pool Board of Trustees Election.

Motion: A motion was made by Councilmember Smith, seconded by Councilmember Valdez, to cast a vote for Randy Criswell for Place 11, Allison Heyward for Place 12, Harlan Jefferson for Place 13, and Mike Land for Place 14 for the Texas Municipal League Intergovernmental Risk Pool Board of Trustees Election. The City Council voted four (4) for and none (0) opposed. The motion carried unanimously.

c) Selection of Executive Recruitment Services and related communications on procurement of service.

The City Council discussed the selection of executive recruitment services and related communications on procurement of service.

9. Updates

a) City Council Projects.

1. Aggregate Production Operations (APO) impacting Garden Ridge (Swint and Arvidson).

Councilmember Swint and Mayor Pro-Tem Arvidson provided updates related to Aggregate Production Operations (APO) impacting Garden Ridge.

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

Mayor Erickson and Councilmember Swint provided updates related to mitigation of growth and encroachment on Garden Ridge.

3. Economic Development (Smith and Swint).

Councilmember Smith and Councilmember Swint provided updates related to Economic Development.

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

Councilmember Valdez provided updates related to Council Liaison to the Water Company/Utilities Department.

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

Mayor Pro-Tem Arvidson provided updates related to Council Liaison to Comal ISD.

10. Discussion of Future Agenda Items

None at this time.

11. Citizen Comment Period

No one wished to speak.

12. 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:

100 Club of Comal County, Alamo Area Metropolitan Planning Organization/Technical Advisory Committee, 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.

Mayor Pro-Tem Arvidson spoke regarding Davenport High School. Councilmember Valdez spoke regarding Alamo Area Metropolitan Planning Organization/Technical Advisory Committee, TxDOT expansion, and the Garden Ridge Car Show. Councilmember Smith spoke regarding Tri-County Chamber of Commerce events. Mayor Erickson spoke regarding Northeast Partnership for Economic Development.

13. Executive Session

The City Council will recess its open meeting and reconvene in Closed Session:

a) Pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 551.071(1) Pending or Contemplated Litigation and 551.071(2) – Consultation with City Attorney on the following items:

- 1. Petition for Declaratory Judgment (Eric Fischer v. City of Garden Ridge, Cause #: C2024-1164B).**
- 2. Notice of Claim Letter pursuant to Texas Tort Claims Act (Craig Dillard v. City of Garden Ridge, Cause #: C2024-1193E).**

Mayor Erickson announced the City Council will recess at 7:20 p.m. and reconvene into Executive Session at 7:30 p.m., to discuss and seek legal advice on the items stated above.

Mayor Erickson adjourned the Executive Session and reconvened back into Regular Session at 7:39 p.m.

14. Business Items

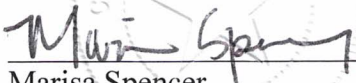
The City Council will reconvene into Regular Session upon conclusion of the Executive Session and may recall any item posted for Executive Session for action, as necessary.

No action taken.

15. Adjournment

There being no further business, the Wednesday, September 4, 2024, City Council regular meeting was adjourned at 7:39 p.m. by Mayor Erickson.

ATTEST


Marisa Spencer
City Secretary


Robb Erickson
Mayor