

Councilmembers Present:

Mayor Robb Erickson
Mayor Pro-Tem Todd Arvidson
Councilmember Kelly Smith
Councilmember Lisa Swint
Councilmember Jesús Valdez
Councilmember Brian Reyes (left at 8:30 p.m.)

Councilmembers Absent:

None

City Staff Present:

Nancy Cain, City Manager
Marisa Spencer, City Secretary
Cyndi Simmons, Assistant City Secretary
Ron Eberhardt, Chief of Police
Robyn Achu, Finance/HR Director
Steven Steinmetz, Public Works Director
Linda Crosland, Library Director
Natalie Thamm, 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, March 5, 2025, 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/Presentations**a) Introduction/Swearing in of Police Officers.**

Chief Eberhardt introduced Officer Bill Forehand and his family.

b) Retirement Presentation honoring City Manager Nancy Cain.

Mayor Erickson spoke regarding City Manager Nancy Cain's retirement and presented a Proclamation to Nancy Cain proclaiming March 21st, 2025, as Nancy Cain Day in the City of Garden Ridge.

4. Citizen Comment Period

Sharon Stripling, 21729 Forest Waters Circle, spoke regarding City Manager Nancy Cain's retirement.

Thomas Klimas, 9610 Meadow Rue, spoke regarding water rates.

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 February 5, 2025, City Council Regular Meeting.**
- b) **Approval of Minutes for the February 7, 2025, City Council Special Meeting.**
- c) **Financial Statement, Summary Report, and Management's Discussion and Analysis of Results of Operations – January 31, 2025.**
- d) **Resolution No. 530-032025 A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Garden Ridge, Texas, suspending the CenterPoint Energy 2025 Annual GRIP Adjustment for the South Texas Division in the City of Garden Ridge for a period of forty-five (45) days from April 19, 2025.**

Motion: A motion was made by Councilmember Valdez, seconded by Councilmember Smith, to approve consent agenda items a)-d). The City Council voted five (5) for and none (0) opposed. The motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Erickson reordered the agenda as follows:

9. Approvals and Authorizations

a) 2025 Texas Legislative Session and Presentation from Edra Bush, Linebarger Attorneys at Law.

Edra Bush, Linebarger Attorneys at Law, spoke regarding the 2025 Texas Legislative Session and addressed questions from Councilmembers.

6. Staff Reports

a) City Manager Monthly Activity Report.

City Manager Nancy Cain reviewed employee recognitions and employee anniversaries for the month of March. She stated there were 201.25 *Volunteer Garden Ridge!* hours for the month of February and spoke regarding First Friday and applying for the Scenic City designation.

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 Hank Crippen 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. Receive monthly activity update as applicable.

Mayor Erickson stated the Commission did not meet in February.

b) Water Commission:

1. Receive monthly activity update as applicable.

Chair Pohl provided the City Council with an update on items discussed by the Commission.

9. Approvals and Authorizations

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

a) 2025 Texas Legislative Session and Presentation from Edra Bush, Linebarger Attorneys at Law.

Mayor Erickson stated this item was completed earlier in the meeting.

b) Interlocal Agreement between Region 8 Education Service Center and the City of Garden Ridge to provide cooperative purchasing services through a Program known as The Interlocal Purchasing System (TIPS).

City Manager Nancy Cain spoke regarding the Interlocal Agreement between Region 8 Education Service Center and the City of Garden Ridge and addressed questions from Councilmembers.

Motion: A motion was made by Mayor Pro-Tem Arvidson, seconded by Councilmember Valdez, to approve the Interlocal Agreement between Region 8 Education Service Center and the City of Garden Ridge to provide cooperative purchasing services through a Program known as The Interlocal Purchasing System (TIPS). The City Council voted five (5) for and none (0) opposed. The motion carried unanimously.

c) City of Garden Ridge City Manager Contract.

Mayor Erickson spoke regarding the City Manager recruitment process and introduced Ryan Rapelye, who spoke regarding his background and experience.

Motion: A motion was made by Councilmember Valdez, seconded by Councilmember Reyes, to appoint Ryan Rapelye as the City Manager for the City of Garden Ridge effective March 19, 2025, and authorize the Mayor to execute the Employment Agreement. The City Council voted five (5) for and none (0) opposed. The motion carried unanimously.

d) Discussion and consideration on citizen filed ethics complaint against City Councilmember.

Mayor Erickson spoke regarding a citizen filed ethics complaint regarding a City Councilmember, and the City Council discussed the complaint.

The City Council agreed by consensus to not expend any further city resources investigating the complaint and to continue working on revisions to the City Council Conduct Policies and the City Council Code of Ethics and Ethical Conduct Rules.

e) Ordinance No. 232-042022 An Ordinance of the City Council of the City of Garden Ridge, Texas, adopting City Council Conduct Policies including a Code of Ethics and Ethical Conduct Rules; providing disciplinary actions for violations of this Ordinance; providing a cumulative and savings clause, providing for severability; and declaring an effective date.

City Attorney Natalie Thamm spoke regarding comments and proposed revisions to the ordinance. The City Council discussed Ordinance No. 232-042022 and agreed by consensus to direct the City Attorney's Office to incorporate the proposed comments and revisions to bring back for City Council discussion in April.

10. Updates

a) City Council Projects.

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

Councilmember Swint provided updates related to Aggregate Production Operations (APO) impacting Garden Ridge.

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

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

3. Economic Development (Smith and Swint).

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

11. Discussion of Future Agenda Items

Councilmember Valdez requested to discuss the next steps concerning the Natural Features Overlay (NFO) District, trash collection frequency, and the bulk/brush dumpster schedule.

Councilmember Swint requested to discuss reserves and reserve policies.

12. Citizen Comment Period

Rod Chamberlain, 8807 Cherokee Path, thanked City Manager Nancy Cain and the City Council for their service to 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:

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.

Councilmember Smith spoke regarding Tri-County Chamber of Commerce. Councilmember Swint spoke regarding the Garden Ridge Lions Club. Councilmember Valdez spoke regarding the 100 Club of Comal County and the Garden Ridge Citizen Police Academy Alumni Association. Mayor Erickson spoke regarding Families of Garden Ridge and Northeast Partnership.

14. 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).**
- 3. Notice of Claim Letter for payment of invoice (We Love Trees).**

Mayor Erickson announced the City Council will recess at 8:28 p.m. and reconvene into Executive Session at 8:38 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 9:12 p.m.

15. 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.

Motion: A motion was made by Councilmember Swint, seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Arvidson, to approve a settlement in Eric Fischer v. City of Garden Ridge, Cause #: C2024-1164B with conditions and adjustments discussed with the City Attorney's Office. The City Council voted four (4) for and none (0) opposed. The motion carried unanimously.

Motion: A motion was made by Councilmember Valdez, seconded by Councilmember Swint, to approve a settlement with We Love Trees. The City Council voted four (4) for and none (0) opposed. The motion carried unanimously.

16. Adjournment

There being no further business, the Wednesday, March 5, 2025, City Council regular meeting was adjourned at 9:14 p.m. by Mayor Erickson.



Robb Erickson
Mayor

ATTEST



Marisa Spencer
City Secretary