



City of Garden Ridge

"A way of life, not just a place to live"

MINUTES CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING MONDAY, MAY 11, 2020, 6:00 P.M.

Councilmembers Present:

Mayor Larry Thompson
Mayor Pro-Tem John McCaw
Councilmember Lisa Swint
Councilmember Bryan Lantzy
Councilmember Todd Arvidson
Councilmember Kay Bower

Councilmembers Absent:

None

City Staff Present:

Nancy Cain, City Administrator
Marisa Spencer, City Secretary
Kat Balbi, Assistant City Secretary
Karen Ford, Finance/HR
Ron Eberhardt, Police Chief
Jacob Parsons, Water Manager
Steven Steinmetz, Public Works Director
Linda Crosland, Librarian
Cynthia Trevino, City Attorney

City Commission Representatives Present:

Jesse Valdez, Chair, Water Commission
Cynthia Segovia, Chair, Wildlife Management Advisory Commission

Other City Commissioners in Attendance:

Ken Kneupper, Wildlife Management Advisory Commissioner

1. Call to Order

With a quorum of the City Councilmembers present, Mayor Thompson called the special meeting of the Garden Ridge City Council to order at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, May 11, 2020, in the City Council Chambers of the Garden Ridge City Hall, 9400 Municipal Parkway, Garden Ridge, Texas 78266.

2. Roll Call: See above.

3. Pledge of Allegiance: Mayor Thompson led the Pledge of Allegiance and the Texas Pledge.

4. Proclamations

a) National Police Week and Peace Officers Memorial Day.

Mayor Thompson presented a proclamation to Chief Eberhardt, Garden Ridge Police Department, declaring the week of May 10th-16th, 2020, as National Police Week and May 15th, 2020, as Peace Officers Memorial Day in the City of Garden Ridge. Mayor Thompson expressed appreciation for all First Responders, thanking Chief Eberhardt and the Garden Ridge Police Department for their community involvement and dedication in keeping Garden Ridge safe, particularly during our public health emergency.

Chief Eberhardt thanked the City Council, the Garden Ridge Citizens Police Academy Alumni Association, and the citizens of Garden Ridge for their continued support of the police department.

5. Election Items

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

- a) Ordinance No. 226-032020, passed and approved on March 4, 2020, declared unopposed candidates in the May 2, 2020, General Election elected to office and canceled the election.**

- 1. Issue Certificates of Election and Administer Oaths of Office to John McCaw for City Council Place 1, Todd Arvidson for City Council Place 4, and Kay Bower for City Council Place 5.**

Mayor Thompson reminded everyone that Ordinance No. 226-032020, passed and approved on March 4th, declared unopposed candidates elected to office and canceled the election. Mayor Thompson issued Certificates of Election and administered Oaths of Office to John McCaw for City Council Place 1, Todd Arvidson for City Council Place 4, and Kay Bower for City Council Place 5.

Mayor Thompson thanked Mayor Pro-Tem McCaw, Councilmember Arvidson, and Councilmember Bower for their commitment and selfless service to the community.

- b) Election of Mayor Pro-Tem for a one-year period expiring May 2021.**

Motion: A motion was made by Councilmember Bower, seconded by Councilmember Lantzy, to reappoint John McCaw as Mayor Pro-Tem for a one-year period expiring May 2021. The City Council voted five (5) for and none (0) opposed. The motion carried unanimously.

- c) Designation of authorized signers on bank accounts held by the City of Garden Ridge with First United Bank and TexPool.**

Motion: A motion was made by Councilmember Arvidson, seconded by Councilmember Lantzy, to maintain the designation of authorized signers on bank accounts held by the City of Garden Ridge with First United Bank and TexPool as City Administrator Nancy Cain, City Secretary Marisa Spencer, Mayor Larry Thompson, and Mayor Pro-Tem John McCaw. The City Council voted five (5) for and none (0) opposed. The motion carried unanimously.

6. City/Employee Recognitions/Employee Introductions

- a) Thank you note from Kerry Ledford to Animal Services and Police Department.**

Nancy Cain, City Administrator, stated a thank you note was received from Kerry Ledford to Animal Services and the Police Department for taking care of a raccoon trapped in his fence.

- b) Thank you note from Trail Riders to Chief Eberhardt and Police Department.**

Nancy Cain, City Administrator, stated a thank you note was received from the Trail Riders to Chief Eberhardt and the Police Department for their assistance in escorting the ride and keeping everyone safe.

- c) Thank you note from Councilmember Bower to the Public Works Department.**

Nancy Cain, City Administrator, stated a thank you note was received from Councilmember Bower to the Public Works Department for assisting Republic Services in order to continue providing weekend dumpsters.

- d) Recognition of Employee Service Years with the City of Garden Ridge.**

Nancy Cain, City Administrator, and Mayor Thompson recognized employees with anniversary dates in the months of April and May for their hard work, dedication, and tenure with the City. This recognition included: Chris Graef- 3 years, Shannon Del Toro-6 years, Jacob Parsons-1 year, and Nancy Cain-18 years.

7. Citizen Comment Period – limited to 30 minutes total

Mayor Thompson reviewed the rules for Citizen Comment Period.

Tony Overman, 18955 FM 2252, spoke regarding concept plans for developing garden homes, expressing his desire to connect to sewer and build garden homes within the City of Garden Ridge.

8. 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:

- 1. February 20, 2020, City Council Special Meeting.**
- 2. March 4, 2020, City Council Regular Meeting.**
- 3. March 17, 2020, City Council Emergency Meeting.**
- 4. March 24, 2020, City Council Emergency Meeting.**

b) Financial Statement, Summary Report, and Management's Discussion and Analysis of Results of Operations – February 29, 2020.

c) Financial Statement, Summary Report, and Management's Discussion and Analysis of Results of Operations – March 31, 2020.

d) Destruction of City records in accordance with the City of Garden Ridge Records Retention Plan.

e) Interlocal Agreement between Comal County, Texas, and the City of Garden Ridge, Texas, regarding the installation and maintenance of no thru truck warning signage within the right-of-way of unincorporated county-maintained roadways.

f) Request from First Assembly of God San Antonio, DBA Garden Ridge Assembly of God to continue leasing property located at 9375 Schoenthal Rd. for a period of one (1) year at the previously set rate of \$1,265 per month.

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

9. Staff Reports

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

a) City Administrator Monthly Activity Report.

Nancy Cain, City Administrator, expressed her appreciation for Department Heads working together to implement procedures that ensure the continuity of operations while also limiting in-person contact during this public health emergency. She requested Finance/HR Director Karen Ford and City Secretary Marisa Spencer to provide City Council with an update regarding continuity of operations within their respective departments.

Karen Ford, Finance/HR, spoke regarding revenue losses and additional expenditures due to COVID-19 as well as the budgetary impact to date. Mayor Thompson spoke regarding a call conducted earlier in the day between Mayors, Governor Greg Abbott, Lieutenant Governor Dan Patrick, Attorney General Ken Paxton, and Speaker of the House Dennis Bonnen, providing additional details related to financial reimbursement and assistance.

Marisa Spencer, City Secretary, spoke regarding precautionary public health measures implemented at City Hall as well as continuity of operations related to the Administrative Department. She stated staff has remained available by phone and email during regular business hours with in-person interactions by appointment only. She spoke regarding implementing additional payment features to enhance the City's online services as well as evaluating various equipment needs to allow for telephonic and videoconference meetings.

Nancy Cain, City Administrator, provided an update regarding Municipal Court and stated at this time the earliest date that Municipal Court can resume will be in June.

b) Police Department Monthly Activity Report.

Chief Eberhardt reviewed the monthly activity report and spoke regarding continuity of operations related to the Police Department. He discussed efforts to limit in-person contact with citizens, safely resuming Citizens Patrol, and citizens complying with guidelines while utilizing areas within Paul Davis Park.

Mayor Thompson thanked the Police Department for continuing to ensure the safety of the community and increasing their patrols and presence within the neighborhoods due to the significant increase in foot traffic.

c) Public Works Monthly Activity Report.

Steven Steinmetz, Public Works Director, reviewed the monthly activity report and spoke regarding continuity of operations related to the Public Works Department. He discussed the Stormwater Management Plan, alternate work schedules, and continued cleaning and sanitation efforts.

d) Water Department Monthly Activity Report.

Jacob Parsons, Water Manager, reviewed the monthly activity report and spoke regarding continuity of operations related to the Water Department. He stated the City's water system and water quality has not been affected by COVID-19 and discussed transitioning to a new workflow management system as well as working with the Water Commission on infrastructure projects.

e) Library Monthly Activity Report.

Linda Crosland, Librarian, reviewed the monthly activity report and spoke regarding continuity of operations related to the Library. She discussed the curbside service Books-to-Go, continued cleaning and sanitation efforts, and implementing procedures to facilitate safely reopening the Library.

Mayor Thompson spoke regarding weekly staff meetings and expressed appreciation to all Department Heads for working together and maintaining a high level of communication throughout this public health emergency.

10. City Engineer Projects Status Reports

Pat Lackey, City Engineer, reviewed the Trihydro Corporation – Engineering Report for May 2020 and addressed questions from Councilmembers. The topics of discussion included the following items: FM 2252 TxDOT Project and FM 2252 Wastewater Project.

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

a) Planning and Zoning Commission Recommendations and Possible Action:

1. Receive monthly activity update as applicable.

Mayor Thompson stated Commission Chairs were given the option to provide a written update and view the City Council meeting online, if they felt more comfortable doing so due to COVID-19.

Mayor Thompson reviewed the Planning and Zoning Commission written monthly activity update submitted by Chair Dr. Miller and stated the document was also included in the packet posted on the City's website.

b) Quarry Commission Recommendations and Possible Action:

1. Quarry Commission Place 5.

1.1. Take action on recommendation to accept the resignation of Commissioner Holloway.

Motion: A motion was made by Councilmember Lantzy, seconded by Councilmember Swint, to approve the Quarry Commission's recommendation and accept the resignation of Commissioner Holloway. The City Council voted five (5) for and none (0) opposed. The motion carried unanimously.

1.2. Take action on recommendation for the appointment of Armando Diaz to the Quarry Commission Place 5 with term expiring September 30, 2021.

Motion: A motion was made by Councilmember Lantzy, seconded by Councilmember Swint, to approve the Quarry Commission's recommendation and appoint Armando Diaz to the Quarry Commission Place 5 with term expiring September 30, 2021. The City Council voted five (5) for and none (0) opposed. The motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Thompson and City Council thanked Richard Holloway for his dedication through many years of volunteer service to the City and thanked Armando Diaz for volunteering to serve on the Quarry Commission.

2. Receive monthly activity update as applicable.

Mayor Thompson reviewed the Quarry Commission written monthly activity update submitted by Chair Holly and stated the document was also included in the packet posted on the City's website.

Councilmember Lantzy spoke regarding recent blasting operations and revised Ordinance No. 34. He thanked everyone involved for working together to reduce the overall impact of blasting operations on citizens.

c) Water Commission Recommendations and Possible Action:

1. Receive monthly activity update as applicable.

Chair Valdez stated the Commission has not met since January; however, Commissioners have continued to work on their projects and activities in subcommittees. He announced the next Commission meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 26th.

d) Wildlife Management Advisory Commission Recommendations and Possible Action:

1. Receive monthly activity update as applicable.

Chair Segovia reviewed the Wildlife Management Advisory Commission monthly activity update, which was also included in the packet posted on the City's website.

e) Garden Ridge Parks Committee and *Volunteer Garden Ridge!*:

1. Receive monthly activity update as applicable.

Mayor Thompson reviewed the Parks Committee and *Volunteer Garden Ridge!* written monthly activity update submitted by Dr. Miller and stated the document was also included in the packet posted on the City's website.

12. Approvals/Authorizations

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

a) COVID-19.

1. Discuss status, updates, response, and matters related to the COVID-19 Virus.

Mayor Thompson spoke regarding actions taken at the federal, state, and local level in response to COVID-19, stating Governor Abbott's Executive Order GA-21 is currently in effect. He also stated Governor Abbott renewed his Disaster Declaration; therefore, the City's Disaster Declaration remains in effect since it was adopted to align with the Governor's declaration. Mayor Thompson spoke regarding continuity of operations related to the Library, City parks, and trash collection service. Mayor Thompson and City Council discussed the drive by parade put together by the Davenport High School coaching staff.

Mayor Thompson spoke regarding testing related to COVID-19, including the one-day drive thru testing conducted at the Garden Ridge Community and Event Center as well as Comal County Office of Public Health offering antibody testing. Councilmember Bower discussed her experience with testing related to COVID-19.

Mayor Thompson thanked the following organizations for their generous donations: Combined Law Enforcement Associations of Texas, Axon Enterprise, 3 Dragons Printing, 100 Club of Comal County, Con10gency Consulting, Comal County Emergency Management, Hanson Aggregates, and San Antonio Water System. Mayor Thompson and City Council thanked City staff for their hard work navigating through these unprecedented times.

2. Take possible action on matters related to the COVID-19 Virus, if needed.

No action taken.

13. Updates

a) City Administrator Reports.

1. Update on Shred Event, Household Hazardous Waste Event, and DEA National Prescription Drug Take Back Day.

Nancy Cain, City Administrator, stated the Shred Event has been postponed due to COVID-19 and the new date will be announced as soon as it is determined. She also stated the DEA National Prescription Drug Take Back Day was cancelled due to COVID-19 and provided City Council with an update on discussions with Comal County pertaining to a Household Hazardous Waste Event.

2. Update on Oak Wilt.

Steven Steinmetz, Public Works Director, provided City Council with an update on Oak Wilt within the City. He spoke regarding his discussions with Texas A&M Forest Service Biologist Mr. Edmonson and the affected property owners as well as possible containment and treatment efforts.

b) Mayor's Projects.

1. Communication Report.

Mayor Thompson spoke regarding the City sign on FM 2252 as well as looking into options regarding electronic signage within the City. Nancy Cain, City Administrator, spoke regarding Community Electronic Information Signs.

Mayor Thompson spoke regarding the City website and thanked staff for their efforts in maintaining the dedicated COVID-19 page with up-to-date information and resources from the federal, state, and local levels.

2. Citizen Contact Report.

Mayor Thompson spoke regarding a citizen notifying him of their attempts to contact Animal Services through the after-hours answering service. Nancy Cain, City Administrator, stated she spoke with a supervisor with the answering service and reiterated the City's expectations to the answering service.

Mayor Thompson spoke regarding the United States Postal Service Informed Delivery Digest email and citizen concerns relating to the United States Postal Service. He stated he was contacted by a citizen requesting advice on further actions they could take after filing a report with the Postal Inspector and speaking with many customer advocates yet not receiving any resolutions. Mayor Thompson discussed contacting Congressman Chip Roy's office if there are additional reports to the Postal Service going unresolved.

Mayor Thompson spoke regarding the 2020 Census, stating the City of Garden Ridge is currently ranked as #2 in Texas with a response rate of 83% and on average, the City of Garden Ridge has remained ranked in the top 100 of cities in the nation.

3. TxDOT Coordination/FM 3009 Safety.

Mayor Thompson spoke regarding the change in speed limit on FM 3009, stating it was lowered to 50 mph for the bulk of the area through the City. He also stated the increase from 40 to 45 mph at the intersection was done by TxDOT to reduce the number of speed limit changes.

14. Discussion of Future Agenda Items

None at this time.

15. Citizen Comment Period – limited to 20 minutes total

Ken Kneupper, 8891 Schoenthal Road, thanked Chief Eberhardt for resuming Citizens Patrol for members of the same household and expressed agreement regarding the necessity of garden homes.

16. 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 School/Danville Middle School/Davenport High School); Counties (Bexar/Comal/Guadalupe); Garden Ridge Lions Club; Garden Ridge Citizen Police Academy Alumni Association/Citizen Patrol; Garden Ridge Women's Club; Greater Bexar County Council of Cities; Northeast Partnership.

Mayor Thompson thanked the Garden Ridge Women's Club for their generous donations to the Garden Ridge Library and Animal Services.

17. Executive Session

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

a) Pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 551.071 – Consultation with Attorney.

- 1. To seek legal advice in connection with deliberating the purchase, lease, exchange, or value of real property and regarding related negotiations for City building projects, and utility projects.**
- 2. To seek legal advice regarding requirements for Comal County Emergency Services and authority to contract for such services through an interlocal agreement.**

Mayor Thompson announced the City Council will recess at 8:52 p.m. and reconvene into Executive Session at 9:00 p.m., in accordance with Texas Government Code Section 551.071 – Consultation with Attorney to discuss and seek legal advice on the items stated above.

Mayor Thompson adjourned the Executive Session and reconvened back into Regular Session at 9:46 p.m.

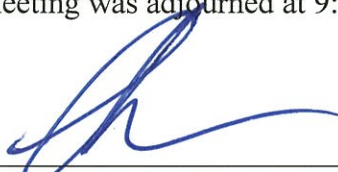
18. Business Items

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.

Mayor Thompson asked if any Councilmembers wanted to recall any items posted for Executive Session to allow for any action they wanted to take. Receiving no responses from Councilmembers, Mayor Thompson closed Business Items.

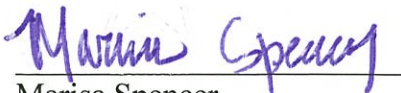
19. Adjournment

Motion: A motion was made by Councilmember Bower, seconded by Councilmember Swint, to adjourn. The City Council voted five (5) for and none (0) opposed. The motion carried unanimously. There being no further business, the Monday, May 11, 2020, City Council special meeting was adjourned at 9:47 p.m. by Mayor Thompson.



Larry Thompson
Mayor

ATTEST



Marisa Spencer
City Secretary

**SIGN IN TO SPEAK AT THE MAY 11, 2020
CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING
CITIZEN COMMENT PERIOD**

Rules for Citizens' Participation:

The City Council welcomes citizen participation and comments at all City Council Meetings. The City Council offers citizens the opportunity to address them by signing up to speak prior to the meeting. If you speak, you must follow these guidelines:

a) Respect and courtesy:

- i. Direct your comments to the entire City Council, not to an individual member, nor to the audience.
- ii. Show the City Council the same respect that you would like to be shown.
- iii. End your speaking at the time allotted below.

b) Speaking:

- i. First citizen comment period
 1. You are required to sign up to speak.
 2. You are limited to one 3-minute period.
- ii. Second citizen comment period
 1. You are not required to sign up.
 2. You are limited to one 2-minute period.
- iii. State your name and address before your comments begin.
- iv. You are only allowed to speak once per topic, unless also speaking during a posted Public Hearing.

*NOTE: The Texas Open Meetings Act permits a member of the public or a member of the governmental body to raise a subject that has not been included in the notice for the meeting. However, any discussion of the subject **must be limited** to a proposal to place the subject on the agenda for a future meeting and any response to a question posed to the City Council is limited to either a statement of specific factual information or a recitation of existing policy. TEX. GOV'T CODE § 551.042*

NAME	ADDRESS	TELEPHONE NUMBER (OPTIONAL)	SUBJECT
1. Tony Overman		210 317 1998	
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MAY 11, 2020
CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING
SECOND CITIZEN COMMENT PERIOD

NAME

ADDRESS

SUBJECT

1. KEA K WEPPER 8891 SCHOENTHAL RD. GARDEN HOMES.

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