



City of Garden Ridge

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

MINUTES CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING WEDNESDAY, MARCH 3, 2021, 6:00 P.M.

Councilmembers Present:

Mayor Larry Thompson
Mayor Pro-Tem John McCaw (left at 6:55 p.m.)
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:

Dr. Jim Miller, Chair, Planning and Zoning Commission
Jesse Valdez, Chair, Water Commission
Johnell Holly, Chair, Quarry Commission
Ken Kneupper, Vice-Chair, Wildlife Management Advisory Commission

City Commissioners Present:

Mike Shands, Quarry Commissioner
Albert Haddad, Quarry Commissioner

1. Call to Order

With a quorum of the City Councilmembers present, Mayor Thompson called the regular meeting of the Garden Ridge City Council to order at 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday, March 3, 2021, 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. City/Employee Recognitions/Employee Introductions

a) Introduction of Officer Smith.

Chief Eberhardt introduced Officer Jayson Smith and spoke regarding his background and professional experience. Mayor Thompson and City Council welcomed Officer Smith to the City of Garden Ridge.

b) Thank you note from Jim Mueller to the Water Department.

Nancy Cain, City Administrator, stated a thank you note was received from Jim Mueller to the Water Department for their great work and service during the winter weather emergency.

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c) Thank you note from Rob McGrath to Water Operator Duane Scognio.

Nancy Cain, City Administrator, stated a thank you note was received from Rob McGrath to Water Operator Duane Scognio for his hard work and great service during the winter weather emergency.

d) Thank you note from Denice Fox to Front Office Staff.

Nancy Cain, City Administrator, stated a thank you note was received from Denice Fox to the Front Office Staff for providing exceptional customer service.

e) Recognition of Employee Service Years with the City of Garden Ridge.

Nancy Cain, City Administrator, recognized employees with anniversary dates in the month of March for their hard work, dedication, and tenure with the City. This recognition included: Officer Matthew McKenzie-1 year of service, Sgt. Joe Thoemke-4 years of service, Karen Ford-6 years of service, Sgt. Steve Dennis-6 years of service, and Eric Lowman-14 years of service.

5. Citizen Comment Period

Mayor Thompson reviewed the Rules for Citizens Participation.

Tony Frasco, 8802 Wild Wind Park, spoke regarding the winter weather emergency response.

Ken Kneupper, 8891 Schoenthal Road, spoke regarding the winter weather emergency response.

Robb Erickson, 20203 Van Nest Circle, spoke regarding the "Families of Garden Ridge" Adopt-A-Highway Program.

6. 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 3, 2021, City Council Regular Meeting.

b) Financial Statement, Summary Report, and Management's Discussion and Analysis of Results of Operations – January 31, 2021.

c) Ordinance No. 229-032021 An Ordinance of the City Council of the City of Garden Ridge, Texas, to order a General Election on May 1, 2021, for the purpose of electing a Mayor, City Councilmember Place Two, and City Councilmember Place Three; making provisions for the conduct of such election; and resolving other matters related to the conduct of such election.

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

7. Approvals/Authorizations

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

a) Winter Weather Emergency.

1. Receive updates and discuss matters related to the winter weather emergency response.

Mayor Thompson detailed a timeline of events and actions related to the winter weather emergency and efforts related to the City's response. He spoke regarding the Electric Reliability Council of Texas (ERCOT) and CPS Energy, summarizing the priority on citizens receiving services that the City could control. Mayor Thompson thanked City staff as well as their families for their extraordinary efforts, hard work, and dedication throughout this unprecedented event.

The City Council discussed emergency management, communication plans, and social media. Councilmembers thanked City staff for their efforts during the winter weather emergency.

2. Take action on Resolution No. 471-032021 A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Garden Ridge, Texas, reserving the authority and power conferred by Ordinance No. 54, Section 8.01 to respond as necessary to the 2021 Winter Weather Emergency and establish special service rates where extenuating circumstances exist.

Mayor Thompson spoke regarding water usage, the leak adjustment process, and the proposed water bill relief due to the winter weather emergency. City Secretary Marisa Spencer reviewed example bill calculations for the proposed relief.

Motion: A motion was made by Councilmember Bower, seconded by Councilmember Arvidson, to approve Resolution No. 471-032021 A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Garden Ridge, Texas, reserving the authority and power conferred by Ordinance No. 54, Section 8.01 to respond as necessary to the 2021 Winter Weather Emergency and establish special service rates where extenuating circumstances exist. The City Council voted four (4) for and none (0) opposed. The motion carried unanimously.

The City Council agreed by consensus to extend the current utility billing arrangement plan from four (4) months to six (6) months for any citizens should they request a utility billing arrangement plan.

8. Staff Reports

a) City Administrator Monthly Activity Report.

City Administrator Nancy Cain spoke regarding the Garden Ridge Community Blood Drive scheduled for March 27th at the Community and Event Center and thanked City staff for their efforts and hard work during the winter weather emergency.

b) Finance/HR Monthly Activity Report.

Finance/HR Director Karen Ford spoke regarding continuity of operations related to Finance and Human Resources and provided City Council with an update on personnel matters, efforts related to the winter weather emergency, and disaster assistance through the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

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. She provided City Council with an update on the 2021 City of Garden Ridge Election, the MyCivic Utilities app, and communication efforts related to the winter weather emergency.

d) Police Department Monthly Activity Report.

Chief Eberhardt reviewed the monthly activity report and spoke regarding continuity of operations related to the Police Department. He provided City Council with an update on severe weather preparations, efforts related to the winter weather emergency, and the 2021 Citizens Police Academy.

e) Public Works 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. He provided City Council with an update on severe weather preparations and efforts related to the winter weather emergency.

f) Water Department Monthly Activity Report.

Water Manager Jacob Parsons reviewed the monthly activity report and spoke regarding continuity of operations related to the Water Department. He provided City Council with an update on severe weather preparations and efforts related to the winter weather emergency.

g) Library Monthly Activity Report.

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

9. City Engineer Projects Status Reports

City Engineer Pat Lackey reviewed the Trihydro Engineering Report and addressed questions from Councilmembers. Topics of discussion included the FM 2252 TxDOT Project and FM 2252 Wastewater Project.

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

a) Planning and Zoning Commission:

1. Petition from Kim Wood for variance requests to Ordinance No. 55, Section 14, Number of Signs, for the placement of five (5) temporary signs advertising Garden Ridge Market Days.

1.1. Receive recommendation from the Planning and Zoning Commission.

Chair Dr. Miller spoke regarding the petition for variance requests to Ordinance No. 55 for the placement of five (5) temporary signs advertising Garden Ridge Market Days and addressed questions from Councilmembers. He stated the Commission recommends approval of Ms. Wood's variance requests, which includes the following:

- Approval to display one (1) single-sided banner sign at the intersection of FM 2252 and FM 3009 for the seven (7) consecutive days prior to Garden Ridge Market Days each month.
- Approval to display two (2) flag banners stating "Farmer's Market" with a total height not to exceed 14.5 feet each at Northeast Bible Church located at 19185 FM 2252 for the second Saturday of each month.
- Approval to display two (2) double-sided a-frame banner signs at Northeast Bible Church located at 19185 FM 2252 for the seven (7) consecutive days prior to Garden Ridge Market Days each month.

1.2. Take action on recommendation.

Motion: A motion was made by Councilmember Bower, seconded by Councilmember Arvidson, to approve the Planning and Zoning Commission's recommendation and approve Ms. Wood's variance request to display one (1) single-sided banner sign at the intersection of FM 2252 and FM 3009 for the seven (7) consecutive days prior to Garden Ridge Market Days each month. The City Council voted four (4) for and none (0) opposed. The motion carried unanimously.

Motion: A motion was made by Councilmember Lantzy, seconded by Councilmember Swint, to approve the Planning and Zoning Commission's recommendation and approve Ms. Wood's variance request to display two (2) flag banners stating "Farmer's Market" with a total height not to exceed 14.5 feet each at Northeast Bible Church located at 19185 FM 2252 for the second Saturday of each month. The City Council voted four (4) for and none (0) opposed. The motion carried unanimously.

Motion: A motion was made by Councilmember Arvidson, seconded by Councilmember Bower, to approve the Planning and Zoning Commission's recommendation and approve Ms. Wood's variance request to display two (2) double-sided a-frame banner signs at Northeast Bible Church located at 19185 FM 2252 for the seven (7) consecutive days prior to Garden Ridge Market Days each month. The City Council voted four (4) for and none (0) opposed. The motion carried unanimously.

2. Receive monthly activity update as applicable.

Chair Dr. Miller provided City Council with an update on the topics discussed at the Commission's February meeting and spoke regarding the Draft Zoning Ordinance.

b) Quarry Commission:

Chair Holly stated the Commission did not meet in February and had nothing to report at this time.

c) Water Commission:

Chair Valdez stated the Commission did not meet in February and had nothing to report at this time.

d) Wildlife Management Advisory Commission:

Vice-Chair Kneupper stated the Commission did not meet in February and had nothing to report at this time.

e) Parks Committee:

Dr. Miller provided City Council with an update on the Committee's efforts and projects.

f) Volunteer Garden Ridge!

Nancy Cain, City Administrator, stated *Volunteer Garden Ridge!* reported 234 hours for the month of February, despite the necessary COVID restrictions.

11. Updates

a) COVID-19.

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

Mayor Thompson provided City Council with an update on the status and actions taken at the federal, state, and local level in response to COVID-19. He spoke regarding Governor Abbott's disaster declaration, Executive Order GA-34, and continuity of operations. Mayor Thompson provided City Council with an update regarding current CDC guidelines and spoke regarding the City's COVID-19 Policy and Procedures that has been updated based on the current CDC guidelines.

Mayor Thompson spoke regarding Ordinance No. 227 and the amendment to the City's disaster declaration, stating he is rescinding the amendment and residents have thirty (30) days to bring properties into compliance.

2. Discuss funding and expenditures from the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act.

Public Works Director Steven Steinmetz provided City Council with an update on touchless appliances and features being installed within City facilities.

3. Take possible action on matters related to COVID-19.

No action taken.

b) City Council Projects.

1. Comal ISD Events (Swint and Arvidson).

Councilmember Swint spoke regarding the Comal ISD Events Project. She stated she has not heard back from the Director of Communications at Comal ISD; however, she is working with City Secretary Marisa Spencer on various ideas for this project and will provide updates as she receives any additional information.

2. Animal Foster Program (Bower).

Councilmember Bower spoke regarding possible ideas and concepts for an Animal Foster Program and scheduling a meeting to discuss the feasibility and legality of a program. Councilmember Bower requested to work on this project with Councilmember Swint.

Mayor Thompson spoke regarding quorum limitations in the Texas Open Meetings Act and stated he would step away from the project to allow Councilmember Bower and Councilmember Swint to work on this project together.

c) Mayor's Projects.

1. Communication Report.

Mayor Thompson spoke regarding options for relocating the City sign on FM 2252 as well as looking into options regarding electronic signage within the City.

Mayor Thompson spoke regarding Coffee with the Mayor on the 2nd Monday of each month.

Mayor Thompson spoke regarding City Council receiving emails pertaining to some issues with social media usage. He stated he will address the concerns by responding to the emails and this will be an agenda item for the April City Council Meeting to allow City Council to discuss the concerns.

2. Citizen Contact Report.

Mayor Thompson spoke regarding a resident submitting a letter detailing various concerns and thanked Chief Eberhardt and the Police Department for investigating and resolving the concerns.

Mayor Thompson spoke regarding a resident contacting him regarding issues with the Report It system and thanked Assistant City Secretary Kat Balbi and Water Manager Jacob Parsons for assisting in resolving the issue.

Mayor Thompson spoke regarding the Public Works Department improving areas on Schoenthal Road and thanked Public Works Director Steven Steinmetz and the Public Works Department for their work.

12. Discussion of Future Agenda Items

Councilmember Lantzy requested a discussion regarding speed limits in the City of Garden Ridge.

Councilmember Bower requested to keep the Animal Foster Program on the agenda as a City Council Project with Councilmember Swint.

13. Citizen Comment Period

Johnell Holly, 9916 Trophy Oaks Drive, thanked Chief Eberhardt and the Police Department for checking on residents and keeping the City safe during the winter weather emergency.

Brenda Reynolds, 20525 Wahl Lane, spoke regarding the winter weather emergency response and the Animal Foster Program City Council Project.

14. 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), 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.

Councilmember Arvidson spoke regarding damage at schools within Comal ISD caused by the severe weather.

15. 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 and 551.072 – Deliberations About Real Property.

- 1. To seek legal advice, if needed, in connection with deliberating the purchase, lease, exchange, or value of real property and regarding related negotiations for City building projects, and wastewater 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 and discuss any related liability issues.**

Mayor Thompson cancelled the Executive Session.

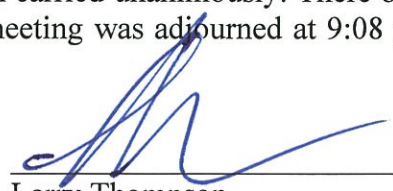
16. Business Items

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 cancelled the Executive Session.

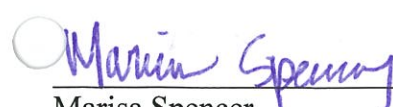
17. Adjournment

Motion: A motion was made by Councilmember Arvidson, seconded by Councilmember Bower, to adjourn. The City Council voted four (4) for and none (0) opposed. The motion carried unanimously. There being no further business, the Wednesday, March 3, 2021, City Council regular meeting was adjourned at 9:08 p.m. by Mayor Thompson.



Larry Thompson
Mayor

ATTEST



Marisa Spencer
City Secretary