

**CITY OF GONZALES, TEXAS
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
MINUTES –MARCH 11, 2021**

A Regular Meeting of the City Council was held on **March 11, 2021** at 6:00 p.m. via teleconference pursuant to **Section 551.045 of the Texas Government Code and in accordance with the March 16, 2020 order by the Governor of the State of Texas.**

The meeting notice, agenda and agenda packet were posted online at www.gonzales.texas.gov.

In accordance with Governor Abbott’s Executive Order 29 issued on July 2, 2020 every person attending the meeting shall wear a face covering over the nose and mouth unless the person is under 10 years of age or has a medical condition or disability that prevents wearing a face covering.

On March 16, 2020, Governor Abbott suspended several provisions of the Texas Open Meetings Act for the duration of his statewide declaration of disaster, including the new requirement (added by H.B. 2840 last legislative session) that the public has a right to speak on agenda items. This DOES NOT apply to statutorily mandated public hearings, such as zoning and similar hearings. The Governor has since clarified his intent and stated that citizens should be allowed to offer comments by other means.

In person attendance by the public will be limited to 14 which is 50% capacity of the room less Council Members and required staff and should be separated by at least six (6) feet from other groups attending the meeting together. A temporary suspension of certain provisions of the Open Meetings Act to allow telephone or videoconference public meetings has been granted by Governor Greg Abbott. These actions are being taken to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 by avoiding meetings that bring people into a group setting and in accordance with Section 418.016 of the Texas Government Code.

Citizens wishing to offer comments on the posted agenda items may email their comments at least two hours prior to the start of the meeting and the comments will be read into the record during the time allocated for citizen comments. Emails may be sent to citysecretary@gonzales.texas.gov and must include the name of the citizen.

CALL TO ORDER, INVOCATION AND PLEDGE

Mayor Kacir called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and a quorum was certified.

Attendee Name	Title	Status
Connie L. Kacir	Mayor	Present in person
Gary Schroeder	Council Member, District 1	Present in person
Tommy Schurig	Council Member, District 2	Present in person
Bobby O’Neal	Council Member, District 3	Present in person
Robert R. Brown, Jr.	Council Member, District 4	Present in person

STAFF PARTICIPATING:

City Attorney Dan Santee, City Manager Tim Patek, Finance Director Laura Zella, Parks and Recreation Director Anne Dollery, Main Street Manager Liz Reiley, Building Official James Cowey, City Engineer Keith Schauer and Police Chief Tim Crow.

CITY EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Announcements of upcoming City Events
- Announcements and recognitions by the City Manager
- Announcements and recognitions by the Mayor
- Recognition of actions by City employees
- Recognition of actions by community volunteers

HEARING OF RESIDENTS

The following individuals were present in person and spoke:

James Lawrence spoke in favor of item number 4.4 regarding the grant application for Edwards Association.

Anne Dollery informed the City Council that her last day of employment with the City is March 19th.

Brad Cox introduced himself as a new Chamber of Commerce employee and expressed his excitement to be in Gonzales.

OTHER BUSINESS

- 1.1 Ceremonial Swearing in of Police Officer: Jacob Mills
- 1.2 City Manager, Tim Patek provided a comprehensive de-briefing regarding the February 13-17 Winter Storm Uri

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

The Consent Agenda is considered self-explanatory and will be enacted by the Council with one motion. There will be no separate discussion of these items unless they are removed from the Consent Agenda upon the request of the Mayor or a Councilmember.

- 2.1 **Minutes** - Approval of the minutes for the February 4, 2021 called meeting and the February 11, 2021 regular meeting
- 2.2 Certification of Unopposed Candidate: Council District 1-Joseph Kridler
- 2.3 Discuss, Consider & Possible Action Authorizing the Mayor to Execute a Voting Machine Rental Service Agreement with Gonzales County for the May 1, 2021 General and Special Elections
- 2.4 Discuss, Consider & Possible Action on **Resolution #2021-16** Authorizing the Use of Texas Heroes Square Including the Parking Lot for the Gonzales Master Gardener's Annual Spring Plant Sale on April 16 and 17, 2021

- 2.5 Discuss, Consider & Possible Action on **Resolution #2021-17** Authorizing an expenditure of funds for the Gonzales Economic Development Corporation in an amount not to exceed \$48,000.00 for roof repairs to the Lynn Theatre
- 2.6 Discuss, Consider & Possible Action on **Resolution #2021-18** Approving a Project of The Gonzales Economic Development Corporation, A Type B Economic Development Corporation, which consists of Providing Fifty Thousand and No/100 Dollars (\$50,000.00) to the Texas Community Block Grant Program (TXCDBG) For The Benefit of the Gonzales Main Street, Inc., to be used for Infrastructure Improvements to the 400 Block Of Saint James Street, Authorized By Section 501.103 Of The Texas Local Government Code
- 2.7 Discuss, Consider & Possible Action on **Resolution #2021-19** Authorizing Gonzales Main Street's Use of Independence Square including the Parking Lot, Designated Street Closures, Closure of the Brickyard Area at Independence Park, and Sale and Consumption of Alcoholic Beverages for the Annual Main Street Concert Series and Star-Spangled Spectacular on June 4th & 5th, 11th & 12th, 18th & 19th, 25th & 26th, and July 4, 2021

ACTION: Items 2.1 to 2.7

APPROVED

Council Member O'Neal moved to approve the consent agenda as presented. Council Member Schroeder seconded the motion. Mayor Kacir called for a roll call vote. For: Unanimous. The motion passed 5 to 0.

ACTION ITEMS

- 3.1 Discussion and Direction from City Council regarding Executive Order GA-34

The City Council provided direction to continue the face mask requirements in City facilities until further notice.

- 3.2 Discussion and Direction from City Council regarding a proposal from Victoria College to potentially lease the billboard on Sarah Dewitt Drive to utilize in promotion and marketing educational initiatives available.

The City Council provided direction for the City Manager to negotiate an agreement with Victoria College for the rental of the billboard in the best interest of the City.

- 3.3 Discussion and Direction from City Council regarding the Engagement of Denton Navarro Rocha Bernal & Zech and Doucet & Associates for redistricting/reapportionment services

Attorney T. Daniel Santee provided a comprehensive presentation regarding the process and details of redistricting.

The City Council provided direction to move forward with a redistricting commission that will be led by a citizen committee.

RESOLUTIONS

- 4.1 Discuss, Consider & Possible Action on **Resolution #2021-20** Authorizing the Appointment of the Election Judge and Workers for the May 1, 2021 Election

ACTION: Item 4.1

APPROVED

Council Member O'Neal moved to approve **Resolution #2021-20** Authorizing the Appointment of Liz Hernandez as the Election Judge, Betty Vaughan as the Alternate Judge and setting the number of clerks to 12 for the May 1, 2021 Election. Council Member Schroeder seconded the motion. Mayor Kacir called for a roll call vote. For: Unanimous. The motion passed 5 to 0.

- 4.2 Discuss, Consider & Possible Action on **Resolution #2021-21** Approving the Recommendation from the Gonzales Convention and Visitors Bureau for funding for the for the purchase of a new digital sign for J.B. Wells Park, Arena and Expo in the amount of \$29,878.00.

ACTION: Item 4.2

APPROVED

Council Member Schurig moved to approve **Resolution #2021-21** Approving the Recommendation from the Gonzales Convention and Visitors Bureau for funding for the for the purchase of a new digital sign for J.B. Wells Park, Arena and Expo in the amount of \$29,878.00. Council Member Schroeder seconded the motion. Mayor Kacir called for a roll call vote. For: Unanimous. The motion passed 5 to 0.

- 4.3 Discuss, Consider & Possible Action on **Resolution #2021-22** Approving Changes to the Current Job Descriptions for Parks and Recreation Director, Records Clerk and Position Classification for the Arena Operations Manager.

ACTION: Items 4.3

APPROVED

Council Member O'Neal moved to approve Approving **Resolution #2021-22** Approving Changes to the Current Job Descriptions for Parks and Recreation Director, Records Clerk and Position Classification for the Arena Operations Manager. Council Member Schurig seconded the motion. Mayor Kacir called for a roll call vote. For: Unanimous. The motion passed 5 to 0.

- 4.4 Discuss, Consider & Possible Action on **Resolution #2021-23** Authorizing the City Manager to Submit, and Accept if Awarded, an Application and Associated Documents to the National Park Service Underrepresented Community Grant Program in an Amount, Not to Exceed \$50,000, for Building Improvements to the Edwards Community Center (Edwards School); the Grant Application is a collaboration of the Edwards Association and Gonzales Main Street, which will pay for the cost of Grant preparation.

ACTION: Items 4.4

APPROVED

Council Member Schurig moved to approve Approving **Resolution #2021-23** Authorizing the City Manager to Submit, and Accept if Awarded, an Application and Associated Documents to the National Park Service Underrepresented Community Grant

Program in an Amount, Not to Exceed \$50,000, for Building Improvements to the Edwards Community Center (Edwards School); the Grant Application is a collaboration of the Edwards Association and Gonzales Main Street, which will pay for the cost of Grant preparation. Council Member Brown seconded the motion. Mayor Kacir called for a roll call vote. For: Unanimous. The motion passed 5 to

ORDINANCES

- 5.1 Discuss, Consider & Possible Action on **Ordinance #2021-11** Amending the City of Gonzales' Election Ordinance and Notice to reflect a change in polling locations for Election Day from North Avenue Intermediate School (1032 St. Joseph) to the City of Gonzales Municipal Building (820 St. Joseph)

ACTION: Items 5.1

APPROVED

Council Member O'Neal moved to approve Approving **Ordinance #2021-11** Amending the City of Gonzales' Election Ordinance and Notice to reflect a change in polling locations for Election Day from North Avenue Intermediate School (1032 St. Joseph) to the City of Gonzales Municipal Building (820 St. Joseph). Council Member Schurig seconded the motion. Mayor Kacir called for a roll call vote. For: Unanimous. The motion passed 5 to 0.

- 5.2 Discuss, Consider & Possible Action on **Ordinance #2021-12** Closing and Abandoning to the Abutting Property Owners Portions of Certain Unimproved Streets lying beyond the municipal boundaries.

ACTION: Items 5.2

APPROVED

Council Member Schurig moved to approve Approving **Ordinance #2021-12** Closing and Abandoning to the Abutting Property Owners Portions of Certain Unimproved Streets lying beyond the municipal boundaries. Council Member Brown seconded the motion Mayor Kacir called for a roll call vote. For: Unanimous. The motion passed 5 to 0.

STAFF/BOARD REPORTS

- 6.1 Financial Report for the month of February 2021, and Quarterly Investment Report 12/31/2020
- 6.2 City Manager, Tim Patek provided an update to the City Council on the following:
- Rate Study
 - Paddling Trail dock

CONVENE INTO CLOSED SESSION:

The Council convened into closed session at 7:07 p.m.

- 7.1(a) Pursuant to Section 551.071 of the Texas Government Code, the City of Gonzales will consult in closed session with its attorney to receive legal advice regarding pending or contemplated litigation, a settlement offer, or matter in which the duty of the attorney to the governmental body under the Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct of

the State Bar of Texas clearly conflicts with this chapter”, to include the following matters:

1. In Re Estate of J. B. Wells litigation
2. Patricia Bennett and Gloria Knight v. City of Gonzales, Texas Cause No. 27,500

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

The Council convened into open session at 8:03 p.m.

8.1 Discuss and Consider any Action Resulting from Closed Session as Necessary

No action was taken.

CITY COUNCIL REQUESTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Requests by Mayor and Councilmembers for items on a future City Council agenda
The Mayor requested that a workshop regarding a venue tax be placed on a future agenda.
- Announcements by Mayor and Councilmembers
- City and community events attended and to be attended
- Continuing education events attended and to be attended

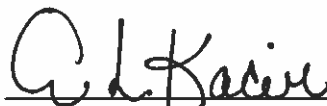
ADJOURN

On a motion by Council Member O’Neal and second by Council Member Schroeder, the meeting was adjourned at 8:04 p.m.

Approved this 8th day of April, 2021.



City Secretary



Connie Kacir, Mayor