

**CITY OF GONZALES, TEXAS
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
MINUTES – AUGUST 10, 2023**

The regular meeting of the City Council was held on **August 10, 2023**, at 6:00 p.m. at the Gonzales Municipal Building, 820 St. Joseph Street. This was an OPEN MEETING, open to the public, subject to the open meeting laws of the State of Texas and, as required by law, was duly posted, at the Gonzales Municipal Building, giving notice of time, date, place, and agenda thereof. The meeting notice, agenda and agenda packet were posted online at www.gonzales.texas.gov.

CALL TO ORDER, INVOCATION, AND PLEDGES OF ALLEGIANCE

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

Attendee Name	Title	Status
Steve Sucher	Mayor	Present
Joseph Kridler	Council Member, District 1	Absent
Sherrí Koepp	Council Member, District 2, Mayor Pro Tem	Present
Lorenzo Hernandez	Council Member, District 3	Present
Ronda Miller	Council Member, District 4	Present

STAFF PARTICIPATING:

Tim Crow-City Manager, Kristina Vega-City Secretary, Laura Zella-Finance Director, Erica Leopold-Administrative Assistant, Gayle Autry-Police Chief, Susan Sankey-Economic Development Director, Tiffany Hutchinson-Padilla-Main Street Director, Wade Zella-Fire Chief, & Todd Renschel-Street Superintendent.

CITY EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Announcements of upcoming City Events-Mayor Sucher reminded the community of the upcoming events for the community.
- Announcements and recognitions by the City Manager- City Manager Crow commended the Finance Department on job well down on the Budget and the Street Department on a job well done on St. Lawrence projects.
- Announcements and recognitions by the Mayor- Mayor Sucher acknowledged city employees and departments for their engagement and events within the community.
- Recognition of actions by City employees-None
- Recognition of actions by community volunteers- Mayor Sucher acknowledged community members that are involved in many positive community efforts.

HEARING OF RESIDENTS

Vince Ortiz, Gonzales Center Manager of Victoria College invited the Council to attend a welcome event for the first week of classes during the week of August 21st.

Bob Burchard spoke regarding request to remove the entry fee for the Memorial Museum along with museum improvements suggestions, and JB Wells Park profit versus loss.

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.

- 1.1 **Minutes** - Approval of the minutes for the July 13, 2023 Regular Meeting, July 26, 2023 Workshop and July 27, 2023 Workshop
- 1.2 Discuss, Consider & Possible Action on **Resolution #2023-81** Authorizing the Use of the Independence Square and downtown sidewalks for Main Street's Second Annual Downtown Merchant Rum Run Event to be held on Saturday, October 21, 2023
- 1.3 Discuss, Consider & Possible Action on **Resolution #2023-82** Authorizing the closure of certain streets and the use of the downtown squares by Gonzales Main Street, Inc. and the Ministerial Alliance of Gonzales for a Trunk or Treat Event to be held on Saturday, October 28, 2023
- 1.4 Discuss, Consider & Possible Action on **Resolution #2023-83** Authorizing the Use of the Independence Square for Gonzales Main Street's Downtown Merchant Sip, Savor, & Shop Small Business Saturday Event to be held on Saturday, November 25, 2023
- 1.5 Discuss, Consider & Possible Action on **Resolution #2023-84** Authorizing the Use of the downtown squares including the Parking Lots, and Designated Street Closures for Main Street's 2023 Jingle Mingle, Winterfest & Annual Lighted Christmas Parade December 1 & December 2, 2023
- 1.6 Discuss, Consider & Possible Action on **Resolution #2023-85** Approving Type B Economic Development Agreement between the Gonzales Economic Development Corporation and the City of Gonzales, Texas Authorized Pursuant to Section 505.158 of the Texas Local Government Code for State Grant Matching Funds for the Airport Runway Lighting Project in the amount of \$145,000.00-First Reading
- 1.7 Discuss, Consider & Possible Action on **Resolution #2023-86** Authorizing the City Manager to Enter into a Lease Agreement with Yamaha Motor Finance Corporation for a Four Year Lease on Ten Yamaha Drive2 Quietech Fleet Golf Carts for an Annual Amount of \$9,000.00

ACTION: Items 1.1 through 1.7

APPROVED

Council Member Koepf moved to approve the consent agenda Items 1.1 through 1.7. Council Member Miller seconded the motion. Mayor Sucher called for a roll call vote. For: Unanimous. The motion passed 4 to 0.

RESOLUTION

- 2.1 Discuss, Consider and Possible Action on **Resolution #2023-87** Taking a Record Vote on Setting the Preliminary Maximum Ad Valorem Tax Rate for Fiscal Year 2023-2024 and Scheduling a Public Hearing

ACTION: Item 2.1

POSTPONED

Council Member Miller moved to approve **Resolution #2023-87** Taking a Record Vote on Setting the Preliminary Maximum Ad Valorem Tax Rate as the No New Revenue Tax Rate of \$0.2910 for Fiscal Year 2023-2024 and Scheduling a Public Hearing. Council Member Hernandez seconded the motion. Mayor Sucher called for a roll call vote. For: Miller and Hernandez. Against: Koepp and Sucher. The motion died due to a 2 to 2 vote. Council Member Koepp moved to approve **Resolution #2023-87** Taking a Record Vote on Setting the Preliminary Maximum Ad Valorem Tax Rate as the Voter-Approval Tax Rate of \$0.2938 for Fiscal Year 2023-2024 and Scheduling a Public for September 7, 2023. Mayor Sucher seconded the motion. Mayor Sucher called for a roll call vote. For: Koepp and Sucher. Against: Miller and Hernandez. The motion died due to a 2 to 2 vote. The adoption of the Preliminary Maximum Ad Valorem Tax Rate will be postponed until August 14, 2023.

- 2.2 Public Hearing, Discussion & Possible Action on **Resolution #2023-88** Closing out Grant #7220052-2020-DRP from the Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA) in the amount of \$500,000 for Sidewalk and Street Improvements on and around Texas Heroes Square

ACTION: Item 2.2

APPROVED

Mayor Sucher opened the Public Hearing for the following item:

Public Hearing, Discussion & Possible Action on **Resolution #2023-88** Closing out Grant #7220052-2020-DRP from the Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA) in the amount of \$500,000 for Sidewalk and Street Improvements on and around Texas Heroes Square.

David Dement commended the Street Department and the City Engineer on a great job with the Sidewalk and Street Improvements on and around Texas Heroes Square.

Kristina Vega delivered the close out presentation.

Mayor Sucher closed the public hearings at 6:37 p.m.

Council Member Miller moved to approve **Resolution #2023-88** Closing out Grant #7220052-2020-DRP from the Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA) in the amount of \$500,000 for Sidewalk and Street Improvements on and around Texas Heroes Square. Council Member Koepp seconded the motion. Mayor Sucher called for a roll call vote. For: Unanimous. The motion passed 4 to 0.

- 2.3 Discuss, Consider and Possible Action on **Resolution #2023-89** Authorizing the City Manager to submit, and accept if awarded, an application and associated documents to the Public Safety Office, Criminal Justice Division, through the Office of the Governor, for up to \$160,000 in Operation Lone Star Grant Funds, for the Purchase of a police vehicle, one drone and overtime for the Police Department

ACTION: Item 2.3

APPROVED

Council Member Koepp moved to approve **Resolution #2023-89** Authorizing the City Manager to submit, and accept if awarded, an application and associated documents to the Public Safety Office, Criminal Justice Division, through the Office of the Governor, for up to \$160,000 in Operation Lone Star Grant Funds, for the Purchase of a police vehicle, one

drone and overtime for the Police Department. Council Member Miller seconded the motion. Mayor Sucher called for a roll call vote. For: Unanimous. The motion passed 4 to 0.

- 2.4 Discuss, Consider and Possible Action on **Resolution #2023-90** Authorizing the City Manager to Execute a Purchase Agreement for the Purchase of a Chevrolet Tahoe SSV 4x4 for the Fire Department in the amount of \$75,929.00

ACTION: Item 2.4

APPROVED

Council Member Miller moved to approve **Resolution #2023-90** Authorizing the City Manager to Execute a Purchase Agreement for the Purchase of a Chevrolet Tahoe SSV 4x4 for the Fire Department in the amount of \$75,929.00. Council Member Hernandez seconded the motion. Mayor Sucher called for a roll call vote. For: Unanimous. The motion passed 4 to 0.

- 2.5 Discuss, Consider and Possible Action on **Resolution #2023-91** Authorizing the City Manager to negotiate and execute a License Agreement with Linda Gay Wood Drake granting the use of certain tracts of land as described within said agreement

ACTION: Item 2.5

APPROVED

Council Member Koepp moved to approve **Resolution #2023-91** Authorizing the City Manager to negotiate and execute a License Agreement with Linda Gay Wood Drake granting the use of certain tracts of land as described within said agreement. Council Member Hernandez seconded the motion. Mayor Sucher called for a roll call vote. For: Unanimous. The motion passed 4 to 0.

OTHER BUSINESS

- 3.1 Discussion and direction regarding the possible removal of tree on the southern portion of Independence Square east of the Fire Station

City Manager Tim Crow requested direction from Council on the removal of a tree on the southern portion of Independence Square east of the Fire Station. Council all in favor of having tree removed.

- 3.2 Discussion and direction regarding town hall initiatives and desire to hold Town Hall Meetings

The City Council engaged in discussions regarding the possibility of Town Hall Meetings.

STAFF/BOARD REPORTS

- 4.1 Finance Director provided feedback on any questions regarding:

- Financial Reports for funds as of June 30, 2023
- Cash & Investment by Fund as of June 30, 2023

- 4.2 City Manager, Tim Crow provided a brief update to the City Council on the following:

- Timeline on Capital Improvement and Departmental Projects
 - Recently Completed Projects

- Projects Currently in Process
- Upcoming Projects

4.3 Economic Development Director, Susan Sankey updated the City Council on the following:

- 510 St. Paul

CONVENE INTO CLOSED SESSION:

The Council convened into closed session at 7:20 p.m.

CLOSED SESSION

5.1 (1) Pursuant to Section 551.086 of the Texas Government Code, to deliberate, vote or take final action on a competitive matter related to certain public power utilities

A) Sale of Renewable Energy Credits (REC)

(2) Pursuant to Section 551.074 of the Texas Government Code, the City of Gonzales will consult in closed session to deliberate the appointment, employment, evaluation, reassignment, duties, discipline, or dismissal of a public officer or employee.

A) City Manager Evaluation

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

The Council convened into open session at 7:37 p.m.

7.1 Discuss, Consider & Possible Action regarding matters discussed in closed session, and/or other actions necessary or recommended related to such discussions in closed session

NO ACTION was taken.

CITY COUNCIL REQUESTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS


- Requests by Mayor and Councilmembers for items on a future City Council agenda
- Announcements by Mayor and Councilmembers
- City and community events attended and to be attended
- Continuing education events attended and to be attended

No requests or announcements were made.

ADJOURN

On a motion by Council Member Miller and second by Council Member Koepp, the meeting was adjourned at 7:41 p.m.

Approved this 14th day of September, 2023.



Mayor, S.H. Sucher



Kristina Vega, City Secretary