

**CITY OF GONZALES, TEXAS
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
MINUTES – NOVEMBER 9, 2023**

The regular meeting of the City Council was held on **November 9, 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	Present
Sherri 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, Tammy West-Police Lt., Tiffany Hutchinson-Padilla-Main Street Director, Amanda Garza-JB Wells Park Arena Operations Manager, & Ryan Wilkerson-Water/Wastewater Director.

CITY EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Announcements of upcoming City Events-None
- Announcements and recognitions by the City Manager- None
- Announcements and recognitions by the Mayor- Mayor

Mayor Sucher acknowledged Tony and Cici Powers for the donation of container that has been placed at JB Wells Arena. Mayor Sucher acknowledged the Church of Jesus Christ Latter Day Saints for their painting of the gazebo at the Riverside Community Center. Mayor Sucher acknowledged the sculpture unveiling at the Robert Lee Brothers, Jr. Memorial Library. Mayor Sucher acknowledged BYK USA Inc. for their safety records. Mayor Sucher acknowledged Dr. Humberto Rivas and Debbie Marshall for each receiving awards by the Brination Foundation in a ceremony that took place at the Legacy Ranch. Dr. Humberto Rivas received the Lifetime Achievement Award and Debbie Marshall received the Community Leadership Award.

- Recognition of actions by City employees-None
- Recognition of actions by community volunteers-None

HEARING OF RESIDENTS

Susanna Gunn, Sascha Kardosz & Gaspar Lekgega spoke in favor of the agreement with Texas Junior High Rodeo and asked City Council to respectfully approve the agreement due to the positive economic impact it has on businesses in Gonzales.

Robyn Tinsley regarding the functionality of the existing agreements and the amount of volunteer hours that are spent in operating the cat shelter.

Melissa Henderson spoke about the feral cat population and asked that additional research be done on the Trap Neuter and Return program and the impact that feral cats have on citizens, especially those with health related issues involving cats.

OTHER BUSINESS

- 1.1 Presentation from Alley Cat Allies to include but are not limited to Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR), the only humane and effective approach to community cats, or unowned cats who live outdoors. As sound public policy, TNR addresses community concerns, reduces shelter intake and killing, and reduces calls to animal services, all of which save cats' lives and taxpayer dollars.

Dana Pannella of Alley Cat Allies, presented via Zoom regarding the details and benefits of the Trap Neuter Return program.

- 1.2 Presentation from Kingdom Rescue Team to include but are not limited to their services, protocols, & Trap-Neuter-Return programs, and possible amendments to the terms of the existing cat shelter agreement and recommendations for a TNR animal control ordinance

Members of Kingdom Rescue Team reiterated the importance of a TNR program, recommendation on a TNR ordinance, and possible amendments to the terms of the cat shelter agreement to include budgetary changes and the importance of a combined effort between the City's Animal Control Officer and Kingdom Rescue to make the agreement successful.

- 1.3 Discuss and possible action regarding termination or other similar action of the Gonzales Paws and Whiskers Agreement and discussions for potential ordinance amendments to the Animal Control Ordinance to be brought back at a later date, and potentially authorizing the City Manager to negotiate and execute an agreement with Kingdom Rescue Team

City Council, City Manager and members of Kingdom Rescue engaged in discussions regarding potential ordinance amendments to the Animal Control Ordinance to be brought back at a later date, and potentially authorizing the City Manager to negotiate and execute an agreement with Kingdom Rescue Team.

Council Member Miller moved to authorize the City Manager to enter into negotiations with Kingdom Rescue Team an agreement with Kingdom Rescue Team. Council Member Koepp seconded the motion. Mayor Sucher called for a roll call vote. For: Unanimous. The motion passed 5 to 0.

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 October 12, 2023, Regular Meeting
- 2.2 Discuss, Consider and Possible Action on **Resolution #2023-128** Authorizing the Payment of Longevity Pay for Fiscal Year 2023-2024
- 2.3 Discuss, Consider & Possible Action on **Resolution #2023-129** Declaring Certain City Property Surplus and Authorizing the Sale of Said Property in the manner most advantageous to the City of Gonzales
- 2.4 Discuss, Consider & Possible Action on **Resolution #2023-130** Approving the 2024 Insurance Provider for Health, Dental, Vision and Life
- 2.5 Discuss, Consider & Possible Action on **Resolution #2023-131** Approving the Tax Resale of the Property Located at 200 Block of Plum Street
- 2.6 Discuss, Consider & Possible Action on **Resolution #2023-132** Authorizing the purchase and installation of an Automatic Transfer Switch from System Controls & Instrumentation, LLC. for the Wastewater Treatment Plant in the amount of \$38,840.00
- 2.7 Discuss, Consider & Possible Action on **Resolution #2023-133** Approving the Marketing Service Agreement for the Gonzales Economic Development Corporation
- 2.8 Discuss, Consider & Possible Action on **Resolution #2023-134** Authorizing the use of the Texas Heroes Square for the Gonzales 4-H Christmas Military Tribute event on December 16th or 19th, 2023

ACTION: Items 2.1 through 2.8

APPROVED

Council Member Kridler moved to approve the consent agenda Items 2.1 through 2.8. Council Member Hernandez seconded the motion. Mayor Sucher called for a roll call vote. For: Unanimous. The motion passed 5 to 0.

RESOLUTION

- 3.1 Discuss, Consider and Possible Action on **Resolution #2023-135** Authorizing the City Manager to Execute a License Agreement with the Texas Junior High Rodeo Association (TJHRA)

ACTION: Item 3.1

APPROVED

Council Member Koepp moved to approve **Resolution #2023-135** Authorizing the City Manager to Execute a License Agreement with the Texas Junior High Rodeo Association (TJHRA). Council Member Miller seconded the motion. Mayor Sucher called for a roll call vote. For: Unanimous. The motion passed 5 to 0.

- 3.2 Discuss, Consider and Possible Action on **Resolution #2023-136** Rescheduling the January 11, 2024, Regular City Council Meeting

ACTION: Item 3.2

APPROVED

Council Member Koepp moved to approve **Resolution #2023-136** Rescheduling the January 11, 2024, Regular City Council Meeting to January 8, 2024. Council Member

Kridler seconded the motion. Mayor Sucher called for a roll call vote. For: Unanimous. The motion passed 5 to 0.

- 3.3 Discuss, Consider and Possible Action on **Resolution #2023-137** Casting Votes for the Gonzales Central Appraisal District Board of Directors for the term of office beginning January 1, 2024, and ending December 31, 2025

ACTION: Item 3.3

APPROVED

Council Member Hernandez moved to approve **Resolution #2023-137** Casting Votes cast for Briana Dominguez, Josh Gray, Jeff Harvey, Ryan Mills and Shannon Smith for the Gonzales Central Appraisal District Board of Directors for the term of office beginning January 1, 2024, and ending December 31, 2025. Council Member Miller seconded the motion. Mayor Sucher called for a roll call vote. For: Unanimous. The motion passed 5 to 0.

- 3.4 Discuss, Consider & Possible Action on **Resolution #2023-138** Authorizing the City Manager To Execute an Interlocal Cooperation Contract and Lease Agreement between Victoria College and the City of Gonzales

ACTION: Item 3.4

APPROVED

Council Member Miller moved to approve **Resolution #2023-138** Authorizing the City Manager To Execute an Interlocal Cooperation Contract and Lease Agreement between Victoria College and the City of Gonzales. Council Member Hernandez seconded the motion. Mayor Sucher called for a roll call vote. For: Unanimous. The motion passed 5 to 0.

- 3.5 Discuss, Consider & Possible Action on **Resolution #2023-139** Authorizing the Gonzales Little League to Construct a Batting Cage at Independence Park Little League Fields to be located on City Property

ACTION: Item 3.5

APPROVED

Council Member Kridler moved to approve **Resolution #2023-139** Authorizing the Gonzales Little League to Construct a Batting Cage at Independence Park Little League Fields to be located on City Property. Council Member Miller seconded the motion. Mayor Sucher called for a roll call vote. For: Unanimous. The motion passed 5 to 0.

- 3.6 Discuss, Consider & Possible Action on **Resolution #2023-140** Authorizing the Gonzales Golf Association Inc. to move forward with the curbing project on City property located at the Gonzales Independence Golf Course with the total cost of the curbing project being incurred by the Gonzales Golf Association Inc.

ACTION: Item 3.6

APPROVED

Council Member Kridler moved to approve **Resolution #2023-140** Authorizing the Gonzales Golf Association Inc. to move forward with the curbing project on City property located at the Gonzales Independence Golf Course with the total cost of the curbing project being incurred by the Gonzales Golf Association Inc. Council Member Miller seconded the motion. Mayor Sucher called for a roll call vote. For: Unanimous. The motion passed 5 to 0.

- 3.7 Discuss, Consider & Possible Action on **Resolution #2023-141** Authorizing the City Manager to execute an Encroachment Agreement with Kirk Mahon

ACTION: Item 3.7

APPROVED

Council Member Miller moved to approve **Resolution #2023-141** Authorizing the City Manager to execute an Encroachment Agreement with Kirk Mahon. Council Member Hernandez seconded the motion. Mayor Sucher called for a roll call vote. For: Unanimous. The motion passed 5 to 0.

- 3.8 Discuss, Consider & Possible Action on **Resolution #2023-142** Authorizing the City Manager to negotiate and execute an Interlocal Agreement with Texas Department of Public Safety-Driver License Division for the use of City property located at 415 St. Matthew

ACTION: Item 3.8

APPROVED

Council Member Kridler moved to approve **Resolution #2023-142** Authorizing the City Manager to negotiate and execute an Interlocal Agreement with Texas Department of Public Safety-Driver License Division for the use of City property located at 415 St. Matthew. Council Member Miller seconded the motion. Mayor Sucher called for a roll call vote. For: Unanimous. The motion passed 5 to 0.

STAFF/BOARD REPORTS

- 4.1 Finance Director provided feedback on any questions regarding:
- Financial Reports for funds as of October 31, 2023
 - Cash & Investment by Fund as of October 31, 2023
 - Quarterly Investment Report Ending September 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

CONVENE INTO CLOSED SESSION:

The Council convened into closed session at 7:56 p.m.

CLOSED SESSION

- 5.1 (1) Pursuant to Section 551.087 of the Texas Government Code, the City of Gonzales will consult in closed session (1) to discuss or deliberate regarding commercial or financial information that the governmental body has received from a business prospect that the governmental body seeks to have locate, stay, or expand in or near the territory of the governmental body and with which the governmental body is conducting economic development negotiations; or (2) to deliberate the offer of a financial or other incentive to a business prospect described by Subdivision (1) to include the following matters:
- A) 510 St. Paul Street

(2) Pursuant to Section 551.072 of the Texas Government Code, the City of Gonzales will consult in closed session to deliberate the purchase, exchange, lease, or value of real property if deliberation in an open meeting would have a detrimental effect on the position of the governmental body in negotiations with a third person:

A) Unopened portion of College Street

(3) 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:

A) Discussion regarding the Gonzales Chamber of Commerce Publicity and Tourism Agreement

(4) 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) Building Official position and duties

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

The Council convened into open session at 8:45 p.m.

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

The Mayor asked if there was any action resulting from Closed Session agenda item 5.1 (1) (A) Regarding 510 St. Paul Street. Council Member Miller moved to authorize the Gonzales Economic Development Executive Director to execute a subordination agreement with the financial institution on the terms discussed in Executive Session. Council Member Koepp seconded the motion. Mayor Sucher called for a roll call vote. For: Unanimous. The motion passed 5 to 0.

CITY COUNCIL REQUESTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Requests by Mayor and Councilmembers for items on a future City Council agenda. Mayor Sucher asked to have deliberation regarding Municipal Park hours be discussed.
- Announcements by Mayor and Councilmembers
- City and community events attended and to be attended. Council Member Kridler reminded everyone regarding the Veteran’s Luncheon on Friday and the Turkey Shoot on Sunday.
- Continuing education events attended and to be attended


ADJOURN

On a motion by Council Member Kridler and second by Council Member Hernandez, the meeting was adjourned at 8:58 p.m.

Approved this 14th day of December 2023.



Kristina Vega, City Secretary



Mayor, S.H. Sucher