



**CITY COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
MAY 30, 2019**

The Hutto City Council met in a regular session on Thursday, May 30, 2019, in Council Chambers, City Hall, 500 W. Live Oak, Hutto, TX 78634.

CALL SESSION TO ORDER

Mayor Gaul called the session to order at 7:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Members of the City Council present were Mayor Doug Gaul, Mayor Pro-tem Tom Hines, Councilmember Scott Rose, Councilmember Mike Snyder, Councilmember Peter Gordon, Councilmember Patti Turner and Councilmember Terri Grimm.

Members of staff that were present were Odis Jones, City Manager; Edena Atmore, Assistant City Manager; Cara Hanna, City Attorney; Byron Frankland, Assistant City Manager/Public Safety Director; Michel Sorrell, Chief Financial Officer; Ashley Lumpkin, Executive Director Infrastructure & Development Services; Ashby Grundman, Director of Development Services; Emily Parks, Public Information Officer; Tony Host, Executive Director of Community Services; Lacie Hale, City Secretary; and, Lynn Trumbul, Sr. Assistant City Secretary.

INVOCATION

The invocation was given by Chaplain Brian Dempsey of the Hutto Police Department.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Gaul led the Pledge of Allegiance and the Texas Pledge.

CITY COUNCIL COMMENTS

5A. General Comments from City Council

Councilmember Grimm explained that a month ago she was asked about the 2009 bond issuance breakdown. This information is available to anybody that wants it. In 2010, \$2.8 million was issued, in 2012, \$5 million was issued, and in 2016, \$6.4 million was issued. On the projects and construction costs for where the bond money went, the design and construction costs for Farley and Taylor Street (design was in fiscal year 2010, construction happened in 2014) was \$2.2

million. Mager Lane project, the design and construction was in FY 2012, at \$1.8 million. East Street, design and construction was in fiscal year 2016 and 2017, was \$992,000. The estimated cost for Arterial Fencing was \$450,000. The design and construction for the project was done in fiscal year 2013, with the expended funds of \$228,402. Sidewalks on FM 1660 South, design and construction in fiscal year 2013, 2014, and 2015, totaled \$590,000. Fritz Park Improvements, design and construction was in fiscal year 2016, as \$1.3 million. Rec Center, design and construction in fiscal year 2013 and 2014, was \$5.9 million. A rough estimate of all of these together is \$15.1 million. Due to inflation, the proposed amount for the bond projects proposed to the residents at the time, a lot of the projects almost doubled in the construction costs. Any additional costs that were because the bonds weren't issued or didn't fall under the original proposition were covered General Fund Reserves.

Councilmember Gordon asked if it would be appropriate to make a motion to include in the official minutes.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Lucas Noble Evans of 3750 Country Road 132 South thanked Council for letting him speak. He shared that he had a 20 minute presentation regarding agenda items from the last Council meeting. He reduced the presentation down to a few pictures. Welcomed Mr. Snyder and Mr. Gordon and thanked them for their services. This is a sacrifice. Mr. Evans explained that he is a graduate of Hutto High School and went to school with Mr. Gordon's son. He has a degree in environmental science and urban planning. Was the Director of Peace Park Conservancy in Austin. It was for 78 acres off Lamar and fostered a beautiful community. Then he went on to help a friend with earth work so is familiar with the process of developing and reclaiming plots of land. His presentation mainly covers the value of moving east. He knows it is coming and that Council predated the support for the extension of 130 and 1660. The extension is going to be his driveway. They have already done some of the earth work. Mr. Evans is heavily advocating it be taken further west so they can have a little more room. His property will have to be completed avoided going further south and Perfect Game is coming in. He is not completely against all development. It is going to bring a lot of economic activity to the area. The area east is the frontier but what they do there is very serious. He left an application for Tom Hines. The city has his resume, applications, and is trying to get involved in the boards and commissions but hasn't heard anything. In August, Mr. Evans is starting a job with Atkins Global. It is a global design engineering firm. Currently working on the 183 expansion, in Austin, and the 45 connection. He is coming in to help to possibly contract and design the first desalination plant. Believes that it is important being in an agricultural area in Williamson County is a powerhouse, the Black Land Prairies is a powerhouse. Before developing, we need to know what we even have. The Black Land Prairies use to cover 20,000 square miles and now it covers maybe 800 acres. He would argue that his 5 acre house is probably the only standing Black Land Prairie in Williamson County, baring maybe Berry Creek Park. Let's think about it.

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion: Councilmember Grimm made a motion to pull Item 7A for a possible correction request. Councilmember Turner seconded the motion.

Vote: Ayes Mayor Doug Gaul
Councilmember Scott Rose
Councilmember Mike Snyder
Councilmember Peter Gordon
Councilmember Patti Turner
Councilmember Terri Grimm

Action: The motion passed with 6 ayes, 0 nays

7B. Consideration and possible action on the acceptance of the street, sidewalk, sidewalk ramps, water, wastewater and drainage improvements of Mager Meadows Phase 2 Subdivision. (MD Hoss a in)

Motion: Councilmember Grimm made a motion to approve the remaining items on the consent agenda. Councilmember Gordon seconded the motion.

Vote: Ayes Mayor Doug Gaul
Councilmember Scott Rose
Councilmember Mike Snyder
Councilmember Peter Gordon
Councilmember Patti Turner
Councilmember Terri Grimm

Action: The motion passed with 6 ayes, 0 nays

REGULAR AGENDA ITEMS

7A. Consideration and possible action approving the minutes of the May 15, 2019 Special City Council Meeting and the May 16, 2019 Regular City Council Meeting. (Lynn Trumbul)

Councilmember Grimm explained that the meeting minutes for 13A, the record needs to reflect why they moved the June 6th meeting to today. Mayor Gaul clarified that three councilmembers that have business or personal, will be out so there will not be a quorum. Councilmember Grimm responded, correct.

Councilmember Snyder shared that on the May 16 meeting, item 11B., there might have been an error that his views and Councilmembers Gordon's. The statement "Councilmember Snyder said he is ok with an 8-story building. He further stated that he thinks the issue is less with the number of stories and more with the transparency regarding the issue." was made by Councilmember Gordon and not Councilmember Snyder. Councilmember Snyder also shared

that there were a lot of comments that night and input from City Manager and other people. It should be included in the record.

Councilmember Grimm asked if meeting minutes can be tabled until the next meeting. She agreed with Councilmember Snyder. It was a long discussion and there is a lot that could possibly be added. She requested it be tabled to allow the City Secretary to add more discussion for approval. Councilmember Snyder agreed.

Motion: Councilmember Grimm made a motion to table the minutes from the May 15, 2019 Special City Council Meeting and the May 16, 2019 Regular City Council Meeting to allow the City Secretary to update the comments and make corrections. Councilmember Turner seconded the motion.

Vote: Ayes Mayor Doug Gaul
Councilmember Scott Rose
Councilmember Mike Snyder
Councilmember Peter Gordon
Councilmember Patti Turner
Councilmember Terri Grimm

Action: The motion passed with 6 ayes, 0 nays

City Manager Odis Jones clarified, for the City Secretary purposes, right now she is doing summary minutes. Would Council prefer her to move to more detail in the future or is it just for this set? Councilmember Turner requested the minutes be as detailed as possible because we are thinking about transparency here. This is the written record. If there is something we feel that needs to be noted, we can always ask to please state for the record. Councilmember Grimm personally feels that a synopsis is fine. If you don't go to the meeting and read the minutes, as long as you understand the conversation that happened, you can see who lean what way. With that agenda item specifically, the minutes should reflect why the vote was the way it was because it was not a unanimous vote. That is important. Councilmember Rose added that on top of that there was lot of public comment concerning that item. Councilmember Grimm agreed. Mayor Gaul thought the public comment was captured. Councilmember Grimm felt that it should be agenda item based, in her opinion. City Manager Odis Jones followed up by stating he just wanted to make sure that City Secretary Lacie Hale had an opportunity to hear how Council wants the minutes. Councilmember Snyder shared that for him personally, if it is called a heated issue he would like to see more of the minutes. Someone can come back, scan through minutes and look at it. When you look at it then it may not seem like that big of any issue. Councilmember Gordon asked if there were different retention requirements for video archive versus the written. City Manager Odis Jones responded that the video is kept on the same level as the minutes. Councilmember

Gordon didn't know if the written record was kept longer than the video. City Manager Odis Jones responded that it was the same.

ORDINANCES:

- 8A. Consideration and possible action on the second and final reading of an ordinance concerning the first amendment to the Fiscal Year 2019 Budget of the Hutto Economic Development Corporation - Type B. (Michel Sorrell)

Chief Financial Officer Michel Sorrell explained that this is the second and final reading for the EDC first budget amendment. It is required that the Council actually approve this budget amendment as the authorizing unit. As mentioned last time, the expenditures will increase a little over \$720,000 that is due to several things. One is the employment of the Economic Director that started in April. Also incentive packages, including \$585,000 sponsorship to the Brushy Creek Amphitheater. The Board actually approved that last fiscal year, but due to timing did not get paid until this fiscal year. As well as incentives to JRS and a small business loan program. That is the increase to the budget. For fiscal year 2019, she doesn't foresee another budget amendment happening. The largest affect is the \$585,000. The fees and incentive packages were negotiated by the board.

Mayor Gaul confirmed that the budget amendment was approved by the EDC. Chief Financial Officer Michel Sorrell responded it was approved on April 1st. Councilmember Turner asked if it was unanimous. Chief Financial Officer Michel Sorrell said yes, it was. Councilmember Snyder clarified that the money has been spent and the position has already been fired. Chief Financial Officer Michel Sorrell responded, that is correct. The other agreements, JRS, and small business loan program have not actually been paid, as of yet. City Manager Odis Jones further explained that the reason they have not been paid out yet is because they are performance measures in it. Meaning the companies don't get paid unless they reach a certain performance level. When the company hires a certain number of employees they submit the certified payrolls then get paid. Councilmember Snyder shared that makes sense. It seemed unusual, in his mind, that we had already spent money and hired the position then came back to approve. He asked what would happen if the Council doesn't approve the amendment to the budget. Chief Financial Officer Michel Sorrell responded that the position didn't start until after the Board approved the position. City Manager Odis Jones explained that Council approved the new bylaws that had added the position. Council also gave direction to the EDC board so assumed Council would be okay with the expenses. Also, the same was done with amphitheater. The City Council had given direction to the Board and this is the Board responding to the request. Councilmember Gordon clarified that they approved them to do it but didn't know the amount at the time. City Manager Odis Jones responded that Council knew the amount at the time. It is just now getting around the ad ministerial standpoint. Councilmember Gordon asked if it was for one position. City Manager Odis Jones responded, that is correct. It is for one position.

Motion: Councilmember Rose made a motion to approve the ordinance. Councilmember Turner seconded the motion.

Vote: Ayes Mayor Doug Gaul
Councilmember Scott Rose
Councilmember Mike Snyder
Councilmember Peter Gordon
Councilmember Patti Turner
Councilmember Terri Grimm

Action: The motion passed 6 ayes, 0 nays.

RESOLUTIONS:

- 9A. Consideration and possible action on a resolution supporting Williamson County in their efforts to explore alternative transportation options in coordination with the City of Hutto. (Ashley Lumpkin)

Executive Director Infrastructure & Development Services Ashley Lumpkin explained this is a quick Resolution supporting Williamson County's efforts. She did point out that there are a few whereas statements but a majority of them depend on our economic development efforts. So the 600,000 people coming to town with the Perfect Game Project, ensuring that we are looking at the transportation routes within the City of Hutto, giving a priority to the improvements along the interior road at County Road 132 corridor and state highway 130 access lanes between Limmer Loop and Highway 46. That is the gist of this Resolution for support.

Councilmember Rose shared that he is confused. They put out a press release that highlighted a southeast loop going around the town, off 79 east and connecting off 130. It all talks about it being a study. Reading the Resolution it is talking about, lead him to believe, they are looking at other things as well. He asked why Council needs to support or not support them doing studies. To him, it is their job. They need to be studying the mobility of the County. The Resolution doesn't state whether we are in support of the loop or not. It just talks about their efforts to create safe and viable roadway options. He would like to table this until we get actual definitive information.

Motion: Councilmember Rose made a motion to table 9A for clarification and more information. Councilmember Gordon seconded the motion.

Vote: Ayes Mayor Doug Gaul
Councilmember Scott Rose
Mayor Pro-tem Tom Hines
Councilmember Mike Snyder
Councilmember Peter Gordon
Councilmember Patti Turner
Councilmember Terri Grimm

Action: The motion passed 6 ayes, 0 nays.

Councilmember Grimm asked for clarification that the only discussion that can be done is about tabling the motion. Mayor Gaul agrees with tabling it. He would like to get more feedback from the citizens and information. They also have a public meeting on the 24th. Councilmember Turner agreed. Councilmember Gordon shared that he had the same question. The Resolution mentions improvement to County Road 132, which is our proposed overpass. It doesn't talk about anything that was mentioned yesterday. Councilmember Rose added that it is totally generic as opposed to what they put out there. Councilmember Snyder shared that something he is hearing from the people, is that they speak to the County and the County is not listening. He would like to see the City set up something first, before the meeting, to meet with our people then one or two of us can go to that meeting as well. If they aren't going to listen to the residents then we can be there and share the information as well. We can be ahead of it. Instead of being reactive to the meeting the 24th, we can be proactive and bring our concerns. If it is going to be through Hutto, he feels like we should be the ones pushing it. Councilmember Grimm explained that she stands beside those residents 100%, so could honestly care less about the table or no table.

City Manager Odis Jones added that he doesn't have much detail to share at this point. Staff would like something for the engineering department. Mayor Gaul explained that it looks like Council needs a lot more information before they are ready to make a decision. Public Information Officer Emily Parks shared that she met with the Williamson PIO office and discussed how their information is coming out in the wrong order. We will be setting up a time for the city to get that information so we can provide it. Councilmember Grimm stated that we should have been a part of that conversation before the Statesman article even went out. Mayor Gaul concluded that the staff understands that Council needs more information before they make a decision. City Manager Odis Jones suggested that the Engineering Staff get more information for Council then hold a public hearing.

Councilmember Gordon shared that if they go to the residents now, they don't know. Councilmember Grimm assumes they don't know. She has watched these residents for two years go through this. There would be a lot more people in this room if they knew. They have been fighting hard.

10. CITY MANAGER COMMENTS:

10A. Online Message Board Discussion. (Emily Parks)

Public Information Office Emily Parks shared that she received a request from some Councilmembers to look into and provide more information for online message boards for City Councils. She presented Council with information and feedback from other cities

that are using it. She did not recommend move to an online message board and encouraged Council to look into current methods of communication.

Councilmember Gordon admitted that he was one of the Councilmembers that brought it up. If he wanted to email the entire rest of the Council, he can't really do that. Now he has to email one person and the city manager for more detail. He doesn't know if anyone on the Council had the same question. It seems like he would be able to ask the questions on the message board. He feels a little in the dark. This is really the only benefit he saw in it. The ability to be more organized as a Council and make sure they are talking about the right things during Council meetings.

Public Information Officer Emily Parks responded that we can provide additional trainings in those areas to address that issue. With the use of an online message board, while it does address that issue, you also run into how the conversation ensues in the forum so that there aren't any decisions being made. City Manager Odis Manager added that the law has been in place for a while. There are city attorneys that have expressed how close this is to walking quorums. Councilmember Grimm asked Councilmember Gordon what is the difference between on the dais after 7 pm discussing agenda items over on an online message board. She has something to say almost every meeting and agenda item. It is communication and we aren't doing it period. Councilmember Gordon explained that the difference is if there isn't enough information to fully make a decision during the Council meeting. One of the things, possibly, that could have been taken care of prior to the meeting, on the message board, is the minutes. Councilmember Grimm shared that is why we have the meetings. Councilmember Gordon doesn't see this as a way to involve the citizens. He brought it up for Council to be more efficient and work a little bit better. Councilmember Rose suggested Councilmember Gordon attend the TML New Councilmember Orientation. If he has a question on something, he doesn't need to ask Council if they have the same question. Contact the City Manager, to get with the staff member on the agenda, for more information. City Manager Odis Jones added that is why Council gets the agenda on Friday. If there needs to be more information or something missing, just call him. He will contact the staff member to add the information to the dropbox. That way all of the Councilmembers have access to it. This is the preferred way it is done in a Council/ City Manager form of government. Public Information Officer Emily Parks added that we are looking into a new program that is easier to use. It will also modify the timeline on how the agendas are prepared, to give Council more time to provide information. City Manager Odis Jones added that the current program is archaic. The new program iCompass and laserfiche will be helpful. Public Information Officer Emily Parks added that they will be rolled out in June. Councilmember Snyder shared that public has a healthy distrust in government. Feels that people will be more comfortable if the questions are asked at the dais. Now the public can see it. He thinks the message board is a good idea but can see where it would have issues.

Mayor Gaul added that if more information is needed, contact the city manager so that he can get the same information to all of Council. When we have discussion about the

agenda item it should be at the dais. Council should send an email to the City Manager and can cc him on the email. City Manager Odis Jones further explained that he and the Mayor talk once a day. So if he doesn't see the email then the Mayor will remind him. We try to turn it around as soon as we can. Councilmember Snyder asked if there was a way to look into a system like Ft. Worth. You can access everything literally online. If we give the people all of the tools, then he thinks they will be more engaged. City Manager Odis Jones responded that he thinks we may be trying to do this with iCompass. Might be good to have another iCompass presentation for Council.

Public Information Officer Emily Parks shared that Council will be provided training information about iCompass at their retreat. The second part of that is laserfiche. We are not at the Ft. Worth level yet, but we are moving in that direction. City Manager Odis Jones thinks that the citizens are demanding a higher level of service across the board. It is normal when you have a city that is growing. We really need to enhance our technology apparatus. There is a lot of new software out there that not only will make things more efficient on our side but also make things more efficient when searching for a document. Councilmember Snyder shared that when people want something, they want it immediate. They can google a recipe for cupcakes but when they want a document from the city they don't want to do a FOIA, to wait however many days. When they have a question they want it answered in minutes. He is with the City Manager in that the people are expecting it and if we move towards that then the people will be happier.

City Manager Odis Jones added that we have thousands of documents and need to improve our technology. It is going to be a budget item request. It is part of us growing up as a city. Mayor Gaul thinks it a natural progression where we are at. Councilmember Rose is on board with it, but shared that what we have now needs to be made easier to find. It is a great award winning website but a pain in the butt to navigate. Public Information Officer Emily Parks explained that as we move forward with the Communication Plan, she will be focusing on reducing the footprint, streamlining it, and making it more efficient. She thinks that if we focus on that aspect of communication and open government then we achieve the level of service the residents are asking for. City Manager Odis Jones added that they are asking for it across the board which is expected. Mayor Gaul further explained how it is a challenge. There is all this information available but how do you make it easy. Public Information Officer Emily Parks wants to organize what we have then see what needs to be done from here to better achieve what the public, Council, City Manager and staff want.

Councilmember Gordon is all for other ways to do it. Sounds like the benefit may not outweigh the costs. If there are definitely other ways to look at it. Councilmember Grimm added that it is great Councilmember Gordon brought it up. Look at the conversation it created.

City Manager Odis Jones made a few announcements. Requested Council to get in touch with Assistant City Manager Frankland to coordinate ride outs with the cops. Also, take a tour of the streets and drainage department. Wants Council to get their eyes on things so

that they can better understand the budget requests coming their way. Finally, invited Council to participate in the Active Shooter training with staff.

IOB. Budget Calendar Review. (Michel Sorrell)

Chief Financial Officer Michel Sorrell presented the budget calendar to Council. It is dictated by State Comptroller's Office and Williamson County Tax Assessor's Office. City Manager Odis Jones added that it is a tight calendar with a lot of special meetings. Chief Financial Officer Michel Sorrell concluded by sharing the preliminary tax roll numbers. Last year, the certified tax roll was \$1.825 million. The preliminary certified tax roll, from April, was \$2.1 billion. It was 14% growth from last year to this year.

IOC. Update on:

- Hwy 79 and Co-Op Boulevard; and,

Director of Public Works and Engineering Department MD Hossain presented diagrams of the median improvements for Highway 79 and Co-Op Boulevard and the project timeline. There will be a traffic signal at this intersection. Ground breaking for the project is June 4, 2019, with an expected construction completion in August 2019. City Manager Odis Jones asked when the public was to be notified of the construction. Director of Public Works and Engineering Department MD Hossain explained that there will be multiple forms of communication. They include social media, and electronic messaging boards. Mayor Gaul added that he likes this will be done before school starts back up. Director of Public Works and Engineering Department MD Hossain concluded by explaining the level of service for this intersection.

- Snyder Boulevard and contract default. (MD Hossain and Bill Bingham)

City Manager Odis Jones briefed Council that last year they chose CRU Construction as the contractor to move ahead with the construction of Snyder Boulevard. CRU Construction went out of business and walked away. This is a legal process and also an engineering project. City Attorney Bill Bingham added that the City has made a demand on the bonding company. They have a new contractor. It will be handled like any city project. The City will review the new contractor, determine the work proposed is adequate and if so, the city will sign a contract for them to start work. We hope they will start work immediately under direction of city staff.

Director of Public Works and Engineering Department MD Hossain presented an aerial view Innovation Business park, photos of Scheider Boulevard and Schneider Boulevard Bridge, breakdown of the project completion, and the timeline for when the contract was originally signed with CRU and when they notified the City that they were pulling off site. The overall completion of the project was 65%.

Mayor Gaul asked if the bridge met the requirements or will it have to be redone. Director of Public Works and Engineering Department MD Hossain responded that the bridge is cracking. Project Design Engineer Tony Bonadona, with MWM Design Group, there is some cracking issues. The design of the wall was based on a TXDOT design. It was reviewed by a structural engineer. They didn't find any major deficiencies or concerns. Mayor Gaul asked who honors the warranty. Is it the bonding company or new contractor? Project Design Engineer Tony Bonadona responded ultimately the bonding company is responsible. City Manager Odis Jones emphasized that the structural engineer thought the cracking were superficial and recommended epoxy. Councilmember Rose clarified that the cracks were not affecting the low grading of the bridge. City Manager Odis Jones responded, that is correct. Councilmember Snyder asked if it was safe to say that the CRU default is what has slowed down the Schneider Boulevard, the part where it gets to the roundabout and ties into Emory Farms. Project Design Engineer Tony Bonadona responded, yes. The other change is the pond. As the exhibit showed the pond was a larger area, but due to some unforeseen complications with the Army Core of Engineers, the pond was redesigned to push off stream. It was originally designed to be an on stream pond. The mitigation for converting from a stream to a pond was very extreme. To accommodate the schedule and intent of the project the pond was shift farther east. City Manager Odis Jones added that the change order for this was previously approved by Council and saved the city money. Mayor Gaul asked for clarification for on stream versus off stream. Project Design Engineer Tony Bonadona explained that on stream the creek would flow directly into the pond then directly out of the pond. Off stream, the creek would bypass the pond, then the pond would only discharge into the stream.

Councilmember Snyder asked if we had to follow Atlas 14, when we design these. Director of Public Works and Engineering Department MD Hossain responded that for this pond, we did not follow the class 14 because it was designed last year and the year before. In the next few months, staff will be bringing it before Council to adopt Atlas 14.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to be heard, the meeting was adjourned at 8:29 p.m.

CITY OF HUTTO

Doug Gaul, Mayor

ATTESTED:

Lacie Hale, City Secretary