

# **MINUTES OF THE POINT BLANK CITY COUNCIL**

**January 9, 2023**

The Point Blank City Council met in regular session on Monday, January 9, 2023, at the Point Blank Civic Center in Point Blank, Texas.

## **COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Mark Wood, Mayor  
Mel Basham  
Larry Gumpert  
Mike Pagel  
Russell Sims  
Gary Wulf

## **OTHERS:**

Sofia Lehmann  
Alicia Stobbe  
Lou Liles  
Dennis Hamlin  
William Wallace  
Frank Wallace  
Debbie Gould  
Connie Hodde  
Bill Hodde  
Levina Wulf  
Kelly Hoot

## **CONVENED**

Mayor Wood called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. A quorum was present, and the meeting was called to order.

## **READING OF SECTION 42.05 OF THE PENAL CODE, DISRUPTION OF A MEETING OR PROCESSION**

Mayor Wood gave a brief overview of Section 42.05 of the Penal Code.

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There were no public comments.

## **MINUTES**

Mayor Wood said the minutes of the December 12<sup>th</sup> meeting needs Council approval. There were a couple of revisions suggested by Mr. Wulf and they were made and a revised copy of the minutes was sent to the Council this morning. He asked for a motion to approve them.

Mr. Sims made a motion to approve the December 12, 2022, minutes as presented.

Mr. Gumpert seconded the motion which carried (5 ayes, 0 nays).

## **CONSIDERATION, DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE VOTE ON STREET REPAIRS**

Mayor Wood informed the Council that \$26,667.73 had been spent on streets in December. He added that the pot hole truck would be filling pot holes this month so if anyone is aware of potholes in their areas, please let him know.

## **UPDATE ON SHORT TERM RENTALS**

Ms. Hoot said the city had received one check from a property owner for Hotel Occupancy Taxes during the month of December. The city has not received any registration fees.

## **CONSIDERATION, DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE VOTE TO ADOPT A RESOLUTION TO DESIGNATE AUTHORIZED SIGNATORIES FOR THE TEXAS COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM**

Mayor Wood explained the resolutions that are being discussed are all part of the CDBG 23-24 grant that the city is applying for. This is the second \$500,000 grant. This resolution directs and designates the Mayor, Mayor Pro Tem and City Manager to act in all matters in connection with the Texas Community Development Block Grant program.

Mr. Gumpert made a motion to approve the resolution to designate authorized signatories for the Texas Community Development Block Grant Program as presented.

Mr. Wulf seconded the motion which carried (5 ayes, 0 nays).

## **CONSIDERATION, DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE VOTE TO ADOPT A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING SUBMISSION OF A TEXAS COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM APPLICATION ADOPTING REQUIRED CDBG CIVIL RIGHTS POLICIES**

Mayor Wood said this resolution is also part of the second grant that the city is applying for. The adopted resolution assures the city will comply with the following policies:

- Citizen Participation Plan and Grievance Procedures
- Excessive Force Policy
- Fair Housing Policy
- Section 504 Policy and Grievance Procedures
- Code of Conduct Policy

Mr. Sims asked if these were the same policies that we adopted a few months ago. Mayor Wood responded the policies are the same but this is a different grant that the city is applying for. Sofia Lehmann, GrantWorks grant writer, explained the policies and procedures and answered the Council's questions.

Mr. Gumpert made a motion to adopt the resolution authorizing the submission of a Texas Community Development Block Grant program application and adopting required CDBG civil rights policies.



Mr. Sims seconded the motion which carried (5 ayes, 0 nays).

**CONSIDERATION, DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE VOTE ON COMMUNITY  
EVENTS COMMITTEE**

Mayor Wood asked Debbie Gould to present her ideas to the Council.

Ms. Gould reminded the Council that she had spoken at the December Council meeting about wanting to get a Community Committee approved by the Council to be able to start working on community events such as parades, Easter egg hunts, 4<sup>th</sup> of July celebrations, Halloween, Thanksgiving and Christmas events. She said she had talked to several POA's and HOA's and different churches in the community. She would like for it to include North San Jacinto County.

The Council agreed that it was a good idea and asked Ms. Gould to start the process and find out if there is a real interest in the community. They asked her to come back to the Council with a written plan. Mayor Wood asked Ms. Gould to contact Betty Magee who has a lot of experience working with different organizations and planning events within the county.

Mr. Sims made a motion for Ms. Gould to come up with a written plan and bring it back to the Council for approval.

Mr. Gumpert seconded the motion which carried (5 ayes, 0 nays).

**DISCUSSION OF THE ROLE AND ACTIVITIES OF THE CITY COUNCIL WITH  
REGARD TO OUR LOCAL VFD**

Mayor Wood said this topic was requested by Mr. Wulf so he turned the floor over to him.

Mr. Wulf recognized the years of volunteer service that the Chief and Assistant Chief have given the community – countless fires, rescues and vehicle accidents. He then said the discussion was split on what the city's stance should be regarding the VFD.

Mr. Wulf gave an example of a situation that had occurred recently within the Oakhurst VFD where their Board intervened to stop the loss of firefighters. Mr. Wulf said the previous Chief wanted to delay the election for Chief, but their Board prevented that from happening. The Chief then terminated firefighters, including the challenger for Chief, which their Board again prevented from happening. The election was held and Oakhurst has a new Chief with no loss of volunteers. Mr. Wulf believes there was no real appeal process in the Point Blank VFD. He added that both Oakhurst and North 980 Fire Departments have sufficiently independent boards for appealing, open books, policy review etc. He feels it would be beneficial to the community and the firefighters for the Point Blank VFD to have a sufficiently independent board.

Mr. Gumpert reminded the Council about the discussion that he had with his attorney.

The Council and audience discussed this issue at length.

Ms. Basham made a motion to wait for the investigation to be completed on January 16<sup>th</sup> until the City does anything.

Mr. Pagel seconded the motion which carried (4 ayes, 1 abstained).  
Mr. Gumpert did not vote on this topic.

### **LEDGER REPORTS**

Mayor Wood gave an overview of the ledger reports.

The balances are:

First State Bank Checking Account	\$186,800.57
First State Bank Grant Account	\$2,875.02
Petty Cash	\$13.60
First National Bank Savings Account	\$137,072.99

Sales tax for the month was \$8,439.81.

Mayor Wood said that the sales tax has dropped for the third month in a row and he hopes this is not an indication of the rest of the year. The city is currently \$1,056.39 behind where we were at this time last year.

### **MAYOR'S REPORT**

Mayor Wood said he had covered everything that he had to discuss.

### **COMMENTS FROM ALDERMEN**

There were no comments from the aldermen.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

There was no executive session.

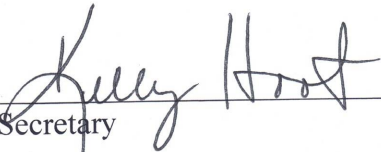
### **ADJOURNMENT**

Mayor Wood said if there were no additional comments, he would like to ask for a motion to adjourn.

Mr. Wulf made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Mr. Gumpert seconded the motion which carried (5 ayes, 0 nays).

The meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

  
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Mayor  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary