

**MINUTES OF THE POINT BLANK CITY COUNCIL**

**August 14, 2023**

The Point Blank City Council met in regular session on Monday, August 14, 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:**

Levina Wulf  
Matt Smith  
Benjamin Abbott  
Philip Kurkoski  
Dennis Hamlin  
Gail Newman  
Donald Sexton  
Kelly Hoot  
Rich Brazzale  
Kris Eastham  
John Moran  
Olivia Wood  
Stephanie Crouch  
Aaron & Amanda Bowen  
Jim Woods

**CONVENED**

Mayor Wood called the meeting to order at 6:32 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 did not read Section 42.05 of the Penal Code.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Benjamin Abbott, introduced himself as a Houston firefighter and former PBVFD firefighter. He was also a member of the PBVFD executive committee so he said he was privileged to information that the others were not. He said he could answer any questions that the Council may have on the VFD.

Levina Wulf asked the Council to consider rescinding the censure of Mr. Wulf. She also asked if the city still gives money to the fire department and if so, does the city know what the fire department purchases with the money?

Mayor Wood said the city receives a list of what the fire department purchases with the funds. This year they purchased signs and a large flat screen television with the money from the city.

Ms. Wulf said she would like the city to stop reporting to the newspaper what goes on in executive sessions and to revoke the censure of Mr. Wulf.

Mayor Wood said the Council would take her comments under consideration.

### MINUTES

Mayor Wood said the minutes of the July 10<sup>th</sup> meeting needed Council approval. Mayor Wood asked for a motion to approve the minutes.

Mr. Wulf asked if his suggested changes were added. Ms. Hoot responded that she had not heard from the other Council members if they were in agreement with the changes.

Mr. Sims said he concurred with the changes.

Mr. Gumpert made a motion to approve the July 10, 2023, minutes.

Mr. Sims seconded the motion which passed (5 ayes, 0 nay).

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

Mayor Wood said he it will be the end of the month before the road contractor can work on the city streets.

### UPDATE ON SHORT TERM RENTALS

Ms. Hoot informed the Council that the city has received two checks for hotel occupancy taxes during the month.

### UPDATE ON GRANTS

Mayor Wood said the city has received verbal approval that we will receive both grants. There is no timeline for when the funds will be received.

### CONSIDERATION, DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE VOTE ON ENERGY USAGE REPORT IN THE CIVIC CENTER

Mayor Wood said Matt Smith of Red Bobber Builders prepared a report using a thermal imaging camera that shows where heat is coming into the building. Mayor Wood sent a copy of the report to the Council for their review. The mayor said reflective film had been placed on the window in his office that is on the East side and he can definitely tell a difference since the film has been installed.

Mr. Smith's report suggests several options including: replacing the single pane windows with double pane windows, putting reflective film on the existing single pane windows, adding blown in insulation in the attic and repairing or replacing the exhaust fans in the attic.

Mayor Wood prepared an energy usage report and said it would probably take five to six years to recoup the cost of the expense. He estimated that the city would probably save \$400 to \$500 per year in electricity costs.

Mr. Sims made a motion to have the ventilators fixed and then the Council will see how they need to proceed.

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

### **DISCUSSION OF RED CROSS MEETING HELD ON JULY 19<sup>TH</sup>**

Mayor Wood said he and Mr. Pagel attended the meeting. Mr. Pagel and Kris Eastham, Texas Department of Emergency Management, who organized the meeting gave an overview of what occurred. Mr. Eastham said the Red Cross needs volunteers to join and are looking into locations for shelters on the North end of the county. Mayor Wood said the city did not have shower facilities so he did not think we would qualify for a shelter.

Mr. Eastham responded that the type of shelters the Red Cross is looking for are considered “pass-thru shelters.” This is where people come and are transferred to other facilities that able to accommodate them. Mayor Wood responded that the city and church building would probably qualify as pass-thru shelters.

Mr. Sims asked what a person had to do to be a Red Cross volunteer. Mr. Eastham responded there are online training classes, interviews and meetings a volunteer must complete.

Mr. Sims asked how we can assure that elderly or disabled people are checked on during an emergency event.

Mr. Eastham responded there is a program called the STEAR program (State of Texas Emergency Assistance Registry). This is a free program and it allows people to register themselves or their loved ones so emergency response teams can check on them during an emergency.

Mr. Sims said it would be beneficial to the community if we could coordinate a meeting to inform people about this program and possibly help them sign up.

Mayor Wood said the civic center could be used for the training at no charge and asked Mr. Eastham if he could assist the city with this effort.

Mr. Sims asked if something could be put on the website about volunteering for the Red Cross. Mayor Wood said he would take care of it.

### **DISCUSSION OF FY 24 BUDGET**

Mayor Wood distributed copies of the proposed FY24 budget to the Council and this was the second reading of the budget.

The Council discussed street repair costs and the savings when using the crushed asphalt/concrete mix. Mayor Wood said if the additional \$10,000 of street repairs does not get completed before the end of September that he will add that \$10,000 into next year's budget.

Mr. Wulf said that he would like to discuss increasing the city manager's salary.

Mayor Wood responded that it would need to be discussed in executive session because it has to do with a city employee's salary and would have to be voted on at the next meeting since it was not on the agenda.

Mr. Wulf said he would like to discuss it in executive session.

There were no other suggested changes to the proposed budget.

This was the second reading of the budget. It will be reviewed again and voted on in September. The new fiscal year goes into effect in October.

### **LEDGER REPORTS**

Mayor Wood gave an overview of the management reports.

The balances are:

First State Bank Checking Account	\$211,511.86
First State Bank Grant Account	\$2,875.02
Petty Cash	\$13.60
First National Bank Savings Account	\$137,246.36

Sales tax for the month was \$9,497.22

Mayor Wood said the city is \$4,920.39 above where we were last year in sales tax revenue.

### **MAYOR'S REPORT**

Mayor Wood reminded the Council that they were invited to attend the legislative update meeting that Representative Ernest Bailes was having on August 28<sup>th</sup>.

### **COMMENTS FROM ALDERMEN**

Mr. Wulf said that he wanted it on record that he disagrees with the content of his censure.

Mr. Wulf said that he would like to have an executive session to discuss the city manager's salary only.

The meeting adjourned into executive session at 7:44 p.m.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

There was no action taken during the executive session.

The meeting reconvened in Open Session at 7:51 p.m.

**ADJOURNMENT**

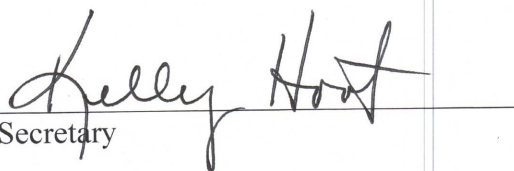
Mayor Wood said if there were no additional comments, he would like to ask for a motion to adjourn.

Mr. Gumpert made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

The motion was seconded by Ms. Basham and carried (5 ayes, 0 nays).

The meeting adjourned at 7:52 p.m.

  
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Mayor

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary