

The Early City Council met in regular session on Tuesday, February 9, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. with the following members present:

Mayor Mangrum
Council members:
Leland Acker
Travis Eoff
Benny Allcorn
Charles Matlock
Garry Forisha

City Administrator Tony Aaron
Economic Development Director Larry McConn
City Secretary Brenda Kilgo
City Attorney Mark Bessent

Establishing a quorum present, Mayor Mangrum called the meeting to order. Mr. Forisha gave the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Consideration of the minutes of regular meeting held on January 12, 2021.

Mr. Acker made motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Mr. Matlock, and all members present voted "aye".

Citizen's comments

No comments from citizens.

Mayor Proclamation – Teacher Appreciation Day in honor of Keith Taylor.

Mayor Mangrum read aloud a proclamation declaring the week of May 3 – 17, 2021 as Teacher Appreciation Week and in honor of Early ISD teacher Keith Taylor, proclaiming May 4, 2021 as Keith Taylor Day.

Five student members of the Early Problem Solvers were present at the meeting to accept the proclamation and have a picture taken with Mayor Mangrum.

Consider approving Resolution 2021-R02, ordering an election to be held May 1, 2021 to elect Mayor and two (2) Council members and providing details relating to the holding of such election.

Mr. Allcorn made motion to approve Resolution 2021-R02 ordering an election on May 1, 2021 to elect Mayor and two Council members. Mr. Matlock seconded the motion and all members present voted "aye".

Consider approval of a Resolution, 2021-R03, approving the submission of a Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) application.

Chief Mercer explained that this is a Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) managed through West Central Texas Council of Governments. If awarded, it will be a 100% grant with 0% cash match. Chief Mercer stated that the application is for a patrol unit vehicle purchase for the 2022-2023 fiscal year. The vehicle quoted is a 2022 Chevrolet 4WD pickup, to include all the equipment for a patrol unit, for an amount of \$49,441.88.

Mr. Matlock made motion, seconded by Mr. Eoff, to approve Resolution 2021-R03 for the submittal of the JAG application. All members present voted "aye".

Consideration to approve final plat for subdivided property located at 1090 Early Blvd.

Mr. McConn stated that as part of the conditions for zoning of this property was to subdivide and plat the property keeping the residential lots along Longhorn, the commercial lots along Early Blvd. and utility easements for the Brothers RV Park proposed for this location.

Planning and Zoning Commission met last night and approved the plat as provided, recommending final approval from the Council.

Mr. Acker made motion to approve the final plat as presented for subdivided property at 1090 Early Blvd. Mr. Allcorn seconded the motion and all members present voted "aye".

Consider approval to authorize City Administrator to enter into agreement with Volkert for engineering services.

Mr. Aaron explained this agreement is for the engineering services from Volkert on an hourly or on-call basis, not specific to a particular project as previous agreements with Volkert has been. This agreement will allow staff to contact Volkert with questions or small engineering projects that do not require a large amount of time or service as larger projects. Mr. Aaron stated that the funds are available within the current budget but is recommending a \$10,000 cap be included as a guideline for project or services required.

Mr. Forisha made motion, seconded by Mr. Matlock, to authorize the City Administrator to enter into an agreement with Volkert for engineering service on an hourly and on-call basis for amount not to exceed \$10,000. All members present voted "aye".

Discuss reorganization of the Early Beautification Commission.

Mr. Aaron stated that Pat Mooney, Beautification Commission Board president, approached him and Mr. McConn regarding the interest of resignation by some of the Board members; mainly due to low volunteer interest/service and little change in direction and goals of the Commission. Since the Beautification Commission is a 501C3 Corporation, the option of reorganization may be better than completely disbanding of the Commission.

Recommendations for reorganization include:

- Appointment of City employees versus volunteers (within compliance of By-laws)
- Define goals and mission
- Create new projects
- Implement as advisory committee within the UDC on landscape, downtown district, walking trails, etc.

Mr. Aaron noted that this is not an action item but mainly to request some feedback regarding the direction and ideas on for the Commission. It was the general consensus to proceed with a reorganization plan to present for approval at a future meeting.

Update on new City of Early SeeClickFix mobile Application for citizen engagement.

Mr. Aaron stated that the SeeClickFix is now a live and active mobile application for Early, Texas. It is currently being used on a trial basis through employees this week. After the trial period ends, a marketing campaign will be launched to engage citizens to use the App in order to submit requests for brush/bulk pickup, dead or loose animal issues, pothole repair locations, etc. The App will direct the request to the appropriate department and send updates to the citizen throughout the process of completing the request.

Update on Council Room remodel project.

Mr. Aaron reported that the quotes have been received and contractors have been selected to complete the remodel of the Council bench, carpet and metal art for the Council/Court room. He is hopeful that the project will be completed by the end of March.

Quarterly Department Reports:

At the request of the City Administrator, Mayor Mangrum granted to reprioritize the order of the reports to allow Chief Hill to present first due to him being on duty.

3. Fire Department – Chief Hill reported that for 2020 year there were a total of 703 calls that included 103 medical, 11 house fires, 1 car fire and 13 grass fires. Currently there are 13 part-time and 3 full-time firefighters on the payroll; volunteers responded to 61 calls, averaging 2.2 volunteers per call; reporting 15 volunteers on roster with 8-9 active participation. He also reported that the ISO inspection is wrapping up and anticipating a completed rate report very soon; hoping for a rating of 3 or 4 as compared to the 6 that we are currently rated.

1. 2020 Racial Profile Report – Chief Mercer stated that it was a struggle this year with the system used for gather the information for this report. He provided the annual report as follows:

- 1337** Stops
- 319** Race or Ethnicity known prior to stop
- 84** Search conducted
- 50** Contraband discovered during search
- 744** Written warning from stop

11 Citation and arrest from stop

2. Police Department – Chief Mercer reported 778 calls for service, 26 accidents, 145 investigated case files, and 26 arrests; Crime statistics for Early, Texas searches show 1 rape, 3 assaults, 4 burglaries, and 12 larceny-theft cases; 451 traffic contacts resulted in 197 written tickets and 254 warnings.

4. Fire Marshal – Marshal Ringler stated that the department is using a new system to report calls and track data; old reporting system, NFIRS, has had several technical issues resulting in unreliable use. For the quarter ending December 2020, Ringler reported 167 incidents that included 70 EMS calls, 21 medical assists, 15 motor vehicle accidents w/injuries, 6 building fires, and 6 grass fires. He also noted that an annual fund raising effort for fire prevention project that usually kicks off in October has already received \$1500 for the 2021 project; as well as a fire safety project with tips and information has been added to the website.

5. Finance – City Secretary reported on year-to-date progress for actual to budget for all departments and funds; stating that all are in line with the expected ratio for this first quarter with some fluctuation due to timing of revenues (property taxes) and seasonal expenditures (holiday overtime, agriculture, grant match). A brief comparison was provided on the sales tax receipts that included total receipts, comparison to previous year without Solaris impact, and total Solaris receipts net rebate paid. A listing of checking account balances were also provided with the required pledge amount of \$2,893,021 and the current value of pledged securities of \$5,855,528, showing sufficient coverage for City of Early funds.

Announcements

Legislative Day scheduled for Tuesday, February 16th – in person breakfast 8:30am or virtual 9am; RSVP deadline February 12th.

Anticipate a second meeting for this month.

Adjourn

Concluding all business matters, Mr. Acker made motion, seconded by Mr. Matlock, to adjourn the meeting. All members present voted “aye”, adjourning the meeting at 7:21 p.m.

02.23.21
DATE
Rober S. May
MAYOR

Brenda Kilgo
CITY SECRETARY