

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

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

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. Acker gave the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Consideration of the minutes of regular meeting held on October 26, 2021.

Mr. Forisha made motion, seconded by Mr. Allcorn to approve the minutes as written. All members present voted "aye".

Citizen's comments

Rusty Howell, resident of Bangs, Texas, addressed the Council to request the City of Early to consider a resolution in support of being a Constitutional City. Mr. Howell stated that the County Commissioner Court of Brown County passed a resolution for their support in their last meeting. Mr. Howell asked if the Council had a chance to review the resolution and if there were any questions. Mr. Howell inquired as to when he would be able to see the resolution as an action item on the agenda.

At the end of Mr. Howell's presentation, Mayor Mangrum read a statement regarding the resolution; stating that he and the members of this Council are sworn by oath to uphold the Constitution of this State and of the United States.

Mrs. Katherine Hirsch also addressed the Council regarding her support of the resolution and encouraged the Council to consider the request to have this item on a future agenda.

Councilman Acker stated that the Council is not taking an adversarial position on the resolution and provided assurance that at the heart of all actions by the Council is the three values of Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness for the city and the citizens of Early. He also noted that the City of Early is a General Law city, defined and regulated by statutes of Local Government Code and the State of Texas.

Introduce and administer Oath of Office and Oath of Honor for new Code Enforcement Officer, Mason Fabbiani.

Chief Mercer introduced Mason Fabbiani as the new Code Enforcement Officer and that he will also assist on patrol if needed. City Secretary administered the Oath of Office and Chief Mercer administer the Oath of Honor, after which Mason's father pinned his badge.

Introduce and administer Oath of Office and Oath of Honor for new Police Officer, Taylor Fletcher.

Chief Mercer introduced Taylor Fletcher as a new patrol officer. City Secretary administered the Oath of Office and Chief Mercer administer the Oath of Honor, after which Taylor's wife pinned his badge.

Consider appointment of a board member for a vacancy on the Municipal Development District Board.

Mayor Mangrum recommended the appointment of Missy Ryan to fill the vacancy on the MDD Board.

Mr. Acker made motion to appoint Missy Ryan as recommended. Mr. Matlock seconded the motion and all members present voted "aye".

Consider appointment of a board member for 1st of 2 vacant places on the Planning & Zoning Commission.

Mayor Mangrum recommended the appointment of Scott Bird to fill one vacancy on the P&Z Commission.

Mr. Allcorn made motion, seconded by Mr. Matlock, to appoint Scott Bird as recommended. All members present voted "aye".

Consider appointment of a board member for 2nd of 2 vacant places on the Planning & Zoning Commission.

Mayor Mangrum recommended the appointment of Dr. James Finch to fill the second vacancy on the P&Z Commission.

Mr. Acker made motion to appoint Dr. James Finch as recommended. Mr. Matlock seconded the motion and all members present voted "aye".

Consideration to approve the disposal or sale of items as salvage or surplus.

Chief Mercer stated that a 1998 GMC dump truck has reached the limits of its useful life within the public works department. If approved, the dump truck will be listed on a government auction site, as previous items have.

Mr. Acker made motion, seconded by Mr. Forisha, to approve the items as salvage or surplus as listed. All members present voted "aye".

Consider approval to enter into a consulting agreement with Legacy Lakes and Land for Early Town Center pond project.

Mr. Aaron stated that Legacy Lakes is a biologist driven firm for fishing ponds and lakes. They will work with an engineered design, increasing the pond from three to approximately six acres, as well as working with engineers regarding the habitat restoration. The proposed agreement is for an amount not to exceed \$5,000. It is the recommendation of City Administrator to approve this agreement, as the grant deadline for the pond is the summer of 2022.

Mr. Matlock made motion, seconded by Mr. Acker, to approve entering into the agreement as presented for an amount not to exceed \$5,000. All members present voted "aye".

Executive Session in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 551, Texas Government Code, Section 551-072-Real Property.

Mr. Matlock made motion, seconded by Mr. Acker, to enter into Executive Session at 6:28p.m. All members present voted "aye".

Reconvene into Open Session and consider action, if any, on items discussed in executive session.

Mr. Acker made motion, seconded by Mr. Matlock, to reconvene into Open Session. All members present voted "aye", reconvening at 6:36 p.m.

Consider authorization to proceed with Right-of-Way acquisition at 106 ½ Early Blvd for Early Town Center project.

Mr. Acker made motion to approve authorization to proceed with the acquisition as requested. Mr. Matlock seconded the motion and all members present voted "aye".

Administrator Report

1. TxDOT Transportation Alternative (TA) Grant was awarded to the City of Early for sidewalks, pathways and lighted crosswalks in various locations within the city. A map was provided to show the locations and types of improvements for each. The grant is up to \$900,000 with a zero match requirement from the City.

2. Texas Parks and Wildlife grants:

- Habitat Angler Program in the amount of \$50,000 has been awarded for the pond project at Town Center

- TPW has also slated an additional \$45,000 for the construction of two fishing piers with lighting, railing, etc. at the pond.

- application has been submitted for an \$1.7 million grant program for the recreational portion of the Town Center project, notice of award is expected around March 2022, City staff and TPW is optimistic of the award receipt.

Announcements

Annual Christmas tree Lighting – November 30, 2021 6:30 p.m.

City Christmas Party – December 9, 2021 6:30 p.m.

Adjourn

Completing all business matters, Mr. Acker made motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Matlock seconded the motion and all members present voted “aye”, adjourning the meeting at 6:38 p.m.

Brenda Kilgus
CITY SECRETARY

12-14-2021
DATE
Robert L. May
MAYOR