

CITY OF BLUE RIDGE  
CITY COUNCIL MINUTES  
MAY 7, 2019

THE BLUE RIDGE CITY COUNCIL MET IN REGULAR SESSION AT 7:00 P.M. ON TUESDAY, MAY 7, 2019 AT THE BLUE RIDGE COMMUNITY CENTER, LOCATED AT 200 W. TILTON, BLUE RIDGE, TEXAS 75424 AT 7:00 P.M. WITH THE FOLLOWING ITEMS ON THE AGENDA FOR CONSIDERATION AND/OR ACTION.

1. Mayor Williams called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and called roll with the following members present, Mayor Rhonda Williams, Christina Porath, Keith Chitwood, Amber Wood, Gerald Young and Kevin Bell.
2. City Secretary Edie Sims offered the prayer and lead the Pledge of Allegiance to the American and Texas Flags.
3. Mayor Williams read a proclamation for Motorcycle Safety and Awareness Month during May 2019.
4. Consent Agenda: a) Discuss, approve or disapprove the minutes from Special Session held on April 2, 2019 and Regular Session held on April 2, 2019; b) Public Works Update; c) City Financial Report; d) Fire Department Report; e) Animal Control Report; and f) Collin County Calls for Service

Mayor Williams noted the City did not receive reports for Animal Control or Collin County Calls for Service. Amber Wood motioned to approve items the Consent Agenda with Christina Porath seconding the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

5. Consider, discuss and act upon entering a contract with 903 Broadband leasing tower space to provide internet services to the Blue Ridge area

The contract presented will save the City a total of \$5,000 with combined services including the tower lease space and removing phone costs at City Hall. Amber Wood motioned to approve the contract as presented with Gerald Young seconding the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

6. Consider, discuss and act upon a variance from platting for a parcel of land located at 6781 State Highway 78 N, Farmersville, TX which is located within the City of Blue Ridge's Extra Territorial Jurisdiction

Shawn Harris, owner of the 6.4 acre tract, intends to subdivide her property into 2 parcels and have a mobile home placed on the tract for her daughter, son-in-law and forthcoming child. The property is to remain in the family and will be part of her family's inheritance. The property will not be sold, no developments or easements to be added. Ms. Harris asked for a variance removing the requirement to replat. In 2014, Ms. Harris requested the same variance request with another area of her property and the Council approved not requiring a replat. Ms. Harris also stated none of the ordinances are available on the City's website to research which is or is not allowed/required.

Mayor Williams stated after reviewing the minutes from the 2014 variance request, the minutes reflected to approve the variance request and then the next item was to require the replat. The issue seems very confusing and not clear as to whether the plat was required or not and she also questioned if the plat was filed within the required 180 days. Ms. Harris stated she was unaware and not informed a plat was required at that time.

Ms. Harris stated she came to City Hall and spoke with Edie Sims regarding the platting process. It is clear we were disconnected as she understood she would not be required to plat so she began the process of attaining the mobile home. Now she is being told she has to plat which will cost an additional \$2,500-\$4,000 and this will slow down the loan process.

Kevin Bell stated he felt the property owner should have the right to do whatever on their property. He also asked if the variance was for previous statutes. The ordinance has been in effect since 1991. Mayor Williams questioned how the 19 other plats done in the past 2 years would be affected. Council was informed there is a potential for the previous platters to sue the City. Ms. Harris stated she does not have the extra funds since this was not planned and did her part to make sure what was required. She also asked for where in the City minutes the Council requires platting. Ms. Harris was informed of the Texas Local Government Code where the rules in Chapter 212 have the standards for a City to plat/replat parcels of land within the City and within the Extra Territorial Jurisdiction.

Kevin Bell stated the City gave a variance once before and does not see the harm in doing so again. Ms. Harris asked if a variance has been granted since 2014 with Council replying no. Mayor Williams asked for a vote with no one responding. Edie Sims requested the Council give direction to both Ms. Harris and the City staff as we cannot leave this issue hanging. Kevin Bell motioned to deny the variance request with Keith Chitwood seconding the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

7. Consider, discuss and act upon creating a Capital Improvements Account with First National Bank of Trenton for future capital equipment and improvement needs

In our budget, the Council approved a line item for Capital Improvements when the need arises to purchase/replace required equipment. City Secretary Edie Sims also requested the Council make this account as an interest bearing account. Amber Wood motioned to approve an interest bearing account for Capital Improvements with Kevin Bell seconding the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

8. Consider, discuss and act upon the resignation of Shonda Powell as Court Clerk

Council received Ms. Powell's resignation as Court Clerk. Christina Porath motioned to accept the resignation as presented with Amber Wood seconding the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

9. Consider, discuss and act upon contracting with Rexanne Braswell as Court Clerk

Council received a resume from RexAnne Braswell along with a letter of recommendation from Municipal Judge Terry Douglas. Christina Porath motioned to approve contracting with Ms. Braswell to serve as Court Clerk with Kevin Bell seconding the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

10. Consider, discuss and act upon Change Order #2 for the Ridgeway Drive Roadway and Water Line Rehabilitation project to include an additional cost of \$1,350 to transfer an existing unidentified 2" water line to the new 8" water line

As stated in the agenda item, an unidentified 2" water line was found which needed to be transferred and connected to the new 8" water line. Kevin Bell motioned to approve Change Order #2 as presented with Amber Wood seconding the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

11. Consider, discuss and act upon Ordinance O-2019-0507-001 amending Ordinance 9-6-94-02 regarding water deposits for City water, sewer and/or solid waste disposal services and amending the Master Fee Schedule reflecting the fee changes

City Secretary Edie Sims stated the Council has had large dollar amounts to write-off due to unpaid water bills when people move out. The trend has been rental properties where the end user receives an extension to pay the bill, extending their payment into another month. Then the end user moves out leaving a minimum of 2 month's worth of water usage and services without payment. The purpose of the Ordinance is to offset these costs so that other paying customers do not have to bear this cost along with the operations of the system. Christina Porath motioned to approve the Ordinance as presented with Amber Wood seconding the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

12. Consider, discuss and act upon Ordinance O-2019-0507-002 amending Ordinance 11-1-94 regarding the speed limit on all City streets within the incorporated limits of the City of Blue Ridge

Per information provided, previous Council has set the speed limit on all City streets at 25 miles per hour (mph). With people driving a higher rates of speed and keeping the citizens, including children safe, it is recommended the Council approve the Ordinance presented to lower the speed limit to 20 mph. Thereby allowing signage to be installed in key areas where there is a high rate of speeding which will allow Collin County Sheriff's Office and other police enforcement to issue citations and slow people down. Council was also provided with information where the Texas Legislature is wanting to lower the prima facia speed limit to 25 mph. Kevin Bell motioned to approve the ordinance as presented and keeping the speed limit to 20 mph with Keith Chitwood seconding the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

13. Consider, discuss and act upon Ordinance O-2019-0507-003 providing for Contractor Registration within the incorporated limits of the City of Blue Ridge

The Contractor Registration Fee was placed in the Master Fee Schedule and approved by City Council; however, an Ordinance was not in place for this registration fee and standards. The Ordinance presented is to rectify and clarify the process for Contractor Registrations. Amber Wood motioned to approve the Ordinance as presented with Kevin Bell seconding the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

14. Consider, discuss and act upon Ordinance O-2019-0507-004 amending the Master Fee Schedule for Plat Fees

Research was performed to find what other cities in Collin County were charging for plat fees. With this information, Council concluded our initial \$300 fee was in line with other cities; however Blue Ridge has not charged additionally for per lot fees or filing fees. The Ordinance presented included per lot fees and filing fees. Kevin Bell motioned to approve the Ordinance as presented with Keith Chitwood seconding the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

15. Consider, discuss and act upon changing the flow of traffic on North Church Street to two-way traffic during specific times and one-way traffic during specific times

Councilman Bell requested this item be brought before the Council for discussion. Mr. Bell stated he is a resident of this street and is asking for traffic to travel in both directions in between school drop off/pick up times. Two ordinances were presented, one from 1994 and the second from 2003, both detailing times for the one-way traffic to assist with school flow. Mr. Bell stated people still drive the wrong way on School and North Church Streets.



Assistant City Secretary reminded Council of a situation where a child was hit by a car travelling in the wrong direction, but correct signage had not been installed by the City. This particular situation produced the correct signage to be installed and the one-way became effective. City Secretary Edie Sims offered to meet with the new Superintendent to discuss what works best for the school. Mr. Bell asked to be included in the meeting. Amber Wood motioned to table this item with Kevin Bell seconding the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

16. Consider, discuss and act upon promoting the Blue Ridge Riding Club's annual rodeo

Councilman Bell requested this item be brought before the Council for discussion. Mr. Bell would like to see the City get more involved in promoting the annual rodeo to make a trademark and landmark event which is a long standing event. Mr. Bell would like to see the City put some funds into this event and make it a bigger affair to draw more people to the area. He has contacted vendors to set up and also has been talking to a carnival group. Mr. Bell stated if the City chose to get behind this, there could be a very large festival for little funds. Eddie Wood, Blue Ridge Riding Club President, is on board helping to grow the rodeo and spend his dollars on advertising to get people in the seats.. Mr. Bell stated he is asking how to help the rodeo since this is our town's heritage since it is Blue Ridge.

Mayor Williams stated the rodeo arena is not located within the City Limits and therefore it limits the funds the City can use towards this event. Mr. Bell stated he understood the location; however if we can this is a project that promotes the City. Mr. Bell stated he spoke with our County Commissioner and stated there is an ordinance in the State Code stating as long as the project benefits and promotes the City, the EDC and CDC can spend their funds outside the City to advertise in support of the rodeo. A letter would need to be sent to the County Commissioner's Office requesting a variance for this event and placed on their docket. Mr. Bell stated he had requested to be on their docket for May 22nd but did not get the information to them to meet that date. This is something the County Commissioner's do all the time.

Previous minutes from 2015 showed where \$5,000 was approved for advertising the rodeo in the Council packet. Assistant City Secretary Tonya Harrison stated this issue has been brought up and \$1,500 has been approved in this year's budget for advertising. Also in the past, the City's Attorney had directed the EDC they can spend a budgeted amount for advertising only. There seemed to be a conflict of information from what Mr. Bell received from the County Commissioner and what was being relayed per the City Attorney. Mr. Bell informed Ms. Harrison she is making a mountain out of a mole hill and he feels he is being shut down from helping the City to grow. Again Mr. Bell stated he wants to see funds allocated for a carnival, which could also be on the Elementary School parking lot which is inside the City Limits. Mr. Bell stated he has spoken with the Blue Ridge ISD Trustees regarding a carnival in conjunction with the rodeo. Mayor Williams stated this is not a budgeted item for this year and will need clarification from the City Attorney. If this is something allowed, then the information can be presented during budget sessions. Mr. Bell stated he understands the activities he is pursuing will not occur this year, but maybe next year. This was intended as a planning discussion only per Mr. Bell.

17. Consider, discuss and act upon improving social media communications

Councilman Bell requested this item be brought before the Council for discussion. Council was presented with a list of 18 Facebook pages administered or utilized by Assistant City Secretary Tonya Harrison. If event information is not shared or submitted to City Hall, this information is not relayed via the City's Facebook or posted on our City website. Mr. Bell would like to see the City do more with social media to boost the City's image. Mr. Bell suggested having a college intern or a professional in social media marketing to boost our image for the growth of the City. Danielle Geridano with Sumo Pest Control attended the meeting and volunteered to assist Ms. Harrison with marketing strategies on social media at no cost to the City. Kevin Bell motioned to allow Sumo Pest Control volunteer their assistance with the City's social media with Amber Wood seconding the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

18. Consider, discuss and act upon a City-wide cleanup

Councilman Bell requested this item be brought before the Council for discussion. Mr. Bell stated he felt it a good idea to have a cleanup day in conjunction with Earth Day and encourage people to remove their excess trash/debris on 1 day once per year.

Councilperson Christina Porath left the meeting at 8:11pm.

Council was provided information from the last cleanup day which did not include the entirety of the cost, but gave an idea of the dollar amount required for budgeting. Also TCEQ and EPA was contacted and questions were posed in regard to a City Wide Clean Up Day. Since the City was setting up as a "generator" of the trash/debris, potential fines would be assessed in the amount of \$10,000 per day if the City does not have permits to be a generator. The City currently has a large pile of brush which has been accumulating for 3 years. Collin County Sheriff's Office has been contacted and arrangements made for prisoners to come and chip the brush sometime this summer.

Amber Wood stated she loved the idea of people cleaning up, but not at a risk of penalties for the City.

Mayor Williams stated since we have started with a new Code Enforcement, let's see how their processes are affecting the accumulation of trash/debris within 6 months and revisit.

Danielle Geridano with Sumo Pest Control offered more information regarding recycling on Earth911.com. Council took no action at this time.

19. Consider, discuss and act upon City streets being sponsored and having trash picked up

Councilman Bell requested this item be brought before the Council for discussion. Mr. Bell stated he felt it a good idea to have Beta Club or other similar clubs within the school district to have a program similar to TxDOT's Adopt-a-Highway. Assistant City Secretary Tonya Harrison informed Council TxDOT mandates these programs along State owned highways such as FM 545 and these programs are already in place through BRISD. Mr. Bell asked to have this conversation with the Superintendent to see what other clubs the school may have that would be interested in sponsoring. Council took no action at this time.

20. EXECUTIVE SESSION - In accordance with Texas Government Code, Section 551.001, et seq., the City Council will recess into Executive Session (closed meeting) to discuss the

following: a. §551.074: Personnel Matters - To deliberate the appointment, evaluation, reassignment, duties, discipline, or dismissal of a public officer or employee. - Public Works, Nick Teague

Council went into Executive Session at 8:18pm.

21. Reconvene into Open Session to consider action, if any, on matters discussed in Executive Session

Council reconvened into Open Session at 8:28pm. Kevin Bell motioned to increase Nick Teague's salary to \$16.00 per hour effective the next pay cycle with Amber Wood seconding the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

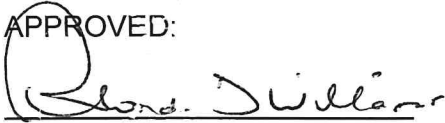
15. Citizen Participation. No one spoke during Citizen Participation.

16. Discussion of placing items on future agendas. Gerald Young requested a discussion of speed bumps and the condition of those currently in place. Keith Chitwood requested an update on the FM 545 project and funding due from the City to TxDOT for this project.

No one else requested an item(s) to be placed on a future agenda.

17. Adjournment. Amber Wood motioned to adjourn with Kevin Bell seconding the motion. Council adjourned at 8:32pm.

APPROVED:

  
Rhonda Williams, Mayor

ATTEST:

  
Edie Sims, City Secretary