

CITY OF BLUE RIDGE  
CITY COUNCIL MINUTES  
JUNE 1, 2021

THE BLUE RIDGE CITY COUNCIL MET IN REGULAR SESSION AT 7:00 P.M. ON TUESDAY, JUNE 1, 2021 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 and Colby Collinsworth.
2. Prayer and Pledges of Allegiance  
Christina Porath offered the prayer and lead the Pledge of Allegiance to the American and Texas Flags.
3. Announcements relating to items of public interest: The City has requested a Traffic Study through TxDot for the FM 981/Highway 78 to improve safety.
4. Public Comment  
No one signed up or spoke at this time.
5. Swear in elected Council Members and reorganize Council by nominating and electing a Mayor Pro-Tem for May 2021- May 2022: Assistant City Secretary Joni Lawrence Swore in City Council Member Colby Collinsworth and Keith Chitwood nominated Christina Porath for Mayor Pro-Tem for the May 2021-May 2022 term with Colby Collinsworth seconding the motion. Motion carried unanimously.
6. Consent Agenda: a) Discuss, approve or disapprove the minutes from Regular Session held April 6, 2021; b) Public Works Update; c) City Financial Report; d) Fire Department Report; and e) Animal Control Report  
Christina Porath motioned to approve the Consent Agenda as presented with Colby Collinsworth seconding the motion. Motion carried unanimously.
7. Consider, discuss and act upon reducing the impact fees for 215 High Ridge due to issues with unknown utility lines which should have allowed this property to be considered prior to the adoption of the impact fee ordinance:  
Glenda Milton, the realtor representing Mr. Dave, owner of 215 High Ridge, stated that they have been actively pursuing water and sewer connections for over a year so they believe that this property should not have to pay impact fees. Christina Porath stated that she agrees that this particular property should be grandfathered in due to the active pursuit of city services but, she also stated that this should not be a common practice for others who have not been actively trying to connect to City Services. Keith Chitwood asked for Assistant City Secretary Joni Lawrence's opinion on this matter. She stated that she is in agreeance with Christina and Glenda since there is proof of the owner trying to get City Utilities prior to the adoption of the impact fee ordinance. Christina Porath made a motion to waive impact fees for 215 High Ridge with Keith Chitwood seconding the motion. Motion carried unanimously.
8. Consider, discuss and act upon Resolution #2021-0601-001 regarding the Mayor's spending limitations for year 2021-2022.

Christina Porath motioned to approve with Colby Collinsworth seconding the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

9. Discuss issues with customers receiving water bills late and disclaimer regarding the failure to receive utility bills:

Joni Lawrence discussed the ongoing struggle with the delivery of the water bills. She stated that some months, bills are being delivered almost 5 weeks late. She researched with other utilities and shared that on most of the other utility bills, there is a disclaimer that reads failure to receive a bill does not excuse nonpayment or forgiveness of late fees. Joni found one that would fit on the City's water bills, and it reads: "Failure to receive bills will not be considered an excuse for nonpayment nor permit an extension of the date when the amount will be considered delinquent". As of June 25, 2021, this statement will be on all water bills.

10. Consider, discuss and act upon approving 2019-2020 City Financial Audit as presented by Rutherford Taylor & Company.

Robert with Rutherford Taylor & Company discussed the City's 2019-2020 finances and audit. He explained that some of the City's Financial situations were impacted by COVID, as were almost every other company this year. He stated that the City saw an average of \$30,000.00 loss of water income due to COVID. Christina Porath motioned to approve with Keith Chitwood seconding the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

11. Consider, discuss and act upon Employee Progress Report: Mayor Williams asked Keith if he had given the example of the document to Edie for review. He stated that he has not had the opportunity to work on it. Christina Porath motioned to table item 11 until the documents are complete with Colby Collinsworth seconding the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

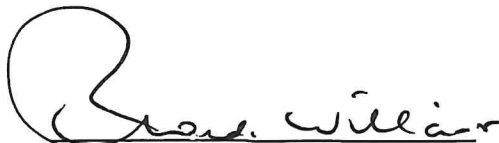
12. Discussion of placing items on future agendas: Keith Chitwood asked for an update on the FloTrend box and for an update on builders and new developments.

13. Adjournment

Christina Porath motioned to adjourn with Colby Collinsworth seconding the motion. Council adjourned at 7:57pm.

APPROVED:

ATTEST:

  
Rhonda Williams, Mayor

  
Edie Sims, City Secretary