

**MINUTES
of the
KEENE CITY COUNCIL**

THURSDAY, MARCH 18, 2021

PRESENT: Gary Heinrich, Mayor, Gwen Beeson Mayor Pro-Tem, Lisa Parrish, Robert Cooper, Rob Foster, and Phillip Jackson.

INTERPRETER – Randa Phillips

CALL TO ORDER: Meeting called to order at 6:00 p.m.

Invocation – Mayor Pro-Tem Gwen Beeson

Pledge of Allegiance & Pledge to the Texas Flag – Mayor Gary Heinrich

1. Mayor Comments:

The Mayor welcomed and thanked the citizens for attending.

2. Public Comments:

Joanna Baynes – She proposed that we work with the school districts to implement a deaf education program. Since Keene is in the middle of Johnson County it would be a good location. The mayor responded that this topic would need to be addressed with the school district.

3. Consideration of City Council Minutes dated February 18, 2021, Regular Meeting.

Councilmember Jackson made a motion to approve the February 18, 2021 minutes as presented. Councilmember Beeson seconded the motion.

Motion carried 3-0-3. Councilmembers Parrish, Foster, and Bass abstained; they were not present at the meeting.

4. Consideration of City Council Minutes dated March 4, 2021, Regular Meeting.

Councilmember Parrish stated that a few grammar changes were needed to be made and she felt that some of the wording could be misleading and confusing to the citizens.

Councilmember Jackson made a motion to approve the March 4, 2021 minutes with the changes presented. Councilmember Beeson seconded the motion.

Motion carried 4-1-1. Councilmember Parrish opposed as to she wanted to table until changes were made. Councilmember Bass abstained, he was not present at the March 4, 2021 meeting.

5. Consider and take possible action on Ordinance No. 2021-628 providing for the sale and

issuance of the City of Keene, Texas General Obligation Refunding Bonds, Series 2021A; and ordaining other matters related to the subject.

Andre Ayala from Hilltop Securities presented the City's current debt and the refunding opportunities. The City received a A- rating from S&P and is able to refinance 2021A Bonds and 2021 Notes at a fixed rate of 2.36% resulting in considerable savings to the city. The 2021A includes the purchase of an ambulance (\$425,000), sidewalks (\$150,000) and sewer projects on Hillcrest (\$270,000).

Councilmember Jackson made a motion to approve Ordinance No. 2021-628 providing for the sale and issuance of the City of Keene, Texas General Obligation Refunding Bonds, Series 2021A; and ordaining other matters related to the subject, Councilmember Bass seconded the motion.

Motion carried. 6-0-0

- 6. Consider and take possible action on Ordinance No. 2021-629 providing for the sale and issuance of the City of Keene, Texas Tax Note, Series 2021; and ordaining other matters relating to the subject.**

Councilmember Foster made a motion to approve Ordinance No. 2021-629 providing for the sale and issuance of the City of Keene, Texas Tax Note, Series 2021; and ordaining other matters relating to the subject, councilmember Bass seconded the motion.

Motion carried 6-0-0.

- 7. Consider and take possible action on Ordinance No. 2021-630 providing for the sale and issuance of the City of Keene, Texas General Obligation Refunding Bonds, Series 2021B; appointing a pricing officer and delegating to the pricing officer the authority to approve the sale of all Bonds; levying an annual ad valorem tax and providing the security for and payment of said Bonds, and ordaining other matters relating to the subject.**

Councilmember Beeson made a motion to approve Ordinance No. 2021-630 providing for the sale and issuance of the City of Keene, Texas General Obligation Refunding Bonds, Series 2021B; appointing a pricing officer and delegating to the pricing officer the authority to approve the sale of all Bonds; levying an annual ad valorem tax and providing the security for and payment of said Bonds; and ordaining other matters relating to the subject, Councilmember Foster seconded the motion.

Motion carried 6-0-0.

- 8. Presentation and discussion with direction to staff regarding the Five-Year Capital Improvement Plan.**

Eddie Aguilar with Jacob and Martin presented the 5 year Capital Improvement plan to the council and citizens. Council expressed interest in setting up a workshop to discuss the needs of the city, determine the priorities and how to implement the plan.

- 9. Discuss and take possible action authorizing staff to purchase a truck for the fire department.**

Chief Warner presented the quotes for the repair of the 2005 GMC Pickup Squad 78 and estimates on a new squad vehicle. This unit is essential to the department as it is used in many different ways. The replacement of the engine would be approximately \$6,400 and a new outfitted pickup would cost approximately \$80,000. Council recommended looking at the next years budget to see if we purchase another squad vehicle.

Councilmember Jackson made a motion to replace the engine in the 2005 Squad 78 not to exceed \$6,400, Councilmember Bass seconded the motion.

Motion carried 6-0-0

10. Department Reports:

a. Public Works:

Public Works Director D. Martin presented reports for February 2021.

b. Fire Department:

Fire Chief D. Warner presented the fire department reports for February 2021.

c. Police Department:

C. Rodriguez presented the police reports for February 2021.

d. Finance

Finance Director C. Williams presented the City's financials for February 2021.

e. City Manager

City Manager M. Boese since this is his last city council meeting with Keene, he wanted to highlight the challenges that the city has incurred during his tenure.

- Ransomware attack
- Trump visited Louis Vitton – city and police response
- Covid-19
- Ice Storm of 2021

M. Boese also listed some of the tasks that have been completed successively.

- Lowered Property Taxes
- Tax Freeze for 65+ and the disabled
- Street/Road repairs -CR318, Shady Oaks & Fourth Street
- Created a strong financial base with receiving a -A rating

11. Executive Session: Pursuant to Open Meetings Act, Chapter 551, Texas Government, Sections 551.071 (consultation with attorney), 551-072 (real property), 551. 073 (prospective gifts), 551.074 (personnel matters), 551.076 (securities matters), 551.087 (economic development). Executive session may be held, under the exceptions, at the end of the Regular Session, Workshop and/or Special Session, or at any time during

the meeting that a need arises for the City Council to seek advice from the City Attorney as to the posted matter of the City Council Meeting.

- a. Consult with City Attorney (551.071)

Executive Session started: 8:44 pm

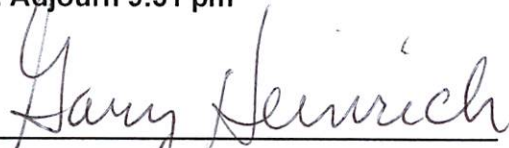
Regular Session reconvened: 9:28 pm

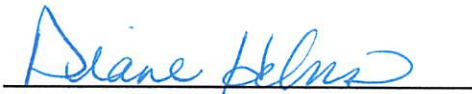
12. Reconvene into Open Session for possible action resulting from any item posted discussed in Executive Session.

No action taken

13. Discussion and requests for future items on the agenda. None

14. Adjourn 9:31 pm

By: 
Gary Heinrich, Mayor

Attest: 
Diane Helms, City Secretary