

**MINUTES
of the
KEENE CITY COUNCIL**

THURSDAY, APRIL 6, 2023

PRESENT: Mayor Lisa Parrish, Owen Larson, Ray Johnson, Thomas Gutwa, Rob Foster, James Belz, Gwen Beeson.

ABSENT:

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m.

Invocation – Councilmember Belz.

Pledge of Allegiance & Pledge to the Texas Flag – Council and Public

1. Mayor Comments:

- Presented a framed picture of Robert G. Cooper to the public.
- Announced Councilmember Gutwa had a birthday on April 4th.
- Updated the public on the City Manager hiring progress.
- Chief Kidd introduced himself to the public.
- Announced a welcome reception for Chief Kidd.

2. Public Comments:

- Mr. Gnadt announced the Chamber of Commerce will be repairing flags on 04.23.23 from 7am – 12pm and requested help.
- Mr. Gnadt introduced a new Chamber of Commerce board member, Danielle Elliot the Executive Director of CASA, a resident of Bristol Oaks.

3. Discussion and take possible action to approve City Council minutes dated March 16, 2023, and March 21, 2023.

- Councilmember Beeson made a motion to approve the City Council minutes dated March 16, 2023, and March 21, 2023, with one correction made to the March 21, 2023, minutes.
- Councilmember Larson seconded the motion.
- Motion carried 6-0-0

4. Discussion and take possible action appointing/reappointing 3 members to the Keene Business Development Board (Type B EDC) for 2-year terms expiring March 2025.

- Councilmember Foster made a motion to approve reappointing Ricky Stephens to the Keene Business Development Board (Type B EDC) for a 2-year term expiring March 2025.
- Councilmember Belz seconded the motion.
- Motion carried 6-0-0

- Councilmember Foster made a motion to approve reappointing Cheryl Schram to the Keene Business Development Board (Type B EDC) for a 2-year term expiring March 2025.
- Councilmember Beeson seconded the motion.
- Motion carried 6-0-0

- Councilmember Belz made a motion to approve appointing Charles Easley to the Keene Business Development Board (Type B EDC) for a 2-year term expiring March 2025.
 - Councilmember Foster seconded the motion.
 - Motion carried 6-0-0
5. Discussion and take possible action appointing 1 member to the Keene Business Development Board (Type B EDC) to fill the vacancy for the term expiring March 2024.
- Councilmember Foster made a motion to approve appointing Victoriano Parilla to the Keene Business Development Board (Type B EDC) to fill the vacancy for the term expiring March 2024.
 - Councilmember Larson seconded the motion.
 - Motion carried 6-0-0
6. Discussion and take possible action on the City of Keene granting a 20-foot-wide utility easement to United Cooperative Services Inc. on 1.96 acres of land located in the J Mackey Survey, Abstract No. 589 tract 7, Johnson County, Texas.
- Councilmember Foster made a motion to approve granting a 20-foot-wide utility easement to United Cooperative Services Inc. on 1.96 acres of land located in the J Mackey Survey, Abstract No. 589 tract 7, Johnson County, Texas.
 - Councilmember Belz seconded the motion.
 - Motion carried 6-0-0
7. Discussion and take possible action regarding Resolution No. 2023-424 to add City Secretary Tabatha Mansell as an authorized signatory for all City of Keene accounts at Pinnacle Bank.
- Councilmember Larson made a motion to approve adopting Resolution No. 2023-424 to add City Secretary Tabatha Mansell as an authorized signatory for all City of Keene accounts at Pinnacle Bank.
 - Councilmember Johnson seconded the motion.
 - Motion carried 4-3-0,
 - Councilmembers Larson, Johnson, and Gutwa in favor of the motion
 - Councilmembers Foster, Belz, and Beeson against the motion
 - Mayor broke the tie in favor of the motion
8. Discussion and take possible action to approve a pay increase for all certified personnel in the Police Department.
- Chief of Police James Kidd spoke in favor of the topic.
 - Fire Chief Warner spoke on the topic.
 - Director of Human Resources Nathan Drambareanu spoke on the topic.
 - Director of Finance Charles Williams spoke on the topic.

 - Councilmember Beeson made a motion to approve a \$13,000 pay increase for all certified personnel in the Police Department using current payroll savings from this budget year or using TDEM Grant funds, if needed.
 - Councilmember Belz seconded the motion.
 - Motion carried 5-1-0 (Johnson against)
9. Department Report
- Finance Department – Director of Finance Charles Williams presented the monthly report.

10. Executive Session: Pursuant to the Open Meetings Act, Chapter 551, Texas Government Code, the City Council may convene into a closed, Executive Session in accordance with the following authority:

551.071 (consultation with the attorney) 551.072 (real property) 551.073 (prospective gifts)
551.074 (personnel matters) 551.076 (security matters) 551.087 (economic development)

- Council convened into executive session at 7:20pm
 - a) 551.074 (personnel matters) – Interim City Manager/City Manager Designee
 - b) 551.074 (personnel matters) – Prosecutor

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

- Councilmembers Foster, Belz, and Beeson did not return into Open Session
- Mayor called a no quorum and adjourned the meeting at 8:22pm.

12. Discussion and requests for future items on the agenda.

- No action taken.

13. Meeting adjourned at 8:22 pm.

By: Lisa Parrish

Lisa Parrish, Mayor

Attest: Mansell

Tabatha Mansell, City Secretary