

**MINUTES
of the
KEENE CITY COUNCIL**

THURSDAY, JULY 20, 2023

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

ABSENT: Rob Foster.

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

Invocation – Mel Walden.

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

1. Mayor Comments:

- None.

2. Public Comments:

- Jen Baggett, Samantha Gillin, Debbie Belz, Edgardo Perez Sr, Troy Smith, and Stephen Baggett all spoke during public comments.

3. Consideration and approval of City Council Minutes dated July 6, 2023.

- Councilmember Gutwa made a motion to approve the City Council Minutes dated July 6, 2023, with a correction.
- Councilmember Belz seconded the motion.
- Motion carried 5-0-0 (Councilmember Foster absent).

4. Discussion and take possible action authorizing an agreement between the City of Keene and the Johnson County Elections office to conduct the November 7, 2023, General Election.

- Councilmember Beeson made a motion to approve authorizing an agreement between the City of Keene and the Johnson County Elections office to conduct the November 7, 2023, General Election.
- Councilmember Gutwa seconded the motion.
- Motion carried 5-0-0 (Councilmember Foster absent).

5. Discussion and take possible action on adopting Ordinance No. 2023-646 calling a General Election for November 07, 2023.

- Councilmember Beeson made a motion to approve adopting Ordinance No. 2023-646 calling a General Election for November 07, 2023.
- Councilmember Larson seconded the motion.
- Motion carried 5-0-0 (Councilmember Foster absent).

6. Discussion and give direction to staff on the use of ARPA funds.

- City Manager Brent Batla presented two projects to Council for consideration.
- Council gave staff direction to reprioritize projects to possibly include Highline and to return with quotes for Council review.

- Councilmember Johnson spoke on the topic.
 - Public Works Director Derek Malone spoke on the topic.
 - Fire Chief Warner spoke on the topic.
 - Mayor Parrish spoke on the topic.
 - Gary Heinrich spoke on the topic.
 - Councilmember Gutwa spoke on the topic.
 - Assistant City Manager Don Martin spoke on the topic.
 - Councilmember Larson spoke on the topic.
 - Councilmember Beeson spoke on the topic.
7. Discussion and give direction to staff on Short Term Rentals.
- City Manager Brent Batla requested direction from Council.
 - City Manager Brent Batla will return with a proposed Ordinance for Council review and schedule a workshop to gain public opinion once the budget has been adopted.
 - Paul Gnadl spoke on the topic.
 - Elgina Parrilla spoke on the topic.
 - Samantha Gillin spoke on the topic.
 - Assistant City Manager Don Martin spoke on the topic.
 - Councilmember Beeson spoke on the topic.
 - Councilmember Larson spoke on the topic.
 - Carl Wright spoke on the topic.
 - Troy Smith spoke on the topic.
 - Councilmember Gutwa spoke on the topic.
8. Discussion and give direction to staff on an Interlocal Agreement between Johnson County Special Utility District and the City of Keene for Sewer/Sanitation billing services.
- Assistant City Manager Don Martin presented the agreement to Council.
 - Council gave staff direction to renegotiate rates with JSUD and return for Council review.
 - Mayor Parrish spoke on the topic.
 - Councilmember Johnson spoke on the topic.
 - Cheryl Schram spoke on the topic.
 - Councilmember Gutwa spoke on the topic.
 - City Manager Brent Batla spoke on the topic.
 - Councilmember Beeson spoke on the topic.
 - Human Resource Director Nathan Drambareanu spoke on the topic.
 - Councilmember Belz spoke on the topic.
 - Councilmember Larson spoke on the topic.
9. Discussion and take possible action authorizing an Interlocal Agreement between the City of Keene and Johnson County for housing the City's class C misdemeanor prisoners FY 2023-2024.
- Police Chief Kidd presented the agreement to Council.
 - Councilmember Belz made a motion to approve authorizing an Interlocal Agreement between the City of Keene and Johnson County for housing the City's class C misdemeanor prisoners FY 2023-2024.
 - Councilmember Gutwa seconded the motion.
 - Motion carried 5-0-0 (Councilmember Foster absent).

10. Department Report

- Finance Director Charles Williams briefed the Council on the financial statement ending June 30, 2023.
- Wes Schram spoke on the topic.
- Gary Heinrich spoke of the topic.

11. City Manager Report.

- Brent Batla updated Council on the following:
 - Well #7 filtration, ONCOR denial letter, UCS Franchise Agreement, Sidewalks, C2 Development, FY 24 Budget Presentation Format.

12. 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 8:02 p.m.
 - a) 551.074 (personnel matters) – Police Officer
 - b) 551.071 (consultation with the attorney) – Discussion on Tort Claim

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

- Council reconvened into Open Session at 8:27 p.m.
- No action was taken.

14. Requests for future agenda items.

- Councilmember Johnson requested to have a budget amendment for Type A and B Boards to adjust their spending policy from \$50,000 to \$20,000.
- Councilmember Beeson requested Agenda Setting Policy.
- Councilmember Gutwa requested a workshop for Agenda Setting Policy.

15. Meeting adjourned at 6:39 p.m.

By: 

Lisa Parrish, Mayor

Attest: 

Tabatha Mansell, City Secretary