

**MINUTES  
of the  
KEENE CITY COUNCIL**

**THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 2023**

**PRESENT: Mayor Parrish, James Belz, Thomas Gutwa, Rob Foster, Owen Larson, and Gwen Beeson.**

**ABSENT: Ray Johnson.**

**CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Parrish called the meeting to order at 6 p.m.**

**Invocation – Mr. Beeson Sr.**

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

**1. Mayor Comments:**

- **Thanked City staff for signing her birthday card and wished Councilmember Beeson a happy birthday.**
- **Publicly excused Councilmember Larson's absences and gave the Councilmember time to explain.**
- **Updated the public on the Christmas Market and the next meeting.**
- **Updated the public on meeting decorum.**

**2. Public Comments:**

- **Duane Barnes, Gary Barnes, and Stephen Cagle spoke during public comments.**

**3. Consider approval of City Council Minutes dated August 17, 2023.**

- **Councilmember Gutwa made a motion to approve the City Council Minutes dated August 17, 2023, with a correction.**
- **Councilmember Foster seconded the motion.**
- **Motion carried 4-0-1 (Councilmember Larson abstained. Councilmember Johnson absent).**

**4. Consider approval of the Keene Chamber of Commerce extending the number of flags along Old Betsy Road in front of Elisa Carver Park.**

- **Paul Gnadl presented to Council.**
- **Councilmember Foster made a motion to approve the Keene Chamber of Commerce extending the number of flags along Old Betsy Road in front of Elisa Carver Park.**
- **Councilmember Beeson seconded the motion.**
- **Motion carried 5-0-0 (Councilmember Johnson absent).**

**5. Receive a report and hold a discussion regarding steps associated with an Impact Fee study.**

- **City Manager Brent Batla presented to Council.**
- **Mayor Parrish polled Council to see who wanted an Impact Fee study.**
  - **5-0-0 (Councilmember Johnson absent).**
- **Councilmember Beeson spoke on the topic.**
- **Councilmember Gutwa spoke on the topic.**
- **Councilmember Larson spoke on the topic.**
- **Councilmember Belz spoke on the topic.**

**6. Public Hearing: Hold a public hearing to receive written or oral comments regarding the 2023-2024 Fiscal Year proposed budget.**

- **Mayor Parrish started the public hearing at 6:29 p.m.**
- **Mayor Parrish concluded the public hearing at 6:30 p.m.**
- **No one spoke during the public hearing.**

**7. Consider and take action to postpone adopting the 2023-2024 Fiscal Year proposed budget until September 21, 2023.**

- **City Secretary Tabatha Mansell spoke on the topic.**

- Councilmember Foster made a motion to postpone adopting the Fiscal Year 2023-2024 proposed budget until September 21, 2023.
  - Councilmember Belz seconded the motion.
  - Motion carried 5-0-0 (Councilmember Johnson absent).
8. **Public Hearing: Hold a public hearing to receive written and /or oral comments regarding the Ad Valorem Tax Rate and levy on assessed property subject to taxation within the City of Keene, Texas, for the 2023 tax year for the use and support of the municipal government of the City of Keene for the fiscal year beginning October 1, 2023, and ending on September 30, 2024.**
- Mayor Parrish started the public hearing at 6:32 p.m.
  - Mayor Parrish concluded the public hearing at 7:10 p.m.
  - Mayor Parrish spoke on the topic.
  - Troy Smith (310 Woodlawn Dr) spoke on the topic.
  - Finance Director Charles Williams spoke on the topic.
  - Tatiana Romanova (202 E. Eastern) spoke on the topic.
  - Councilmember Beeson spoke on the topic.
  - Councilmember Gutwa spoke on the topic.
  - Samantha Gillin (218 W. 4<sup>th</sup> St) spoke on the topic.
  - Councilmember Belz spoke on topic.
9. **Consider and take action to postpone adopting the proposed 2023 tax rate until September 21, 2023, and schedule a second public hearing on the tax rate for September 21, 2023.**
- Councilmember Foster made a motion to postpone adopting the proposed 2023 tax rate until September 21, 2023, and schedule a second public hearing on the tax rate for September 21, 2023.
  - Councilmember Gutwa seconded the motion.
  - Motion carried 5-0-0 (Councilmember Johnson absent).
10. **Consider and take possible action approving the budget for Type A Economic Development Corporation for the fiscal year beginning October 1, 2023, and ending on September 30, 2024.**
- Assistant City Manager Don Martin presented to Council.
  - Mayor Parrish spoke on the topic.
  - Finance Director Charles Williams spoke on the topic.
  - Councilmember Foster spoke on the topic.
  - Councilmember Larson spoke on the topic.
  - Councilmember Gutwa spoke on the topic.
  - Councilmember Foster made a motion to approve the budget for Type A Economic Development Corporation for the fiscal year beginning October 1, 2023, and ending on September 30, 2024.
  - Councilmember Belz seconded the motion.
  - Motion carried 5-0-0 (Councilmember Johnson absent).
11. **Consider and take possible action approving the budget for Type B Business Development Corporation for the fiscal year beginning October 1, 2023, and ending on September 30, 2024.**
- Assistant City Manager Don Martin presented to Council.
  - Councilmember Foster spoke on the topic.
  - Councilmember Belz spoke on the topic.
  - Mayor Parrish spoke on the topic.
  - Finance Director Charles Williams spoke on the topic.
  - Troy Smith (310 Woodlawn Dr) spoke on the topic.
  - Councilmember Gutwa spoke on the topic.
  - City Manager Brent Batla spoke on the topic.
  - Councilmember Belz made a motion to approve the budget for Type B Business Development Corporation for the fiscal year beginning October 1, 2023, and ending on September 30, 2024.
  - Councilmember Larson seconded the motion.
  - Motion carried 5-0-0 (Councilmember Johnson absent).

12. Consider approval awarding a contract to Kevin Kopf for the construction of a basketball court at Elisa Carver Park in the amount of \$59,850.00.
  - City Manager Brent Batla presented to Council.
  - Mayor Parrish spoke on the topic.
  - Councilmember Belz spoke on the topic.
  - Councilmember Beeson made a motion to approve awarding a contract to Kevin Kopf for the construction of a basketball court at Elisa Carver Park in the amount of \$59,850.00.
  - Councilmember Foster seconded the motion.
  - Motion carried 5-0-0 (Councilmember Johnson absent).
13. Consider approval of an Amendment to the Communications System Agreement with Johnson County.
  - Police Chief James Kidd presented to Council.
  - Councilmember Foster made a motion to approve an Amendment to the Communications System Agreement with Johnson County.
  - Councilmember Gutwa seconded the motion.
  - Motion carried 5-0-0 (Councilmember Johnson absent).
14. Consider approval of an ordinance approving a negotiated settlement between Atmos Energy Corporation, Mid-Tex Division and Atmos Cities Sterring Committee.
  - Assistant City Manager Don Martin presented to Council.
  - Councilmember Larson made a motion to approve Ordinance No. 2023-658 approving a negotiated settlement between Atmos Energy Corporation, Mid-Tex Division and Atmos Cities Sterring Committee.
  - Councilmember Beeson seconded the motion.
  - Motion carried 5-0-0 (Councilmember Johnson absent).
15. Consider approval amending Ordinance No. 2023-656 City Council Agenda Setting Procedures.
  - Mayor Parrish spoke on the topic.
  - Councilmember Foster spoke on the topic.
  - Councilmember Beeson spoke on the topic.
  - Councilmember Gutwa spoke on the topic.
  - Councilmember Larson spoke on the topic.
  - City Secretary Tabatha Mansell spoke on the topic.
  - Mr. Beeson Sr. spoke on the topic.
  - Councilmember Foster made a motion to approve amending Ordinance No. 2023-656 City Council Agenda Setting Procedures.
  - Councilmember Belz seconded the motion.
  - Motion carried 3-1-1 (Councilmember Gutwa against. Councilmember Larson abstained. Councilmember Johnson absent).
16. City Manager Report
  - City Manager Brent Batla presented Council with updates on solid waste rates, Starfest, Christmas Committee, RFPs for lawn service, and Well #7.
  - Councilmember Foster spoke on the topic.
  - Public Works Director Derek Malone spoke on the topic.
  - Troy Smith (310 Woodlawn Dr) spoke on the topic.
  - Councilmember Larson spoke on the topic.
17. Executive Session: Pursuant to the Texas Open Meetings Act, Chapter 551, Texas Government Code, the City Council reserves the right to convene in Executive Session closed to the public, as deemed necessary during this meeting for any posted item, to receive advice from its attorney as permitted by law, and by the following authority:
  - Council convened into Executive Session at 8:12 p.m.

- (a) Deliberations about Real Property Section 551.072; Seek the Advice of the City Attorney Pursuant to Section 551.071
  - CCN Transfer Agreement with JCSUD.
  - Payment Agreement between the City of Keene and Crossroads Development Keene, LLC for CCN transfer costs.
- (b) Personnel Matters Pursuant to Section 551.074
  - Review, deliberate, and discuss the performance evaluation, duties, benefits, compensation, and contract for the City Secretary.
- (c) Personnel Matters Pursuant to Section 551.074
  - Review, deliberate, and discuss the appointment, employment, reassignment, and duties of Code Enforcement.

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

- Council reconvened into Open Session at 10:13 p.m.

19. Consider authorizing an agreement and payment for transfer of the water CCN from Johnson County Special Utility District to the City of Keene.

- Councilmember Foster made a motion to approve authorizing the City Manager Brent Batla to sign an agreement and payment for transfer of the water CCN from Johnson County Special Utility District to the City of Keene.
- Councilmember Gutwa seconded the motion.
- Motion carried 5-0-0 (Councilmember Johnson absent).

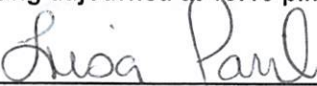
20. Consider authorizing a cost sharing agreement between the City of Keene and Crossroads Development Keene, LLC for CCN transfer costs.

- Councilmember Larson made a motion to approve authorizing a cost sharing agreement between the City of Keene and Crossroads Development Keene, LLC for CCN transfer costs.
- Councilmember Belz seconded the motion.
- Motion carried 5-0-0 (Councilmember Johnson absent).

21. Requests for future agenda items.

- Mayor Parrish requested to revisit the Executive Session, Personnel Matters for the City Secretary.
- Councilmember Gutwa requested his postponed item.

22. Meeting adjourned at 10:16 p.m.

By: 

Lisa Parrish, Mayor

Attest: 

Tabatha Mansell, City Secretary