

CITY OF BLUE RIDGE  
CITY COUNCIL MINUTES  
January 9, 2018

THE BLUE RIDGE CITY COUNCIL MET IN REGULAR SESSION AT 7:00 P.M. ON TUESDAY, JANUARY 9, 2018 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.
2. Roll was called with the following members present, Mayor Rhonda Williams, Amber Wood, Gerald Young and Allen Cunnyngnam. Christina Porath was absent at roll call but arrived at 7:18pm. Kevin Bell was absent.
3. Consent Agenda: a) Discuss, approve or disapprove the minutes from Regular Session held on December 5, 2017 and Special Session held on December 21, 2017; b) Public Works Update; c) City Financial Report; d) Fire Department Report; e) Animal Control Report; and f) Collin County Calls for Service

a) A correction needs to be made on the minutes from December 21, 2017 reflecting Christina Porath in attendance and the seconding of adjournment was not made by Kevin Bell as he was absent. Amber Wood motioned to amend the December 21, 2017 meeting minutes as stated above with Gerald Young seconding the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

b - f) Amber Wood motioned to approve items b thru f with Allen Cunnyngnam seconding the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

4. Public Hearing to consider, discuss and act upon a Final Plat to subdivide property legally known as Abstract 761, James Rutherford Survey, Tract 51, containing 8.653 acres, located off CR 632 and which is located within the City of Blue Ridge's Extra Territorial Jurisdiction

Mayor Williams opened the Public Hearing at 7:03pm and asked for those FOR the Final Plat to come forward. With no one coming forward, Mayor Williams asked for those OPPOSING the Final Plat to come forward. With no one coming forward, the Public Hearing was closed at 7:03pm.

Amber Wood motioned to approve the Final Plat as presented with Allen Cunnyngnam seconding the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

5. Receive presentation regarding intent to improve property located at 106 W James (old grocery store on the square)

Ethan and Brooke Redden came before Council expressing their intent to refurbish the old grocery store lot located on the downtown square. The existing structure will be demolished and a new structure will be built with a historic presence. The existing structure is not structurally sound. The new building will be a two-story with tenants on the second floor space. The bottom section will be utilized for retail or other business use. This will require the City modifying the allowance of residential use on the downtown square. Mr. Redden stated growth is on the horizon and he wants to have a part of Blue Ridge. Unfortunately, Mr. Redden did not have renderings to submit to the Council, but wanted to discuss his intentions and be able to get a feel of the Council for this project. A vote was not required, but Council concurred this is a positive movement for Blue Ridge.

6. State of the City - a reflection of 2017 and goals planned for 2018

City Secretary Edie Sims gave a list of projects completed during 2017 to include: 3 properties rezoned; 5 properties replatted; 5 properties subdivided; 17 new homes; accepted land donation for park area; all struck off properties have been sold; 65 total building permits and 8 of the 65 permits were for new construction; all permits constituted \$18,174; two major pieces of equipment was purchased in December (skid steer and sewer camera); 6 street surfaces were improved; a section of concrete was placed at Ridgway and North Business Hwy 78; speed bumps were installed; 431 work orders were completed; improved an erosion issue on North Church; various ordinances including a grease trap ordinance, Municipal Court Fees, International Property Maintenance Code and a Dangerous Building Ordinance were implemented; mass communication program Remind was implemented for those who signed up; 3 professionals were hired; an RFP for trash collection was processed; Council Packets are now available on the City's website; payments are made timely and policies have been streamlined for efficiency.

The City Staff have planned several goals for 2018 to include: Completion of sewer line on Pritchard Drive; Upgrade/improve Ridgeway Drive; Working ditches and improving waterways; Continue road improvements; Have Road Improvements Schedule with rotation; Codification of ordinances / review ordinances to ensure validity and enforcement; Improve and redevelop Zoning Ordinance; Improve and redevelop Subdivision Ordinance; Mutual Boundary Agreements for all surrounding cities; Step up Code Enforcement to improve the City's health and safety; Upgrade accounting program to American Business Software (which is the same program used for water billing); Create or Re-instate Building and Property Standards Commission; Re-instate Planning and Zoning Commission; Reorganize and emphasize City website; Apply for Planning Grant which will provide studies to help guide the future (Match = \$3,078); Plan and apply for CDBG grant to improve sewer (application in October); Plan and apply for Water Development Board grant to improve water lines; Continually seek and apply for grants; Continue educational opportunities for all City staff; Continually seek improvements for citizens; Update employee handbook; Continually improve methods within City Hall; Implement Emergency Plan; Implement a City Plan for growth planning; Implement ILA with Fire Marshal for Fire & Fire Suppression Inspections; Implement existing Knox Box Ordinance throughout all businesses within the City of Blue Ridge

7. Consider, discuss and act upon issues with North Texas Animal Control Authority and animal control matters

Council was informed NTACA has not had their facility inspected since October 2016 which is in violation of State Law. Another issue has been the employee of NTACA which has not been certified and according to the contract between the City and NTACA, all personnel must be certified to offer services within the City. Chris Klein with Country Dog Services, located at 15540 Highway 78 North, Blue Ridge, stated he had been contacted by the City to see what services his company could offer by way of animal facilities. Mr. Klein stated he is working out details but felt they could offer being the City's animal facility. Time limits, quarantine and some other details need to be ironed out before confirming and contracting with the City.

Jessica Otte questioned if Country Dog Services would continue with holding an animal for 3 days, then Judith Homer questioned what happens with the animal after the 3 day hold. These are questions that would need to be ironed out with the City. Allen Cunnyingham stated we are nearly forced to have a company that provides total services and felt it was more economical to go with Collin County. If there is a problem, Collin County has supervisors who can take resolve or if not the issue can be taken to Commissioner's Court to be resolved if necessary. Mr. Cunnyingham expressed citizens concern of being a long way to the other side of Ft. Worth for facility services.

Council further discussed issues with the current contractor and whether the contract should be terminated based on these issues as prior discussed, which also included the tick infestation which is another concern. Mr. Cunnyingham stated since this contractor was here before and it didn't work out, we should reconsider this contract. There is a termination clause in the contract. Mr. Cunnyingham also stated if the payment has not been made for January, to not make the payment, cancel the contract and go back with Collin County. Mr. Cunnyingham stated he would feel better if Collin County had the animal services and felt the people of Blue Ridge would get more service from Collin County.

Mayor Williams stated this issue needs to be weighed out. NTACA has only one person, but so does Collin County. Mr. Cunnyingham rebutted stating the County has backup locally where NTACA does not. Judith Homer spoke up stating Collin County is far more acceptable where NTACA has made himself unavailable. An appointment must be made which could cut short the 3 day holding time. Tommy Homer spoke up stating he would rather see Collin County where the facilities are inspected.

Jessica Otte spoke up asking if animal control was approached thru a volunteer base and the City not pay for animal control services. If we can keep in town, this would be better for everyone. If the situation is really bad, Collin County Sheriff's deputies will take care of those situations. Ms. Otte stated she is willing to walk up to dogs as most are friendly. Ethan Redden encouraged using Chris Klein as his facility is extremely nice. Tonya Harrison relayed the problems with Collin County not responding in the past which constituted the contract change.

Chris Klein with Country Dog Services came forward and stated he had a situation with Collin County where it took 2 hours before responding. Jessica Otte informed the audience that anyone can take a 12 week course, costing \$1500, to help with animal control but anyone can volunteer. Clayton Jech spoke up stating the concern should be the liability of volunteers working with animals.

Amber Wood felt the need to continue negotiations and motioned to table the item. The motion died for lack of second. Mayor Williams requested a representative from Collin County come to our next meeting to further discuss the issues had with Collin County. Others in the audience called out various names of people who work for Collin County.

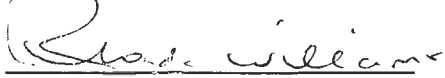
Gerald Young motioned to inform NTACA of contract violations and give notice of 30 days to correct; otherwise the contract will be retro activated to October 1 and the contract will be cancelled. Allen Cunnyingham seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

8. Citizen Participation. Nancy Ferrell, residing at 406 N Business Hwy 78, questioned why so long about trash pickup. Due to the holidays, Christmas pickup was on Friday rather than normal Thursday pickup and the same occurred for New Year's. The trash company also

had some breakdowns which caused a delay. No one else spoke during Citizen Participation.

9. Adjournment. Christina Porath motioned to adjourn with Gerald Young seconding the motion. Council adjourned at 7:58pm.

APPROVED:



Rhonda Williams, Mayor

ATTEST:



Edie Sims, City Secretary