

CITY OF BLUE RIDGE
CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
March 19, 2019

THE BLUE RIDGE CITY COUNCIL MET IN SPECIAL SESSION AT 7:00 P.M. ON TUESDAY, MARCH 19, 2019 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 Or immediately following the conclusion of the Council Special Session meeting.

1. Mayor Williams called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. and called roll with the following members present, Mayor Rhonda Williams, Christina Porath, Amber Wood, Gerald Young, and Keith Chitwood. Kevin Bell was absent.
2. City Secretary Edie Sims offered the prayer and lead the Pledge of Allegiance to the American and Texas Flags.
3. Second Public Hearing to receive public comments and to hear the request for a replat of a Final Plat known as Vanessa's Place, an addition located at 211 North Morrow, Blue Ridge, TX, also known as Blue Ridge Original Donation, Lot 45, containing 36,590 square feet, replatting into 2 lots and also which is located within the City of Blue Ridge

Mayor Williams opened the public hearing at 7:05pm and asked for those FOR the plat to come forward. Shannon Egner, residing at 301 N Main, stated she is for the plat being approved. With no one else coming forward, Mayor Williams asked for those OPPOSING the plat to come forward. With no one coming forward, Mayor Williams closed the Public Hearing at 7:05pm.

Amber Wood motioned to approve the plat as presented with Keith Chitwood seconding the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

4. Consider, discuss and act upon closing the square from 2pm - 10pm on 04/27/2019 with a rain date of 05/04/2019, requested by the Blue Ridge Chamber of Commerce for their event "Spring Fling and Moving Thing"

The Chamber will be sponsoring this event with a movie being shown on the old Funeral Home building with the movie being shown 10 minutes after dark. The Chamber of Commerce provided the required signatures of the businesses agreeing to having the square shut down according to the Special Event Information Packet. Also, plans for port-a-potties have been made to be placed on the north side of City Hall.

Mayor Williams stated the Community Center already has an event booked 04/27/19 until 4pm and is not rented on 05/04/19. Amber Wood motioned to approve the square closure with Christina Porath seconding the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

5. Consider, discuss and act upon Resolution R-2019-0319-001 for continued participation with Atmos Cities Steering Committee and authorizing the payment of five cents (\$0.05) per capita to ACSC to fund regulatory and related activities to Atmos Energy Corporation

Mayor Williams stated the presented Resolution is standard participation and encourages approval of same. Christina Porath motioned to approve the Resolution as presented with Amber Wood seconding the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

6. Consider, discuss and act upon Resolution R-2019-0319-002 to apply for the 2019 Texas CDBG assistance grant under the Planning/Capacity Building Fund

Cloy Richards with Grantworks presented to Council the Resolution which allows the City to apply for the Planning and Capacity Grant through the Texas Community Development Block Grant. The grant offers \$30,000 worth of planning studies for \$3,078 in matching funds which will greatly assist the City for going forward.

Amber Wood motioned to approve the Resolution as presented with Gerald Young seconding the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

7. Consider, discuss and act upon Resolution R-2019-0319-003 designating a management service provider for application and project implementation of the TxCDBG 2019 FAST Fund

Cloy Richards with Grantworks explained the purpose of the FAST Fund (Fire, Ambulance & Services Truck) allows cities to apply for grant funds to assist providing emergency response and special services to rural communities. City Secretary Edie Sims stated Grantworks was the only service provider that answered the Request for Qualifications. Mr. Richards stated this is a great opportunity for our city. Plans for what equipment to be requested have not been made yet; however Grantworks will be assisting the City to prepare the application.

Amber Wood motioned to approve the Grantworks to provide services for the FAST Fund application and grant implementation with Gerald Young seconding the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

8. Consider, discuss and act upon writing off bad debts for water bills from 09/08/2017 to 02/04/2019

Assistant City Secretary Tonya Harrison provided a list of bad debts from the water bill revenues. All efforts have been afforded the listed to pay their debt to no avail. The listed were provided with 3 letters to include a statement, late notice, and demand letter and all have not responded. Council did not write-off bad debts last year as they requested to make all efforts for collections. All efforts have been made. If any on the list move back within the City, bad debt collections will be made prior to new service being provided.

Amber Wood motioned to approve writing off the bad debts for the time frame provided with Keith Chitwood seconding the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

9. Consider, discuss and act upon Ordinance O-2019-0319-001 prohibiting burning from within the incorporated limits of the City of Blue Ridge

City Secretary Edie Sims stated Fire Chief John Bowers had requested the City have no burn ordinance. After researching, we found no such ordinance. Chief Bowers has had numerous issues with people burning and this is a safety issue. Embers from a burn can be very dangerous for adjacent roofs, as well as issues from the smoke causing difficulty breathing for those with respiratory issues.

Amber Wood motioned to approve the Ordinance as presented for safety reasons with Gerald Young seconding the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

10. Neighborhood Round Table discussion regarding the Water Conservation and Drought Contingency Plan for the City of Blue Ridge (Please go to the following website for the 84 page document: [https://blueridgecity.com/documents/156/Water Conservation - Drought Contingency 2018.pdf](https://blueridgecity.com/documents/156/Water%20Conservation%20-%20Drought%20Contingency%202018.pdf))

City Secretary Edie Sims presented the Water Conservation and Drought Contingency Plan. The Plan is required by TCEQ, and it lays out all the directives to take during a drought for water conservation. The purpose of this round table is to open the discussion to the public for comments/concerns/changes. The 84 page document is available on the front

page of the City's website for anyone to review. Council was asked to review and have any questions/concerns/changes ready to be presented at the April 2nd Council meeting. It is hoped to have an ordinance adopting this Plan on that date. Once the Plan has been adopted, TCEQ and North Texas Municipal Water District will receive our Plan to be incorporated with the area Plan.

11. Citizen Participation. No one spoke during Citizen Participation.
12. Discussion of placing items on future agendas. Gerald Young requested Council discuss a tax freeze for those 65 and older. No one else requested an item(s) to be placed on a future agenda.
13. Adjournment. Christina Porath motioned to adjourn with Amber Wood seconding the motion. Council adjourned at 7:36pm.

APPROVED:


Rhonda Williams, Mayor

ATTEST:


Edie Sims, City Secretary