

CITY OF BLUE RIDGE  
CITY COUNCIL MINUTES  
MAY 4, 2021

THE BLUE RIDGE CITY COUNCIL MET IN REGULAR SESSION AT 7:00 P.M. ON TUESDAY, MAY 4, 2021 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 7:09 p.m. and called roll with the following members present: Mayor Rhonda Williams, Christina Porath, Amber Wood, Keith Chitwood, Colby Collinsworth and Allen Cunyningham.

2. Prayer and Pledges of Allegiance

Edie Sims offered the prayer and lead the Pledge of Allegiance to the American and Texas Flags.

3. Announcements relating to items of public interest: East Lamm Street is getting a facelift. Collin County will be improving the street, although not a full rehab, but it will give us time to gather funding. South Main Street water line and street improvement will be in process through the month of May – upgrading from a 1” to a 4” water line which facilitate 12 properties. The Automated Meter Reading project will be going out for bid so we can get new water meters in the ground.

4. Mayor Williams took a moment to present Amber Wood a plaque for her service as a Council Member from 2016 to May 2021. Mayor Williams also presented a Certificate of Appreciation to Allen Cunyningham for his service as a Council Member for an unexpired term from 2020 to May 2021.

Proclamation proclaiming May 2 – 8, 2021 as National Drinking Water Week. The City of Blue Ridge encourages our citizens to recognize the crucial role drinking water plays in our daily lives with this year’s theme being “There When You Need It,” and a Proclamation proclaiming June as Men’s Health Month.

5. Public Comment

No one signed up or spoke at this time.

6. Consent Agenda: a) Discuss, approve or disapprove the minutes from Regular Session held April 6, 2021; b) Public Works Update; c) City Financial Report; d) Fire Department Report; and e) Animal Control Report

Amber Wood motioned to approve the Consent Agenda as presented with Colby Collinsworth seconding the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

7. Consider, discuss and act upon closing the Downtown Square on July 8, 2021 from 5:30pm – 7:30pm for the Blue Ridge Rodeo Parade

Christina Porath motioned to approved to close the Square as requested with Amber Wood seconding the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

8. Second Public Hearing to receive public comments, and consider, discuss and act upon a request to replat a Preliminary Plat known as Westridge Estates, an addition located at the southwest corner of Farm-to-Market 545 and Pruett Street, also known as Abstract A0557 M Mowery Survey, Sheet 2, Tract 175, containing 2.552 acres; replatting into 10 lots with Lot 1 being 0.223 acres; Lot 2 being 0.190 acres; Lot 3 being 0.190 acres; Lot 4 being 0.190 acres; Lot 5 being 0.193 acres; Lot 6 being 0.173 acres; Lot 7 being 0.173 acres; Lot 8 being 0.173

acres; Lot 9 being 0.173 acres; and Lot 10 being 0.178 acres; and also located within the incorporated limits of the City of Blue Ridge

Mayor Williams opened the Public Hearing at 7:17pm and asked those FOR the replat to come forward. Ben Poole, partner with Kevin Mahoney, stated he is FOR the replat. With no one else coming forward, Mayor Williams asked those OPPOSING the replat to come forward. Martha Reyes, residing at 101 Pruett, stated she has concerns of fencing and if the streets will be improved due to this project. Mr. Poole stated the fencing will be up to the individual property owners as the lots are sold individually. The property will not be a gated community. The only street in the subdivision will be paved coming off Pruett and onto FM 545. Ms. Reyes asked if the taxes will be raised due to the new homes with City Secretary Edie Sims stating the values will be assessed by Collin County Appraisal District.

With no other comments or questions, Mayor Williams closed the Public Hearing at 7:19pm. Christina Porath asked how many homes are expected to be built at one time with Mr. Poole stating most likely 1 to 2 homes per year. Christina Porath also noted for the record this project was already in progress prior to the Impact Fees being implemented.

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

9. Second Public Hearing to receive public comments, and consider, discuss and act upon a request to replat a Preliminary Plat known as Hidden Hills, an addition located at County Road 584 and the west line of the property is along Private Road 5002, also known as Abstract A0492 William T Jackson Survey, Tract 26, containing 14.547 acres; replatting into 13 lots with Lot 1 being 1.284 acres; Lot 2 being 1.013 acres; Lot 3 being 1.009 acres; Lot 4 being 1.007 acres; Lot 5 being 1.005 acres; Lot 6 being 1.161 acres; Lot 7 being 1.160 acres; Lot 8 being 1.004 acres; Lot 9 being 1.006 acres; Lot 10 being 1.008 acres; Lot 11 being 1.019 acres; Lot 12 being 1.130 acres; and Lot 13 being 1.295 acres and also located within the Extra Territorial Jurisdiction of the City of Blue Ridge.

Mayor Williams opened the Public Hearing at 7:23pm and asked those FOR the replat to come forward. With no one coming forward, Mayor Williams then asked those OPPOSING the replat to come forward. Pam Mora, residing at 9445 CR 584, what the developer intends to do regarding sewage. The development will be on individual septic systems. Mayor Williams closed the Public Hearing at 7:24pm.

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

10. Second Public Hearing to receive public comments, and consider, discuss and act upon a request to replat a Final Plat known as Sides Ranch, an addition at a sharp northern curve of Farm-to-Market 2756, which has been divided by Collin County Appraisal District by deeds and is also known by the plat as Lot 1 as Abstract A0936 D Van Winkle Survey, Sheet 2, Tract 169, containing 2.32 acres; Lot 2 as Abstract A0936 D Van Winkle Survey, Sheet 2, Tract 170 being 12.710 acres; Lot 3 as Abstract A0936 D Van Winkle Survey, Sheet 2, Tract 171 being 5.155 acres; Lot 4 as Abstract A0936 D Van Winkle Survey, Sheet 2, Tract 172 being 5.155 acres; Lot 5 as Abstract A0936 D Van Winkle Survey, Sheet 2, Tract 26 being 5.155 acres; and also which is located within the City of Blue Ridge's Extra Territorial Jurisdiction.

Mayor Williams opened the Public Hearing at 7:25pm and asked those FOR the replat to come forward. Justin Sides, residing at 12626 FM 2756, Farmersville, stated he is for the replat. Mayor Williams then asked those OPPOSING the replat to come forward. With no one coming forward, Mayor Williams closed the Public Hearing at 7:25pm.

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

11. Receive an update from the Blue Ridge Community Development Corporation regarding their Stimulus to local businesses during the 2020 Coronavirus Pandemic

Tonya Harrison, Treasurer for the Blue Ridge Community Development Corporation, came before the Council to discuss the Stimulus offered through the CDC. A spreadsheet was provided in the Council packet with businesses who utilized the funds through the Stimulus which totals \$67,539.08.

Mrs. Harrison stated the program was set up, with the City Attorney's assistance, as a grant, but the document signed is a Promissory Note with a Forgivable Clause. Due to Form 1099's being issued to each of the recipients, the "grant" is now considered a loan and is taxable. The City Secretary was instructed to communicate with the City Auditor, who gave the direction to issue the 1099's but has not received response or direction for the recipients.

Mrs. Harrison reported 15 businesses were assisted through this program with 8 businesses taking the full amount offered. A single business was offered \$5,000 or a duplicate business was offered \$7,000. Council expressed appreciation to the CDC for assisting the businesses through the Pandemic. No action was taken by the Council.

12. Consider, discuss, and act upon Resolution 2021-0504-001 approving to amend the distribution cost recovery factor to increase distribution rates within the City denial and participation with TNMP cities with authorizations for legal consulting services

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

13. Consider, discuss, and act upon implementing job descriptions for employees as currently hired to support the City of Blue Ridge

Job descriptions were presented to the Council for their review. Christina Porath stated an issue with the Public Works job descriptions not reflecting requirements of licensing or continued education. The licensing was a contingency for our Public Works Director to receive his raise for budget year 2020-2021. Christina Porath requested Brad Meserole complete his licensing requirement immediately.

Christina Porath also questioned the Assistant City Secretary carrying the burden of all bookkeeping. Although there are only 3 employees in the office, there must be checks and balances. Another item is cross training. Keith Chitwood questioned the abilities of the Assistant City Secretary and questioned her knowledge of Profit & Losses and other financial duties due to her past experiences in the restaurant business.

Keith Chitwood requested a Progress Report be provided monthly to give a measure of training and all areas of employment. The Report can be condensed to a 1-page summary.

14. Consider, discuss and act upon social media policies and examples as presented from similar sized small towns and legal offerings for the social media topic

Christina Porath stated the research she has done on her own reflected that the social media policy basically comes down to not discussing city business on any level of social media. Keith Chitwood expressed when even volunteering for the City, the person is representing the City and should conduct themselves in a professional manner.

Tonya Harrison spoke stating her personal page belongs to her. At a previous encounter while working for the City, the City Attorney informed Mrs. Harrison she was not bound to a requirement on Facebook if City business was not discussed.


After discussion of recent events and how social media is a permanent part of society, Christina Porath motioned not to pursue a policy with Keith Chitwood seconding the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

15. Discussion of placing items on future agendas No one asked for any items to be placed on a future agenda.

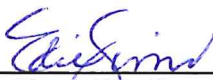
16. Adjournment

Christina Porath motioned to adjourn with Allen Cunnyingham seconding the motion.  
Council adjourned at 8:22pm.

APPROVED:

  
Rhonda Williams, Mayor

ATTEST:

  
Edie Sims, City Secretary