

CITY OF BLUE RIDGE  
CITY COUNCIL MINUTES  
December 4, 2018

THE BLUE RIDGE CITY COUNCIL MET IN REGULAR SESSION AT 7:00 P.M. ON TUESDAY, DECEMBER 4, 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. Roll was called with the following members present: Mayor Rhonda Williams, Keith Chitwood, Amber Wood and Gerald Young. Kevin Bell and Christina Porath were absent.
2. City Secretary Edie Sims offered the prayer and lead the Pledge of Allegiance to the American and Texas Flags.
3. Consent Agenda: a) Discuss, approve or disapprove the minutes from Regular Session meeting held November 6, 2018 b) Public Works Update; c) City Financial Report; d) Fire Department Report; e) Animal Control Report; and f) Collin County Calls for Service

Amber Wood motioned to approve the Consent Agenda with Gerald Young seconding the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

4. Consider, discuss and act upon changing the January Council meeting to January 8, 2019 due to New Years Day holiday

This date conflicts with the Chamber of Commerce's meeting; however they are willing to adjust their meeting time so both groups can meet on the same date. Gerald Young motioned to approve holding a Special Council Meeting on January 8, 2019 with Amber Wood seconding the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

5. Consider, discuss and act upon guidelines and application process for being a Film Friendly City

City Secretary Edie Sims attended a Film Friendly Workshop which is a requirement to being the process of becoming a Film Friendly City. Being a Film Friendly City opens great opportunities for cities. If a producer selects a particular site within the City, there are crew members, set people, and a host of production people which could range upwards of 300 people who will need places to eat, groceries and other amenities offered in our city. That is sales tax dollars. As a City, we can partner with sister cities who have hotels or bed and breakfasts to house people for longer termed filming.

A location scout will help designate a location for a film. After contracting with the property owner, the site is adjusted for the film. Afterwhich the site is brought back to its current state or better. This is a great opportunity as Blue Ridge has quite a variety of filming scenarios. Many years ago, Walker Texas Ranger was encouraged to come to Blue Ridge, but was turned down by the powers in office at the time. The square in Westminster was redone by the filming crew after filming in that community.

Council concurred becoming a Film Friendly City is greatly beneficial and Amber Wood motioned to approve the guidelines and application as presented with Keith Chitwood seconding the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

6. Consider, discuss and act upon Ordinance 2018-1204-001 providing for definitions and requirements for flag lots within the incorporated area and the extraterritorial jurisdiction of the City

In recent months, the City has had several requests to plat "flag lots." Currently the City's Ordinances do not address this style of lots. During research, it was found the City of Austin had this problem and had created a very good ordinance. Their ordinance was used and tweaked to meet the City of Blue Ridge's needs by changing the width to be a minimum of 40 feet wide to allow road access and accommodate utility easements. With this ordinance in place, even those in our ETJ will have guidelines. Amber Wood motioned to approve the ordinance as presented with Keith Chitwood seconding the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

7. Consider, discuss and act upon the placement of speed bumps

Council collectively agreed not to place speed bumps on other city streets; however will hear and decide on a case by case basis whether speed bumps are necessary. No action was taken at this time.

8. Review and discuss Ridgeway Drive Water Line and Street project

City Secretary Edie Sims informed the Council of the project plans as provided by the engineer. Detailed descriptions were given to concerned areas including the drainage plans and improvements to the water line. Council expressed concern of traffic flow during the construction with City Secretary replying this concern will be heavily expressed during the pre-construction meeting with the contractor. Bidding of the project will begin soon for construction to begin in early Spring 2019.

No action was taken at this time.

9. Consider, discuss and act upon Strategic/Comprehensive Plan - Action Plan, Goal 2: Community Development and Goal 3: Develop Business Environment

Council reviewed each item from the 2012 Strategic Plan including details items either accomplished or have been addressed from April 2017 to present. Council was also informed of a discussion held with USDA whereby the City is not eligible for any grants through USDA due to the median income of \$44,000 per household. If the City chooses to fund projects through USDA, only loans will be allowed. This median income is only through USDA and not other funding sources.

Item 2D discusses the measure of success for a beautification committee and plan which has not been implemented; however as of April 4, 2017, the City had 11 houses in dilapidated condition. As of 11/30/2018, 7 of the 11 structures are demolished. Other improvements are to come to help clean up our City.

Item 2B recommends coordination with the EDC Board. City Secretary Edie Sims recommended a planning meeting in March or April 2019 to include the CDC, EDC, Chamber, School District and others interested within the City of Blue Ridge for the future development of Blue Ridge.

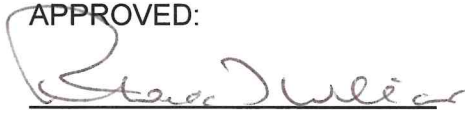
A major factor to help develop our future is the Zoning Ordinance. Currently and historically, the City has operated off the 1998 Zoning Ordinance which is in great need of updating. This project is planned during 2019.

Another growth mechanism will be tax abatements which the City currently does not offer. The EDC and CDC Boards offer a grant incentive for infrastructure and improvement

opportunities which has been greatly appreciated for the improvement and ongoing growth of our City. The Strategic Plan from 2012 is now presented and planning for the leaders to meet will be forthcoming.

10. Citizen Participation. No one spoke during Citizen Participation.
11. Adjournment. Amber Wood motioned to adjourn with Gerald Young seconding the motion. Council adjourned at 7:47pm.

APPROVED:

  
Rhonda Williams, Mayor

ATTEST:

  
Edie Sims, City Secretary