KENNEDALE CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING | MAY 1, 2025 AT 6:00 PM
CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS | 405 MUNICIPAL DRIVE, KENNEDALE, TX 76060

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Brad Horton called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

A. ROLL CALL

The Mayor and all other members of the City Council were in attendance, thus constituting a quorum.

The City Manager, City Secretary, department directors, and other various staff were also present.

B. INVOCATION AND PLEDGES OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE U.S. AND TEXAS FLAGS

"Honor the Texas Flag; I Pledge Allegiance to Thee, Texas, One State under God; One and Indivisible."

Place 5 Nevarez offered the invocation, followed by the Pledges to the American and Texas flags led by Mayor Pro Tem Michels.

Mayor Horton changed the order of the agenda and requested a motion to enter into Executive Session.

IV. EXECUTIVE SESSION

IN ACCORDANCE WITH CHAPTER 551 OF THE TEXAS GOVERNMENT CODE. If, during the course of the meeting and discussion of any items covered by this notice, the Kennedale City Council determines that a Closed or Executive session of the Board is required, then such closed meeting will be held as authorized by Texas Government Code, Chapter 551, Section 551.071 consultation with counsel on legal matters; Section 551.074 personnel matters (1) to deliberate the appointment, employment, evaluation, reassignment, duties, discipline, or dismissal of a public officer or employee; or (2) to hear a complaint or charge against an officer or employee. (b) Subsection (a) does not apply if the officer or employee who is the subject of the deliberation or hearing requests a public hearing. Section 551.072 - deliberation regarding purchase, exchange, lease or value of real property; Section 551.073 - deliberation regarding a prospective gift; Section 551.087 - deliberation regarding economic development negotiation; Section 551.089 - deliberation regarding security devices or security audits, and/or other matters as authorized under the Texas Government Code. If a Closed or Executive Session is held in accordance with the Texas Government Code as set out above, the Kennedale City Council will reconvene in Open Session in order to take action, if necessary, on the items addressed during Executive Session.

A. PURSUANT TO SECTION 551.074 - Personnel Matters, certain deliberations about officers and employees of the governmental body to be held in executive session.

1. Planning and Zoning Commission Unexpired Term - Interviews

Place 1 Glover motioned to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of Interviewing Planning and Zoning Commission Candidates AT 6:02 p.m.

Place 2 Kobeck seconded the motion.
No opposition, No abstentions
Vote: Motion passed unanimously

V. RECONVENE INTO OPEN SESSION, AND TAKE ANY ACTION NECESSARY PURSUANT TO EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mayor Horton reconvened the meeting at 7:12 p.m.

Place 5 Nevarez motioned to appoint Jeff Madrid to the Planning and Zoning Commission for an unexpired term.

Place 2 Kobeck seconded the motion.
No opposition, No abstentions
Vote: Motion passed unanimously

II. PUBLIC COMMENT

The Kennedale City Council welcomes comments from the public. Those wishing to speak must sign in prior to the start of the meeting. Speakers may speak on any topic, whether on the agenda or not. The Kennedale City Council cannot act upon, discuss issues raised or make any decisions at this time. Speakers under citizens' comments shall observe a three-minute time limit. Inquiries regarding matters not listed on this agenda may be referred to staff for research and/or possible future action by the board.

After the motion, Mayor Horton returned to the Public Comment portion of the agenda.

Philip Wallace, 304 Arthur Dr. spoke about an email sent by Mayor Horton, which was released through a public information request. Mr. Wallace stated that he felt the contents of the email were unflattering.
Bryant Griffith, 917 Greenfield Ct. expressed concerns about what he considers to be harassment and other unconstitutional behavior by certain members of the City Council.
Eric Elam, Kennedale, Texas addressed the council regarding Texas Penal Code 37.08, which pertains to false reports to peace officers or law enforcement authorities.

III. REGULAR SESSION

A. ITEMS FOR INDIVIDUAL CONSIDERATION, DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION

1. Discuss and take action on a proposal for interior design services for the YMCA Kennedale location as approved by the Kenendale EDC.

City Manager Darrell Hull presented the proposal to the Council, explaining that the contract represents a partnership to assess the building's interior spaces moving forward, with the goal of addressing existing code violations. The assessment will outline the necessary actions and how best to secure the building.

Place 5 Nevarez clarified that the funding for the proposal was authorized and provided by the Economic Development Corporation (EDC).

Place 2 Kobeck emphasized that the proposal pertains solely to the design phase and is intended to secure professional services to evaluate and report on the current condition of the building.

Place 1 Glover motioned to approve a proposal for interior design services for the TMCA Kennedale location as approved by the Kennedale EDC.

Place 5 Nevarez second the motion.
No opposition, No abstentions
Vote: Motion passed unanimously

2. Discuss and take action if necessary regarding a complaint filed on members of the Kennedale City Council.

James Connor, 501 W. 3rd. St., expressed concern over a released email and requested the council open an investigation.
Bryant Griffith, 912 Greenfield Ct., raised a complaint regarding a potential conflict of interest involving Place 4 Council Member Gary.

City Manager Hull recommended that the council enter into executive session to discuss the complaint with legal counsel, but no motion was made by the council to do so.

Mayor Horton requested that previously dismissed ethics complaints be entered into the record and attached to the minutes. He also referenced a December 2023 conversation with Mr. Hull concerning risk of an IRS audit and concerns related to a transaction he considered questionable. Horton emphasized his desire not to be involved, and Hull confirmed the statements were accurate, referring the matter to the city attorney.

Concerns were raised about the potential hiring of former council member Austin Dagenhart as a consultant, which some claimed violated the city charter’s two-year restriction. Hull recalled a meeting where this was discussed and advised that Mr. Horton had stated he wanted to avoid any unethical actions.

The city attorney clarified that any potential criminal violations of the Public Information Act or the Open Meetings Act would need to be referred to the district attorney’s office. While the city charter allows for council investigations, the attorney advised that campaign finance issues should go through the Ethics Commission and criminal matters through the appropriate legal authorities.

Mayor Horton stated that any investigation should also include actions by previous council members dating back to July 2023.

Place 1 Council Member Glover asked whether determining unethical behavior was within the council’s power. The attorney responded that although there is no ordinance in place, the charter permits investigations.

Place 4 Council Member Gary advised Bryant Griffith to pursue the complaint through the Ethics Commission.

Place 5 Council Member Nevarez expressed opposition to the council investigating itself and suggested hiring a third-party firm to conduct any investigation. He also recommended that the council adopt a formal ethics ordinance.

Place 2 Council Member Kobeck asked who would be responsible for hiring the third party, and City Manager Hull recommended selecting an outside firm with experience in local government.

Mr. Hull also confirmed that the district attorney’s Elections Integrity Unit had reviewed the matters submitted and declined to file any charges. The district attorney's office ultimately took no formal action to initiate an investigation.

During the continued discussion, City Manager Hull advised that the council needed to clearly define ethics and stated that the same complaints are raised year after year without resolution. He emphasized that the council must take action to finally address these concerns.

Place 2 Council Member Kobeck stated that any firm hired to conduct an investigation must be completely independent and have no connections to anyone involved in the complaints or the investigation.

Mr. Hull requested that the council give direction to the City Attorney, Carvan Adkins, to locate and retain a qualified outside firm to handle the investigation. He stressed that citizens are calling for transparency and accountability, and the council has a responsibility to respond. City Manager Hull added that the council should establish guidelines relating to ethics and moral turpitude.

Place 2 Kobeck made a motion to task the City Attorney with retaining outside legal counsel to investigate the matter.

Place 5 Nevarez seconded the motion.
No opposition, No abstentions
Vote: Motion passed unanimously

VI. ADJOURNMENT

APPROVED:

Brad Horton

MAYOR BRAD HORTON

ATTEST:

B Taylor

CITY SECRETERY BOBBIE JO TAYLOR