

KENNEDALE CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
SPECIAL MEETING | JULY 13, 2021 AT 5:30 PM
CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 405 MUNICIPAL DRIVE

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Pro Tem Rhodes called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m., and made an opening statement regarding this meeting not being offered virtually, noting that COVID restrictions had been relaxed and that the decision to discontinue was based upon the pandemic; however, the City will explore options to live stream meetings going forward without the option for public input virtually.

II. ROLL CALL

Present: Mayor Pro Tem Linda Rhodes, Place 4; Jan Joplin, Place 1; Gary Mitchell, Place 2; Julie Jacobson, Place 3; James Connor, Place 5; **Absent:** Mayor Brian Johnson. **Staff:** *Temporary Interim City Manager Leslie E. Galloway, Police Chief Darrell Hull, Fire Chief James Brown, Administrative Assistant Rosie Ericson*

III. EXECUTIVE SESSION

The City Council reserves the right to meet in Executive Session at any time during this meeting pursuant to the below cited sections of the Texas Government Code:

- A. **PURSUANT TO §551.071** — Consultation with the City Attorney pertaining to any matter in which the duty of the City Attorney under the Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct may conflict with the Open Meetings Act, including discussion of any item posted on the agenda, legal issues regarding the Open Meetings Act, and the following:
1. City Manager Separation Agreement
 2. Social Media
 3. Mayor appointment process
 4. City of Kennedale v. James Coyel
 5. Salvage yards and special exception/special use permits
- B. **PURSUANT TO §551.074** — Deliberate the appointment, employment, evaluation, reassignment, duties, discipline or dismissal of a public officer or employee or to hear a complaint or charge against an officer or employee; and the following:
1. Interim City Manager, including interviews
 2. City Manager
 3. Community Development Director
 4. Public Works Director

5. Vacant Council seats including Mayor

IV. TAKE ACTION NECESSARY, PURSUANT TO EXECUTIVE SESSION, IF NEEDED

V. SPECIAL SESSION

Mayor Pro Tem Rhodes reconvened the open session at 9:03 p.m.

A. Consider appointment of a Mayor

Mayor Pro Tem Rhodes stated that on Friday, July 2, 2021, that Mayor Brian Johnson submitted a letter of resignation; and that, according to the Texas Election Code, that a resignation is automatically accepted upon the eighth day after receipt; and that no formal action is required by the Council to fill the vacancy.

Temporary Interim City Manager Leslie E. Galloway stated that the original Charter stated that, in the vacancy of the Mayor's seat the Mayor Pro Tem would become Mayor, that the Charter had since been amended to allow the Council to appoint anyone to the role that they deemed appropriate.

Motion Approve. Action Approve appointment of Mayor Pro Tem Linda Rhodes as Mayor, Moved By Joplin, Seconded By Jacobson. Motion passed with a vote of 4-0-1, with Rhodes abstaining.

B. Oath of Office for the Mayor

At this time, City Secretary Leslie Galloway administered the Statement of Elected Official and Oath of Office to Linda Rhodes for the Place of Mayor.

Mayor Rhodes thanked the Council and former Mayor Brian Johnson and encouraged the community to stay positive during this time of change, noting some positive staffing changes and achievements that had happened recently. Mayor Rhodes added that she had also recently earned her CPM (Certified Public Manager) and discussed her other professional achievements and memberships. Mayor Rhodes closed by urging the community to work together to build a bridge and work together.

C. Consider appointment of an Interim City Manager

Motion Approve. Action Approve appointment of Leslie Galloway as Interim City Manager at a temporary salary increase of 26% during that service, Moved By Joplin, Seconded By Jacobson. Motion passed unanimously.

D. Discuss and provide direction to staff regarding the appointment process to fill any existing vacancies on the Council

Motion Approve. Action Approve acceptance of applications for City Council Place 4, with appointment of that position to be made at the next regular meeting on August 17, Moved By Joplin, Seconded By Jacobson. Motion passed unanimously.

E. Discuss and provide direction to staff regarding Council's desired process for identifying candidates for the role of City Manager

Motion Approve. Action Approve posting application for a City Manager, Moved

By Joplin, **Seconded By Jacobson. Motion passed unanimously.**

VI. WORK SESSION

- A. Discussion regarding potential issuance of Certificates of Obligations (CO) in the amount of \$6 million and related projects

Finance Director Lakeita Sutton stated that a staff report regarding this debt issuance was included in the packet, noting that the former Council began discussion of this issuance in March of 2020; and that the plan had originally been to secure \$6 million in fiscal year 2021, followed by another \$8 million in 2024. Sutton gave a summary of the implications that would result from either issuance or non-issuance of this debt. Discussion included the purchase of public safety apparatus, bond program project submittals, and the tax rate calculation associated with the budget process. Sutton noted that staff is recommending moving forward with the \$6 million issuance (which would not increase the debt portion of the property tax rate) followed by the \$8 million issuance in 2024. Sutton noted that the intent to sale would need to be approved at the meeting next week, and that staff was working to arrange for the financial advisors to be at the next meeting.

There was some discussion of unencumbered past debt issuances, the securing of the grant, a potential grant for Valley Lane, the projects submitted to the Tarrant County Transportation Bond Package, a potential GO Issuance, and the number of capital projects that need to be addressed. Mayor Rhodes thanked staff for bringing this item back and stated that it was her understanding that the Council would like for staff to move forward with the potential debt issuance. Ms. Sutton noted again that all budget discussions would include issuance of this debt.

- B. Discuss and establish a priority ranking of those projects submitted for consideration for inclusion in the November 2021 Tarrant County Transportation Bond Package

Following some discussion, it was a consensus among the Council to rank the projects as follows: 1. Little Road Extension (due to the emergency access issue we currently have for the west portion of town and the ETJ); 2. Collett Sublett; 3. Valley Lane; 4. Kennedale Sublett Realignment.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Motion Adjourn. Action Adjourn, Moved By Jacobson, Seconded By Connor. Motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Linda Rhodes adjourned the meeting at 9:56 p.m.

APPROVED:


LINDA RHODES, MAYOR

ATTEST:


LESLIE E. GALLOWAY, CITY SECRETARY

