

Meeting Minutes
July 8, 2019

The Board of Alderman of the City of Plantersville, Grimes County, Texas, met in regular session on Monday, July 8, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. at Plantersville Town Hall, 11335 Lodge Lane, Plantersville, Texas.

The following members were present:

Mayor – Karen Hale

Mayor Pro – Tem – Kristina Keyser Mayton

Alderman – Marilyn Bettes

Secretary – Kimberly Allphin

Alderman – Frank Dean

Alderman – Otis Greenwood, Jr.

Thus, constituting a quorum:

Visitors: Andrew Holick and Connie Flickinger, Texas Department of Transportation from the Bryan District Office, Mike Wetuski.

1. Mayor Karen Hale called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. The invocation was given by Alderman Otis Greenwood, Jr. and the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag and Texas Flag were recited.
2. The minutes from June 10, 2019 were approved as presented.
3. Mayor Karen Hale reviewed the bill received from Grimes County of election charges and fees for the City of Plantersville City Officer Election. Discussion held regarding the total charges were divided among City of Anderson, Anderson Shiro ISD and Roans Prairie. The amount due for the City of Plantersville is \$4,480.45. It was approved for payment with motion from Alderman Marilyn Bettes and second from Alderman Otis Greenwood, Jr. No discussion. Motion carried.
4. No Public Comments
5. TX DOT Representative, Mr. Andrew Holick, Director of Transportation Operations from the Bryan office was in attendance to discuss construction issues of SH 249 and FM 1774 including the TX Dot Map, website and brochures regarding the new construction of SH 249. TX DOT Connie Flickinger that is overseeing the Plantersville/Grimes County area was also in attendance. Mayor Hale reviewed the juncture of SH 249 & FM 1774 being in the city limits of Plantersville and not Todd Mission. The correction has been requested to TX DOT previously by Mayor Hale to local TX DOT regional offices without success. Mr. Holick advised that this matter can be updated and he will check with the website manager. The initial/planning project documentation listing Todd Mission is frozen and cannot be changed, however website and brochures can be updated. Mr. Holick recommended also contacting the liaison, Ronnie with TX DOT is now over the project in onsite office at Magnolia.

Mr. Holick answered specific questions regarding the speed zones in the construction, contact the local office with construction speeds. Construction requirements and the speed zone can now be addressed. The speed zones were not issued in this plan per Field Supervisor Connie Flickinger – a sample of the ordinance from a city government to request lower speed limits can be sent to TXDOT for review.

Speed limits were being studied in Grimes County that included the area of the city before the city incorporated. The study must be completed again in the city limits. The intersection of SH 105 and FM 1774 is very dangerous and the construction. Ms. Flickinger also advised the delay of construction with unforeseen additional issues of underground springs on the N side of SH 105. Construction cannot be advanced until properly controlling the water flow.

6. Resident, Mike Wetuski spoke with Bryan District TX DOT Chad Bohne at the Bryan District Office to report on his findings regarding the lanes coming into Plantersville on the west side of FM 1774 & SH 249. He reported that changes had been made to change the incoming lanes from the W of Plantersville to 2 lanes all the way to FM 1774 & SH 105. There is still no turning lane for vehicles to access the business side or to allow residents to make left into their driveways. Mr. Wetuski advised that he spoke with Mr. Bohne again about the lanes and the danger to motorists of the present and future roadway situation. Since TXDOT has the incoming roadway adding a lane, it would be sensible to do it now before construction is started. Now would be the time to make that change now with the project being supplemented and changed.
7. Mr. Holick advised that negotiations would be a good method to address these issues. The accidents, fatalities and traffic incidents should be documented and present those findings to TXDOT for a safer roadway including but not limited to travelers, residents and the community. Traffic and accident dates lowering speed limits, unsafe conditions, etc. He and Ms. Flickinger recommended documentation from all local law enforcement and obtain accident reports. Mr. Wetuski advised the accident at private driveway was on 5/13/19. The document should have all incidents from the beginning of construction until the present. This would include the Dollar General, other businesses and private residents along SH 105.
8. TXDOT does not provide speed zone signs, the city must provide TXDOT with information of what type of sign and where do you want to install it. TXDOT must approve and the approximate blinking signs were around \$5,000 per sign and solar is available. The construction reduced speeds will be provided by the Road Contractor (Knife River) and belongs to the contractor. Mr. Holick recommended contacting local county government with judge, constable, commissioner on board and a formal letter – resolution with a copy to Chad Bohne that would explain the city’s concerns and issues. Ms. Flickinger advised that construction to begin again in 2 weeks and then start other side.
9. Mayor Hale reviewed the formal letter going to TXDOT advising that Plantersville wants to be recognized, informed and included in all future TXDOT planning and projects. This letter will Lance Simmons, Director of Bryan TXDOT; motion made by Alderman Marilyn Bettes with second by Alderman Otis Greenwood, Jr. No discussion. Motion carried.
10. Discussion of ID cards for city officials to identify, confirm and verify the individual with photo and city info. Alderman Frank Dean will research cost and present at later date.
11. Agenda item #7 was skipped unintentionally. Discussion of the letter resolution prepared by Mayor Hale in accordance from prior meeting expressing the urgent need to address the construction zone and unsafe conditions. Mayor Hale read letter resolution that requested lower speed limits to 45 mph and to make this change immediately for safety reasons in the construction zone and in future. Alderman Kristina Keyser Mayton made the motion with second by Alderman Frank Dean. No further discussion. Motion carried.
12. No additional items of community interests.
13. Mayor Karen Hale adjourned the meeting at 8:51 p.m.