

Meeting Minutes  
August 12, 2019

The Board of Alderman of the City of Plantersville, Grimes County, Texas, met in regular session on Monday, August 12, 2019 at 7:05 p.m. at Plantersville Town Hall, 11335 Lodge Lane, Plantersville, Texas.

The following members were present:

*Mayor – Karen Hale*                      *Secretary – Kimberly Allphin*  
*Alderman – Frank Dean*  
*Alderman – Marilyn Bettes*              *Alderman – Otis Greenwood, Jr.*

*Absent - Mayor Pro – Tem – Kristina Keyser Mayton*

Thus, constituting a quorum:

Visitors: Dennis Rock and Johnny McNally.

1. Mayor Karen Hale called the meeting to order at 7:05 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 July 8, 2019 were approved as presented.
3. Public Comments – Dennis Rock asked for an update on the construction status of SH 105 with the recent accidents. He thought the engineers would be at this meeting. Mayor Hale advised that TxDot Representatives were at the last meeting. However, she did have an update to report that would be discussed later as listed on the agenda.
4. There were no invoices currently due.
5. Johnny McNally provided an update on the Chamber of Commerce distributed leaflets regarding the Mid-Year Report. The Chamber has obtained many new members and continue to work closely with promotions, economic development and tourism. The Chamber is providing tours of the city and county for nominal fee with lunch provided. Currently, Harris County is providing transportation for their senior groups to attend. Also, the Chamber will be sponsoring legislative updates from State Representative Ben Leman and a luncheon with the Texas A&M Procurement Manager to learn more about working with the Texas A&M system and doing business with the university. The Chamber is planning Social Media workshop to help businesses promote their services.
6. Alderman Frank Dean provided his report regarding the City ID Cards as requested. He discovered that the County Office had a machine and software to prepare id cards for county employees. He was continuing his research into the possibility of obtaining a Photo Id for the Mayor and Alderman. He will provide additional information at the next meeting.
7. Mayor Karen Hale advised that the Public Information Act and Open Meeting Act Certificates were needed for all elected officials regardless if the classes had been taken previously. Alderman are to provide certificates for the City file, and she would confirm receipt at the next meeting.
8. Mayor Hale also requested that the Alderman provide any changes and/or updates to her as soon as possible for the City website update to bios listed there.
9. Alderman Frank Dean presented initial findings of road signage and traffic speed devices. The signs such as those in Todd Mission are available as electric and/or solar. He has spoken with a company in Louisiana for estimates and costs of similar signs as those in Todd Mission. He will provide additional information at the next meeting.

10. The Budget Hearing and Special Meeting or Workshop Meeting were discussed, the Mayor will prepare the City of Plantersville 2019-2020 Budget per the State statutes. The early posting will be prepared and posted by Mayor Hale with the required public notice in the Examiner. Alderman Kim Allphin made the motion to hold a Public Hearing on Monday, September 9, 2019 at 6 p.m. in Town Hall with the monthly Regular Meeting to be held immediately following the Public Hearing. Alderman Otis Greenwood, Jr. seconded the motion. Motion carried.

11. Alderman Marilyn Bettes made the motion to amend Agenda and combine Item 11 (discussion of SH 249/FM 1774 TX Dot Project) and Item 13 (Community Interest) as it would be difficult to separate the available information as it affects both items. Alderman Otis Greenwood, Jr. seconded the motion. Motion carried. Mayor Hale provided a report from a meeting that was initiated by citizen, Mike Wetuski and TxDOT Area Engineer Chad Bohne with regard to the TxDOT to the TxDOT Construction Projects including SH 249/FM 1774 and SH 105/FM 1774. Mr. Wetuski invited Mayor Hale, Alderman Marilyn Bettes and Alderman Frank Dean to attend along with various citizens and officials. The SH 249/FM 1774 Project will now have 4 overpasses that will help to ensure the safety and traffic control as it proceeds through Grimes County. The community should thank County Judge Fauth, State Representative Ben Leman and State Senator Charles Schwertner for their continued efforts seeking the overpasses that will make travel safer for citizens and all motorists. The SH 249 project is planned to be completed in 2022. Discussion of the SH 105/FM 1774 project was also part of the meeting with emphasis placed on the numerous accidents and the businesses (such as Dollar General Store) that have recently been built and the current plan of lane changes/narrowing. Area Engineer Bohne announced that this situation had been reviewed and changes for travel and traffic safety were being addressed with a turn lane being incorporated and with extending the two lane each way portion. These changes were only possible because actual construction had not begun in that area of the road construction project. Project Engineer Connie Flicklinger advised that the intersection of SH 105/FM 1774 had been restriped and additional barrels added to help with safety of motorists traveling through and in the City of Plantersville. Engineer Ashley Hill is working with the water issues of natural springs along SH 105. She has successfully diverted water in similar construction projects with a construction fabric and feels this will enable the construction process to begin soon to finish this portion of the road. There is no announced completion date currently as there have been multiple delays. TxDOT is waiting for written permission to lower speed limits during construction. A traffic study will be held to analyze speed limits in order to reduce speeds permanently in the city limits for greater safety to all motorists. TxDOT officials advised that the current parking area on the south side of SH105 will be reclaimed by the state, as it has been state property for many years, and will become a green space, with the possibility to be used for drainage, if needed, considering the water problem west of FM1774. The entrance to that area will be a central driveway with a "feeder" road to the businesses. It will be up to the owner(s) and/or business tenants to designate new parking areas for those businesses. Mr. Bohne, at our request, researched other possibilities for this area. The only possibility for the city would be for the city to spend a considerable sum of money for a survey and for maintaining a blanket insurance policy for as long as the state did not reclaim the area as well as taking financial and legal responsibility to police that area, to maintain good drainage, to provide signage, to maintain the road/parking surface and adjacent areas; all at considerable expense and beyond the capability of the city to provide at this time.

12. Mayor Hale reviewed the TML Workshops available to all elected officials and she had additional information if any are interested.

13. No executive session/closed meeting required.

14. Mayor Hale adjourned meeting at 9:00 p.m.