

Meeting Minutes  
October 14, 2019

The Board of Alderman of the City of Plantersville, Grimes County, Texas, met in regular session on Monday, October 14, 2019 at 7:04 p.m. at Plantersville Town Hall, 11335 Lodge Lane, Plantersville, Texas.

The following members were present:

*Mayor – Karen Hale*

*Secretary – Kimberly Allphin*

*Mayor Pro Tem – Kristina Keyser Mayton*

*Alderman – Marilyn Bettes*

*Alderman – Otis Greenwood, Jr.*

*Absent – Alderman – Frank Dean*

Thus, constituting a quorum:

Visitors: None

Guest on Agenda Present: Johnny McNally

1. Mayor Karen Hale called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m. Invocation by Alderman Otis Greenwood, Jr. and Pledge of Allegiance recited.
2. The minutes from the Special Meeting Public Hearing on September 9, 2019 were approved as presented. The minutes from the Regular Meeting on September 9, 2019 were approved as presented.
3. Public Comments – No Public Comments as no visitors present.
4. Mayor Hale asked if Mr. McNally with the Chamber of Commerce ready for presentation. He advised that he needed additional time to set up equipment. Motion made by Alderman Marilyn Bettes to proceed to next item on the agenda and come back to Mr. McNally and Chamber presentation. Alderman Otis Greenwood, Jr. seconded the motion. Motion carried.
5. Mayor Hale advised there were no invoices or payable due at this time.
6. Mayor Hale reviewed the ID card information that Alderman Frank Dean had been researching. She had obtained additional information from County Judge Fauth regarding the ID card system utilized by Grimes County. He advised that the ID cards were encrypted type of cards and the cost would be \$25.00 per card. The information required would be the design of the card, such as how name was to be listed, position, etc. There was discussion regarding the approximate cost as presented by Alderman Dean at prior meeting was \$31.00 per card, ordering it online. Another alternative would be to print out on cardstock with laminating. Alderman Mayton thought the ID cards may not be necessary at this time especially for those that will be up for election in the coming year. Mayor Hale suggested additional research on ID cards. Alderman Bettes suggested the logo from the website to be used on the ID cards if we pursue them. Alderman Kim Allphin moved to table the ID card discussion until the next meeting. Alderman Bettes seconded the motion. Motion carried.
7. A. Continuation from Item 4 on Agenda – Johnny McNally presented the latest happenings at the Chamber of Commerce with Congressman Kevin Brady meeting local businessowners to provide legislative information. Mr. McNally advised he is President with the CETA organization. Central East Texas Alliance (CETA) was formed around 2015 with the corridor route of I-45. The focus area has changed and shifted toward the westward area of Highway 6. The membership has grown in this area. The mission is to promote the region at various economic events. Mr. McNally provided information about membership and asked the City of Plantersville to consider membership in the CETA

organization. The annual membership fee is \$200.00. The funds are used to promote Grimes County and all the membership entities for the benefit of all in the region. Attracting businesses and/or corporations with industry, medical, agricultural operations to the area including the employment and revenue that comes with this type of growth. Mr. McNally will forward more details for review in a PowerPoint presentation. Mr. McNally also remarked that real estate developers are interested in building homes in the range of \$180,000 and above. Unfortunately, there is no interest currently for housing in lower price ranges from developers.

7. B
  - Biographies for website still need to be reviewed and Alderman Dean is still outstanding about this time.
8. Mayor Hale reported that she had received information regarding the Electronic Traffic Speed Signage with the portable units available. Discussion was held with the benefits of portable versus benefits of stationary unit. The portable unit would possibly have higher possibility of theft or damage and the lack of shoulders on roadways would be an issue too. The stationary unit seems to be the best option and continued research will be presented at next meeting.
9. Discussion of participating in the Plantersville Christmas Parade was held, the exact date has not been announced. Mayor Hale has a vehicle that would be available for use in the parade. Alderman Kim Allphin advised that she provide the hot chocolate refreshments again. Alderman Marilyn Bettes would like additional information on the date of function as there were other community events in the county. Mr. McNally advised that he would be glad to include parade information on Chamber announcements, but it would have to be provided tomorrow. Alderman Marilyn Bettes made the motion to participate in the Plantersville Christmas Parade. Alderman Kim Allphin seconded the motion. Motion carried.
10. Mayor Hale discussed the request received from Mr. Terry Standley of the 311 Venue Event Center on County Road 311 to provide an ordinance regarding the speed zone on this road. He stated that he felt this would slow drivers going to the event center and would be a courtesy to his neighbors. Alderman Kim Allphin advised that the county has speed zones of 35 mph posted along with slow down for children. Unfortunately, this is typically ignored by drivers. Contact would have to be made to the County Road & Bridge as to the speed bumps or strips that might be available. Mayor Hale will research the permission required to install and/or purchase. She will report at next meeting.
11. Compensation of Franchise Fees report by Alderman Kristina Keyser Mayton with research of CenturyLink and Mid-South Synergy. Discussion was held that customers are billed in addition as a city fee. Mayor Hale is still researching as those using the right of ways should pay as an operating fee and not pass it on to consumers (residents). Alderman Mayton stated that she felt paying a firm to handle the franchise agreements was unnecessary as the City could research these themselves. Alderman Allphin stated that the advantage of a firm would be there expertise and experience with knowledge of who to contact and pursue obtaining the fees due the City. Yes, there would be initial expense, but it could be worth it for future revenue from the entities. The advantage of a firm specializing in this type of business could be beneficial. Research continues with what a Franchise Fee firm charges, what services are provided and their track record and references.
12. TxDOT project SH249/FM1774 and project SH105/FM1774 was discussed. Mayor Hale advised she had not received a call back to her message for current status and information. Alderman Bettes stated that she had received a reply to her email from the Engineer on project stated that there is no date at this time for work to begin again on SH105/FM1774. The negotiations on the project have taken much longer than anticipated and the issue now is the financial cost. Mayor Hale reminded alderman that the issues continue from the initial of water problems, then material problems and now financial problems.

Traffic issues continue with the intersection of SH105/FM1774 and oncoming traffic turning in the wrong lane with almost head on collisions. Mayor Hale will continue to monitor and report at next meeting.

13. Alderman Kim Allphin reported that she was still waiting for responses from the insurance broker to provide proposals to the Board and City of Plantersville. Additional underwriting information was required. TML provides a risk pool of insurance and Alderman Allphin will contact them for proposal. Research continues to present findings. Alderman Marilyn Bettes made the motion to table the matter until the next meeting. Alderman Otis Greenwood, Jr. seconded the motion. Motion carried.
14. Discussion of Chamber of Commerce Dues 2019 – 2020; Government Entity Annual fee of \$150.00 with \$37.50 for this quarter. Alderman Kim Allphin moved that the membership fee for last quarter of 2019 of \$37.50 and annual 2020 fee of \$150.00, totaling \$187.50 be paid to the Chamber of Commerce. Alderman Marilyn Bettes seconded the motion. Motion carried.
15. Mayor Hale provided information about notices/invitations received from the Brazos County Fair for their rodeo and fair happening in October; notice received for a seminar on solid waste programs; notice of grant writing seminar in College Station/Bryan; workshop in building community in Houston. She also advised that she attended Medicare Workshop and some information was helpful, however it is very complicated and extensive. She has information leaflets if any interested in attending or reviewing.
16. No Executive Session/Closed Meeting required.
17. Mayor Hale adjourned meeting at 8:21 p.m.