

Meeting Minutes
August 10, 2020

The Board of Alderman of the City of Plantersville, Grimes County, Texas, met in regular session on Monday, August 10, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. in 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 and Alderman – Frank Dean

The following members were absent - *Secretary/Alderman – Kimberly Allphin and Alderman – Otis Greenwood*

Thus: constituting a quorum

Visitors: Mr. and Mrs. Tillmans

1. Mayor Karen Hale called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. She gave the invocation, followed by the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance to the U.S. and Texas flags.
2. The Minutes from the regular meeting of July 13, 2020 were read and approved on a motion by Alderman Bettes and a second by Mayor Pro Tem Mayton. All in favor, motion carried. Next, the Minutes from the Workshop meeting of July 27, 2020 were read and approved on a motion by Alderman Bettes and a second by Mayor Pro Tem Mayton. All in favor, motion carried.
3. There were no Public Comments.
4. Mayor Hale reported the only item due and payable is the payment to Plantersville Town Hall for the building usage fee. Alderman Mayton moved to pay the Plantersville Town Hall their fee of \$1,200. Alderman Dean seconded. All in favor, motion carried. Following the approval to pay PTH, Alderman Dean asked for a copy of the budget income to date.
5. Entergy Representative Victor Enmom was introduced and spoke about the franchise and other fees paid by Entergy customers. He stated that expanded bill with additional information can be viewed online. Alderman Bettes questioned how one would know this? The expanded bill lists all charges for consumers. There are different rates including a charge for new meters which have been or are being installed. He stated Entergy has not increased the rates for seven years; each time Entergy requests a raise the consumers vote against it and the PUC has approved the denial. However, riders have increased with PUC approval. There were questions asked that he was not prepared for and he suggested that he come again with more information and examples.

Entergy pays franchise fees to all incorporated cities; it is a fee for rental of the city right of ways. The fees are embedded (or incorporated) in the rate which Entergy charges all customers, whether they are in an incorporated city or not, and is regulated by PUC in accordance with Texas statutes. Cities have no say in the rate Entergy pays for franchise fees. It was noted by Mayor Hale that the City of Plantersville will receive its Franchise Fee from Entergy in September. Entergy no longer delivers the checks, but sends them either directly to the city by mail or does a direct deposit.

Mr. Enmon went on to explain Entergy's plans to build a Substation near the Intersection of FM 1774 and SH 249. The need has been created by the Magellan Pipeline Project which will have greater electrical needs that cannot be supplied from the existing Substation at Dobbin. This will include seven (7) miles of electrical lines from Dobbin to the "to be determined" site in Plantersville. Mr. Enmon will return, with more information, to the September 14 Regular City Meeting.

6. The date for the 2020-2021 Annual Budget Public Hearing was set for 6:00 p.m. on Monday, September 14 per a motion by Alderman Mayton and a second by Alderman Dean. All in favor, motion carried. The information will be posted on the City website. The room will be set up to

accommodate 25 people with six (6) foot spaces indicated by tape on the floor. Masks will be required for guests.

7. There was discussion about whether to advertise for a new Official Depository or remain with our current bank. Local Government Code allows for a city to retain the same Official Depository for up to 5 years before advertising for a new one. Alderman Mayton moved that we keep the same Official Depository until the 5 year time limit is up with a second from Alderman Bettes. Mayor Hale commented that no change at this time, means no additional expenses to the City. All in favor, motion carried.
8. The City is required to have a Financial Audit. At the August meeting Mayor Hale was directed to contact Diane Phillips, a local accountant who prepares tax returns. She does not do Municipal Audits, but recommended the firm of McCall, Gibson, Swedlund, Barfoot, PLLC, a company with whom she has worked. Mayor Hale contacted the firm who agreed to prepare our Audit; however, the company would not quote a cost until the work is completed. Alderman Bettes moved to proceed, Alderman Mayton seconded. All in favor, motion carried.
9. At the August meeting there was discussion regarding the fees for Public Information Requests. Mayor Hale reported there is an example of a form on the Attorney General's website.
10. Identification (ID) badges have been discussed several times. Alderman Mayton has researched several options with varying prices. She brought samples from a company that charges \$3.50 per badge plus shipping. With minor changes to the sample, Alderman Dean moved to order the badges, Alderman Bettes seconded. All in favor, motion carried.
11. Business Permit Ordinances and Applications were discussed again as Alderman Dean was not present for the Workshop Meeting discussion. He raised several questions previously discussed at that meeting. Mayor Hale explained that one primary reason was to identify "all" businesses within Plantersville. The topic will be on the September Agenda.
12. Peddler Permit Ordinance and Applications were discussed again. Alderman Dean asked for clarification of definitions and questioned the Sales Tax Permit Laws as it applied to Peddlers. The item will be on the September Agenda.
13. As there is need for additional information on both the Business Permits and Peddler Permits as well as City Planning, a Workshop Session was set for Wednesday, August 26 at 6:00 p.m. The motion was made by Alderman Mayton with a second from Alderman Dean. All in favor, motion carried.
14. Community Interest Items – Alderman Bettes reported on a conversation with Ashley Hill, P.E., Area Engineer, TxDOT. Once again, Alderman Bettes was told the equipment should be brought in during this week and work should begin soon thereafter. CETA (Central East Texas Alliance) held a virtual conference last week. Of particular interest was that Hearne has recently joined the Alliance which now includes all cities on the proposed medical corridor route from Houston to Waco.
15. No Executive Session/Closed Meeting needed.
16. No Action Necessary.
17. Meeting Adjourned at 8:33 p.m.

Approved:

Attest:

Karen Hale, Mayor

Kimberly Allphin, Secretary

Date

Date

(The Minutes were submitted by Alderman Bettes in the absence of the Secretary Kimberly Allphin)