

Meeting Minutes
June 10, 2019

The Board of Alderman of the City of Plantersville, Grimes County, Texas, met in regular session on Monday, June 10, 2019 at 7:00 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 – Frank Dean

Alderman – Marilyn Bettes

The following members were absent:

Alderman – Otis Greenwood Jr

Thus, constituting a quorum:

1. Mayor Karen Hale called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. The invocation was given by Alderman Kimberly Allphin and the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag and Texas Flag were recited.
2. The minutes from May 13, 2019 were approved as presented.
3. Dave Tullos addressed the city alderman and mayor with public comment recommending the re-activation of the 391 Commission Project for Grimes County. The 391 planning commissions come from Chapter 391 of the Texas Local Government Code and authorizes local governments to create commissions that can “make studies and plans to guide the unified development of a region, eliminating duplication, and promote economy and efficiency Central Texas. The 391 commissions can be used to coordinate the region’s future development, they can also be used to coordinate fights against state and federal projects.” Dave also advised that the planning commission is much more important in Grimes County as we have so many needs, increasing population, and plans should be prepared now. He thanked the group for allowing him to present this valuable information and would appreciate the city’s support.
4. Clay Godfrey presented the invoice for the City of Plantersville web site in the amount of \$145.52. Frank Dean made a motion to pay the invoice as presented with second by Marilyn Bettes. Check was issued and bill paid in full. Clay also offered his continued service monitoring the city website and keeping it current and updated as a volunteer.
5. There were no additional invoices or items currently due and payable.
6. Discussion was held regarding the City of Plantersville’s commitment for the upcoming 125th Birthday Bash for the Courthouse in Anderson on Saturday, June 15, 2019. Mayor Karen Hale and Alderman Marilyn Bettes contacted Johnny McNally for additional details for the event. The City will provide and serve lemonade at the event. City Alderman Kimberly Allphin donated lemonade and dispensers, Alderman Otis Greenwood, Jr. donated cups, Alderman Kristina Keyser Mayton donated cooler and ice. Alderman Kristina Keyser Mayton had contacted all local eateries and the menus provided, the leaflets with city history and the maps of the city that would be handed out to boost interest in the city. Schedule for work times discussed and outlined for the mayor and city alderman at the event. Alderman Kristina Keyser Mayton advised the 2 wall maps were being prepared for the City of Plantersville from the county office. Also, additional maps may be available as a .pdf file.
7. Mike Wetuski was not available for update on TxDOT SH 105/FM 1774 project and highway progress with intersection of FM 1774 and State Hwy 105.

8. Discussion of the unsafe conditions, confusing markers and traffic barrels, lowering of speed limits and accidents of the TxDOT project SH 105/FM 1774. General discussion of the lack of response and cooperation of the TxDOT officials and supervisors of the project. These matters were all previously addressed by city officials to TxDOT officials at a prior city meeting. Motion made by Frank Dean to send a formal letter to all state and county officials expressing the City of Plantersville request to lower all speed limits to maximum of 55 mph in the city limits and Emergency situation. Discussion of Motion - Alderman Marilyn Bettes and Mayor Karen Hale discussed the urgent need to address the Emergency situation and then work on the permanent lowering of speed limits later. Mayor Hale also suggested that a formal notice in the form of a certified letter that TxDOT that we are a city and that they need to coordinate with the city any work involving TxDOT in the city limits of Plantersville.
9. Alderman Frank Dean amended the motion that a certified, formal letter be sent to TxDOT officials at state and region level be informed that we are a city and all work done within the city limits must be coordinated with the City of Plantersville, and in the letter express the urgent need to address the Emergency situation with current road construction at the intersection, the unsafe conditions for traffic with confusing markers, traffic barrels and work zone speed limits. Alderman Marilyn Bettes seconded. Motion carried.
10. Alderman Marilyn Bettes requested a carbon copy of the TxDOT Emergency situation letter be sent to all state and local agencies as it concerns the dangerous road conditions that affect the local citizens, the First Responders, Law Enforcement, individuals traveling through our community. Alderman Kimberly Allphin seconded. No discussion. Motion carried.
11. Alderman Kimberly Allphin made a motion to table item 9 on the agenda the TxDOT project SH249/FM1774 at this time. Alderman Marilyn Bettes seconded. No discussion. Motion carried.
12. Sales Tax Discussion and Update – Mayor Karen Hale reported that the sales tax deposit should be made on the 2nd Friday per the Texas Comptroller’s Office. Also, the comptroller’s office sent an update list to the City of Plantersville to add businesses to the list that are in our zip code and remove businesses that are not in the city limits. Discussion of the sales tax revenue generated by local services such as trash disposal, telephone, etc. Additional research is necessary for the correct identification of businesses in the city limits.
13. Mayor Karen Hale requested that all alderman complete the emergency contact numbers, mailing addresses, email addresses for her file records. Also, each alderman is to provide updated bio for website if changes are desired to current listing and a new bio for Alderman Dean.
14. Mayor Hale reminded that all officials need to complete the required training Public information act and Open meeting act within 90 days. The certificates of completion are required and need to be given to Mayor Hale for record keeping and confirmation. Online training and TML Workshops available.
15. Franchise fees for the use of city right of ways is under continued research.
16. The Engine Brake – Jake Brake / Noise Abatement possible ordinances seems to be contingent on the city having a city court for enforcement and city law enforcement. The ordinance must be enforced and fees charged, possibly the Justice of the Peace would handle these matters. Additional research is required.
17. Community Interest Item of Highway Beautification and Billboard advertising, research through TxDOT with the procedures and guidelines would be needed.
18. Mayor Karen Hale adjourned the meeting at 8:51 p.m.