

Regular Meeting Minutes—City of Plantersville
October 16, 2023

The Board of Aldermen of the City of Plantersville, Grimes County, Texas, met in regular session at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, August 21, 2023, in Town Hall, 11335 Lodge Lane, Plantersville, Texas.

Members Present:

Karen Hale, Mayor	Frank Dean, Alderman
Kim Allphin, Mayor Pro-Tem	Carolyn Kurten, Alderman
Marilyn Bettles, Alderman, Secretary	Otis Greenwood, Alderman
Frank Dean, Alderman	

Visitors: Shawna McElfish, David Tullos, Tanya Walters, Raymond Miller, Anthony Mock, Gail Kuciuba, Jessica Bomar, Brock Romero

1. Call to Order: Quorum established. Mayor Hale called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. The invocation was given by Alderman Otis Greenwood with pledges led by Mayor Hale.
2. Minutes: September 28, 2023
Motion to Approve: Alderman Allphin
Second: Alderman Bettles
Voting: Yes: Unanimous
Final Resolution: Motion carries

Minutes: October 12, 2023
Motion to Approve: Alderman Allphin
Second: Alderman Greenwood
Voting: Yes: Unanimous
Final Resolution: Motion carries
3. Public Comments: None
4. Invoices and items currently due and payable.
Discussion: Mayor Hale reviewed the invoices
Action – Motion to Approve: Alderman Dean
Second: Alderman Greenwood
Voting: Yes: Unanimous
Final Resolution: Motion carries
5. Discuss/consider/approve: Mayor Hale introduced Shawna McElfish, Grantworks to explain status of Texas DOA CBDG 2023-24 project. What happened, what was submitted –May 21-22—application for drainage and road surface, CR 203, door to door survey GrantWorks questioned households qualify or not—rescinded and resubmitted 2023-2024. Again, not all qualified households were contacted and the grant was again disqualified. Admittedly, the fault of errors on behalf of GrantWorks who has now redesigned the department and the process used because of their lack of responsibility in performing necessary surveys. The fee for MIT MOD project has been reduced from \$35,500 to \$25,000 and the ARPA fee has been refunded (\$1,240.00) as of October.
Discussion: Mayor Hale responded that she questioned if the second survey even happened—no calls, no communication from Grantworks. Whole process was a disappointment since we had been assured that all was in order for approval and receipt of grant. Kim questioned the whole process. The spokesperson verified that all paperwork submitted by the city was in order for the GLO CDBG MIT MOD project.
6. Discuss/consider/approve: The GrantWorks spokesperson verified that all paperwork was in order for the GLO CDBG MIT MOD project.

7. Discuss/consider/approve: Fuch Family MUD District and Subdivision: GC Commissioner David Tullos
Discussion: Property located at FM 1774/ SH 249. Update on MUD request. Originally, submitted to the State Legislature for approval, but never came up for vote. Their next step was to reapply through the Legislature or apply through the TECQ. Commissioner Tullos redirected his conversation to the property owned by the Fuch/Knighten Family which is within the Plantersville City Limits and ETJ. A meeting was held with the family representatives, NewQuest Properties, History Maker Homes, County Judge Joe Fauth, Commissioner Tullos, and 2 members of Grimes County Road and Bridge. Plantersville adopted the Subdivision Guidelines as set forth by the county. The Fuch/Knighten Family is requesting a variance where all lot sizes would be changed from 60' width to 40' for 449 homes and 50' for 297 homes in the 345 acre development. They are also requesting that street width, including curb and gutters, be reduced from 30' to 28' width. The issue then becomes one of safety—parking, school buses, emergency vehicles, etc cannot pass if there are cars parked along the streets. The whole request circumvents and dilutes the adopted City and County Subdivision Rules and sets a precedence to for requests to by-pass the designated standards for all subsequent subdivisions. It was decided that the Mayor and Board of Alderman submit a brief letter to Commissioners' Court stating that we are not in favor of allowing variances to the City of Plantersville and Grimes County Subdivision Rules that would set an unwanted precedence to allow for future changes.
Motion to Approve: Alderman Dean
Second: Alderman Allphin
Voting: Unanimous
Final Resolution: Motion carries (The letter was written October 16, 2023, during the meeting and signed by the Mayor and all Aldermen.)
8. Discuss/consider/approve: Cybersecurity Awareness Training Assessment of Knowledge (Test)
All are required to complete training and submit completion forms (Frank Dean and Otis Greenwood have not submitted.)
9. Discuss/consider/approve: Interlocal Agreement with Todd Mission for Renaissance Festival Traffic Control
Discussion: Carolyn Kurten questioned why this was needed? Why should Plantersville be involved? Mayor Hale called on local Fireman in audience for opinion—he sided against the Resolution
Action: Motion to Table: Alderman Kurten
Second: Frank Dean
Discussion: Alderman Allphin questioned who would be patrolling the area; reviewed Todd Mission: City Manager proposal; Alderman Greenwood questioned benefit to City
Voting: In favor—Alderman Allphin, Alderman Dean. Alderman Greenwood, Alderman Kurten
Opposed—Alderman Bettes
Final Resolution: Yes
10. Discuss/consider/approve: Amendment to Ordinance 07-18C, Rules of Procedure: Section 2. Notice of Meeting.
Discussion: First discussed several months ago; placed on the Agenda because Mayor Hale thought our Attorney would be present at this meeting.
Action: Motion to Approve: Alderman Dean moved to Table the item until Art Pertile could be present for the discussion.
Second: Alderman Kurten
Voting: Yes: Unanimous
Final Resolution: Motion carries
11. Discuss/consider/approve: Resolution Regarding Procedure of Requesting Attendance of Legal Counsel at Meetings.
Discussion: Resolution 40-23, as written by Attorney Pertile, legal counsel will attend a meeting when requested by the Mayor or with a majority of the Board request.
Action: Motion to Approve: Alderman Dean

Second: Alderman Greenwood
Voting: Yes: Unanimous
Final Resolution: Motion carries

12. Discuss/consider/approve: Walking Quorum Explanation by City Attorney
Discussion: Since Attorney Pertile was unable to attend tonight’s meeting, the topic will be carried over to next meeting.
13. Discuss: Treats on a Dirt Street: Thursday, October 26, 2023, 6:00 to 8:00 pm.
Discussion: Alderman Dean asked if he was specifically needed? Multiple volunteers are needed. Constable Jarvis plans to attend. Lights and Port-a-Cans are ordered. If more space needed, DPWSC volunteered their parking lot. Aldermen Dean, Bettes, Allphin, Greenwood, Hale, Kurten to attend. Photo opportunity for all.
14. Discuss/consider/approve: Transfer some money from General and Reserve Accounts to interest bearing accounts (possibly to other banks)
Discussion: Mayor feels the City has too much money in non-interest bearing accounts.
Action: Motion to Approve: Alderman Bettes moved that significant amount of funds be moved to higher interest bearing accounts. Alderman Dean recommended Money Market. Mayor Hale will investigate options and bring back information at next meeting.
Second: Alderman Greenwood
Voting: Yes: Unanimous
Final Resolution: Motion carries
15. Discuss: PSVFD Report: Regular report regarding calls, vehicles in service and number of active/inactive volunteer fire personnel. Breakfast Tacos Fundraiser for Gary Ponton raised \$1500. There was a “Fill the Bucket” fundraiser at Intersection of FM 1774 and SH 249 primarily utilizing the traffic going to Renaissance Festival. Approximately \$2000 first weekend. That activity will continue until the end of November. The 45th Annual Bazaar planning has begun. The Christmas Party date is to be determined.
16. Board Update discussion: Items of community interest (no action may be discussed, except to put on an agenda).
2023-2024 PROPOSED BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING: November 20, 2023 at 6:00 PM
Fall Festivals at Anderson/Shiro Elementary and High Point Elementary
National Night Out—October 28
Plantersville Christmas Parade—December 2
Plantersville Town Hall Christmas Lighting and visit with Santa/Mrs. Claus—November 19—5:30
17. Executive Session/Closed Meeting: None
18. No Action Taken Executive Session/Closed Meeting: None
19. Mayor Hale adjourned the meeting at 8:41 p.m.

Approved

Attest

Karen Hale, Mayor

Marilyn Bettes, Secretary

Date: _____

Date: _____