

Regular Meeting Minutes – City of Plantersville
June 14, 2021

The Board of Alderman of the City of Plantersville, Grimes County, Texas, met in regular session on Monday, June 14, 2021 in Plantersville Lodge, 11335 Lodge Lane, Plantersville, Texas.

Members Present:

Karen Hale, Mayor
Kristina Keyser Mayton, Alderman Mayor Pro Tem
Kimberly Allphin, Alderman Secretary
Marilyn Bettes, Alderman
Frank Dean, Alderman
Otis Greenwood, Jr., Alderman

Visitors present Norma Legge, Bobbye Legge, Stewart Legge, Carolyn Kurten, Dave Tullos, Dorothy Tullos, David Tullos, Tanya Walters, John Greenwood, Caryn Seale, Sandra Kuta, Leon Bruner, Sandy Bruner, Julee Kuta, Johnny McNally, and Lance Simmons

1. Call to Order: Quorum was established. Mayor Karen Hale called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m. Alderman Greenwood led the invocation with pledges recited.
2. Minutes: Regular Meeting Minutes from May 10, 2021
Motion to Approve: Alderman Marilyn Bettes
Second: Alderman Otis Greenwood, Jr.
Voting Yes: Unanimous
Final Resolution: Motion carries
3. Public Comments: David Tullos, Stewart Legge, Carolyn Kurten, Sandra Kuta,
4. Invoices and items currently due and payable: TML Insurance Risk Pool for insurance renewal term 2021 – 2022 \$1,035.80 (Budgeted Item)
Discussion: None
Action – Motion: Alderman Kimberly Allphin to pay renewal invoice as presented.
Second: Alderman Marilyn Bettes
Voting: Yes: Unanimous
Final Resolution: Motion carries
5. Presentation and discussion by Johnny McNally regarding CETA – Central East Texas Alliance. Mr. McNally serves as President of CETA and information provided included the additional corporate sponsorships, the positive input and success of programs throughout the local area and the municipalities in the region. He advised that a few of the projects include new civic facilities, renovations, creating rural economic development and the Texas Biomedical Corridor with completion of SH 249 through Grimes County.

Mr. McNally reviewed the status of SH 249 with progress currently at the FM 1774/SH 249 intersection, the completion of bridges toward the west connection at SH 105. The planned

routes concerning County Road 304 and County Road 306 with connection merging on SH 105 for westbound traffic toward Navasota. A new project is being studied by TX Dot that may affect Northern Grimes County with SH 30 heading toward Huntsville and eastward toward Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama future Interstate 14. This is initial study phase with multiple areas being considered for route.

6. SH 105/FM 1774 Tx Dot Project

Discussion: P.E. District Project Engineer, Lance Simmons provided information on SH 105 and FM 1774 project. He advised that the intersection project was nearly complete with final adjustments of traffic flow in process. Alderman Allphin inquired about the requested center turn lane the City had requested for the dangerous road conditions when traffic stopped by left turning vehicle. Mr. Simmons advised that the supplement of adding the center turn lane will begin shortly. The added center lane begins at the concrete median westward on SH 105 and will continue past the Dollar General Store. The addition of this turn lane should allow traffic to safely turn left into private drives and businesses providing safer conditions for residents and traffic passing through the City. Discussion was held regarding the previous traffic study that had been in progress for the City prior to SH 105/FM 1774 intersection construction as the higher speed limits are extremely dangerous for slowing vehicles, turning vehicles, and intersecting driveways with SH 105/FM1774. Mr. Simmons advised that the request for traffic study reactivation can be requested at this time, and he will initiate the study. He agrees that lower speed limits are proven to save lives and prevent accidents.

Action: Mayor Hale requested traffic study begin as soon as possible.

Mr. Simmons expanded on the projects of FM1774/SH 249 and the frontage roads in this area.

Discussion: In response to question from audience member, he advised that advertising on state roadways is handled by a third party. The third-party contacts local businesses regarding advertising and costs involved. Alderman Mayton inquired about the lighting on SH249 at both FM1774 and FM1488 areas, these are extremely dark without proper roadway lighting. Mr. Simmons noted that this is part of the Houston District Tx Dot office, and he will contact them to review. Alderman Dean asked about the Tx Dot Highway Beautification Department guidelines and procedures. Mr. Simmons noted that this is handled through his office in Bryan and provided contact information. Alderman Bettes inquired about signage on private property and the guidelines regarding this matter now that the road construction will be completed at SH105 and FM1774 in reference to the prior billboard with local church information that had to be dismantled and removed. Mr. Simmons would investigate and advise his findings.

7. 2021-2022 Community Development Fund, Community Development Block Grant, TxCDBG Community Development Fund:

Discussion: Mayor Hale advised that the Grant Application has been submitted to TDA and results will probably be announced in September 2021 according to the latest correspondence with Grantworks and TDA.

Action: None

8. Road Maintenance and Status of County Roads within City Limits:

Discussion: Mayor Hale explained that state grants can only be utilized on roadways that meet the state guidelines concerning proper width, easement, right-of-way, etc. Mayor Hale and

GCR&B Supervisor Walker have inspected multiple roadways within the city limits and discovered there is a lack of necessary road right-of-way/easement area to provide proper drainage. It would not be advantageous to attempt major repairs of city roadways until current drainage issues are resolved. This must be corrected prior to roadway repair and maintenance as any road work would be destroyed with weather issues as seen this past year. The clarification of City of Plantersville Road Maintenance and Road Repair procedures were reviewed again with reference to information posted on the city website for residents to utilize to request city road repairs, maintenance, and concerns. Alderman Greenwood concurred that steps must be taken in a comprehensive plan to provide the city with passable roads and ensure the safety of travelers as weather conditions in the past several months have created more damage than could have been expected.

Mayor Hale provided in detail the procedures required with all cities in Grimes County except the City of Navasota - the Intra Local Agreement in place Grimes County Road and Bridge. The repair of roads and streets within the city limits is included in this agreement and reports are to be addressed to Mayor Hale by telephone or email. Email is preferred so the issue can be documented and resolved. The scheduling and installation of materials, repairs, and work to be done is handled solely by the Grimes County Road & Bridge. The city has no control over the scheduling and timing provided by GCR&B. This is strictly provided by GCR&B department and with the massive damage throughout the county with freeze, massive amounts of water and rainfall, the needed repairs throughout the county are being addressed at this time.

Mayor Hale advised there has been no declined or denied repair based on costs as this is a budgeted item in the city budget for road repair and maintenance. There has been misinformation and confusion regarding this matter on social media and many attempts have been made to clarify and correct. Audience member advised that email had been received noting the repair work is scheduled by the city when and where it will be completed. Mayor Hale asked for the document to be forwarded to her as this would be investigated and addressed with GCR&B Supervisor Walker.

Alderman Dean expressed possible survey be obtained with all roadways and mileage for future reference. Mayor Hale advised that this expense is financed with the grant research engineers and the roadway study to determine if required road width, right of ways and other qualifying factors are in place. Alderman Greenwood advised that he traveled the city roadways and knows firsthand the conditions and washouts. He recommended a city campaign to notify citizens of the needed right of way and required ditch area to proceed with repairs. Mayor Hale stated that in addition many driveways must meet requirements of culverts to ensure ditch drainage be successful. Landowners are responsible for providing necessary culverts which R&B will install. R&B will use the excavated dirt to cover over the culvert once it is in place. Any extra covering materials desired by the landowner must be provided by the landowner.

Action – None

9. Board update/Discussion and Items of Community Interest:

Board update/Discussion – city emails and invalid address error messages are being received by Alderman Greenwood. Alderman Allphin asked that city email addresses and options through City of Plantersville secure website be placed on agenda for further discussion and review.

Alderman Greenwood announced that on Thursday nights a Youth night was being held that was open to all children & youth in the community with fun activities, snacks, meal from 7 pm to 8:30 pm.

Food distribution to be held Thursday at the Relay Event Center

Freedom Festival to be held 4th of July at event center on Co Rd 313 with music from national recording artists, gospel groups from area and fireworks. Tickets are available from Alderman Greenwood at cost of \$10.00 each.

Jollisant Farms, local resident Larry Jollisant was interviewed by tv station KBTX with crop of blackberries available to pick your own. The location listed with hours of operation in Plantersville.

United States Army Birthday today.

10. Executive Session/Closed Meeting: None required

11. No Action Taken

12. Mayor Hale adjourned the meeting at 9:02 p.m.

Approved

Attest

Karen Hale, Mayor

Kimberly Allphin, Secretary

Date: 07/12/2021

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