Regular Meeting Minutes—City of Plantersville

November 18, 2024

The Board of Aldermen of the City of Plantersville, Grimes County, Texas, met at 6:30 p.m.

p.m. on Monday, November 18, 2024, in Town Hall, 11335 Lodge Lane, Plantersville, Texas.

Members Present:

Karen Hale, Mayor Sonya Brewer, Alderman

Kim Allphin, Mayor Pro-Tem John Greenwood, IV, Alderman

Marilyn Bettes, Alderman, Secretary Dedrick Mallard, Alderman

Visitors:  Rachel LaSota, Trenia Collins, Chuck Collins, Brock Romero, Lisa Williamson, Suzan Jones, Kristi Bomar, Avery Sheffield, Jeremy Sheffield, Mandi Johnson, Jessica Bomar, Linda Eppley, Kathy Caves Wells, Herb Williams, David Tullos, Tanya Tullos, Bridgette Begle (City Attorney)

1. Call to Order: Quorum established. Mayor Hale called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. The

Invocation was given by Alderman Kim Allphin followed by the pledges led by Mayor Hale.

2. Minutes of Regular Meeting held on October 21, 2024

**Motion to Approve:** Alderman Greenwood

**Second:** Alderman Allphin

**Voting:** Yes: Unanimous

**Final Resolution:** Motion carries

3. Public Comments: Mayor Hale reminded speakers of a two (2) minute time limit.

**Brock Romero** stated his understanding from the last City Meeting was that the Plantersville Stoneham Volunteer Fire Department (PSVFD) was strong-arming the City by stating there was no contract to provide service to the City and they were requesting $5000 for a contract. He stated he took it upon himself to investigate the county rules/regulations. He has copy of PSVFD Bylaws which states the purpose of the PSVFD is provide service to all residents of Plantersville, Stoneham and surrounding areas. Under PSVFD Articles of Incorporation which came from the county (1977), Article 4 states will provide services to Plantersville and surrounding areas; to raise funds may have fundraisers and accept contributions. Mayor stated time had expired. His final comment was that PSVFD has to follow all Bylaws and Articles of Incorporation.

**Commissioner David Tullos** said county is not allowed to enter into a contract for fire services in an incorporated area and that it is necessary for the city to enter into a contract with PSVFD for such services. He stated his approval of the City efforts to establish a contract with the PSVFD and would be available to answer any future questions regarding the issue.

**Herb Williams** stated Article 5 of the Articles of Incorporation stated there would be four (4) members on the Board of Directors, He stated there are currently ten (10) and then asked if the Articles of Incorporation had changed? He challenged that the Articles had not been changed and that made the current board invalid to lead the department. He stated that he had no problem with the contract, but specific response criteria, etc. needed to be stated. Formerly several volunteers lived near the station which allowed for quicker response time—why no one nearby now?

4.  Discuss/consider/approve:  Items to be placed on future agendas

Alderman Brewer requested a review of the City’s Rules and Procedures

5. Discuss/consider/approve: Payment of invoices and items currently due and payable

Discussion:  Alderman Allphin stated she did not receive the list, neither did Aldermen Brewer or Bettes. Mayor Hale stated that all information was sent to each Alderman in the packet. For whatever reason, several did not receive the information. She passed around the list of invoices and said council would come back to this item after all had the opportunity to review the invoices.

**Motion to Approve:** Alderman Brewer

**Second:** Alderman Greenwood

**Voting:**  Unanimous

**Final Resolution:**  Motion carries

21. Discuss/consider/approve: Treats on a Dirt Street….In an effort to move along Agenda more quickly, this Item was moved up. Alderman Allphin chaired the event and passed out notes:

Location of the two PSVFD fire trucks at the entrance to the street was extremely helpful; there were not as many “candy” participants, however, there was plenty of candy for the approximately 200 children who participated. Those who attended felt it was a success and should be continued in the future.

6. No one was present for the PSVFD Report

**7.** Discuss/consider/approve: resolutionauthorizing the submission of a Texas Community Development Block Grant Program application to the Texas Department of Agriculture for the Community Development Fund 25-26

**Motion to Approve:** Alderman Allphin

**Second:** Alderman Mallard

**Voting:**  Unanimous

**Final Resolution:**  Motion carries

8. Discuss/consider/approve: Equal Employment Opportunity Policy/Affirmative Action Policy

**Motion to Approve:** Alderman Allphin

**Second:** Alderman Greenwood

**Voting:**  Unanimous

**Final Resolution:**  Motion carries

9. Discuss/consider/approve:  CDBG MIT MOD Grant (Old Schoolhouse Road Project)-open separate bank account, an interest-bearing account if available at our designated depository.

**Discussion:** Mayor Hale explained that TDA prefers the City of Plantersville have a separate account for them to deposit grant funds into; this action authorizes the Mayor to open the account at the City’s designated depository (signers: Karen Hale, Kim Allphin, Marilyn Bettes).

**Motion to Approve:** Alderman Greenwood

**Second:** Alderman Brewer

**Voting:**  Unanimous

**Final Resolution:**  Motion carries

1. *(Attorney Begle asked Mayor if she wanted to discuss* ***Item 14: PSVFD Emergency Services contract: fee for service*** *before going into Closed Session since all visitors would have to leave the building for the Closed Session:* Mayor Hale reported that the PSVFD had not approved the contract as of now and had extended the deadline from November 30 until February 9.

10. **Temporary Adjournment of Open Meeting at 7:23 p.m.** to go into Executive Session for discussion of employment matters

**Regular Meeting called back to order: 9:42 p.m.**

11. Discuss/Consider/Approve:  contract for ARPA road materials

Discussion: Mayor Hale received 2 bids—Waller County Asphalt and Vulcan Materials Company. Alderman Brewer had questions regarding quality of materials. Alderman Mallard also questioned the type of materials. Mayor Hale stated that the recommendation from Grimes County Engineer was to use Waller County Asphalt products. County will do the labor; some work will include resurfacing of roads. The grant has to be ordered and invoiced for by December.

**Motion to Approve:** Alderman Greenwood

**Second:** Alderman Allphin

**Voting:** Unanimous

**Final Resolution:** Motion carries

12. Discuss/Consider/Approve:  RV Park Ordinance

Discussion: Alderman Allphin questioned what this ordinance was covering—she thought it was only referring to parks, not the actual vehicles. Alderman Greenwood said he also had questions about some of the specifications. Alderman Mallard spoke up, stating that we have to get the RV Parks stopped as soon as possible. *Attorney Begle stated Rules/Regulations must be posted.*

**Motion to Approve:** Alderman Greenwood moved to approve the Ordinance as long as it only references RV Parks; RV’s towable by a two-axle truck; amend Section 6, 3a—change to two (2) year standards to be compliant; all property boundary lines must have a 6 ft. privacy fence.

**Second:** Alderman Mallard

**Voting:** Unanimous

**Final Resolution:** Motion carries

13. Discuss/Consider/Approve:  permitting for underground and overhead ROW projects

Discussion: Mayor talked with City Engineer who said to change wording to “Contract with a separate agreement with the City Engineer”. Kim researched fees and larger cities offer contractor fees (could be individual or company permit fees). It was explained that this permit is for large utility companies, such as Entergy and Brightspeed.

**Motion to Approve:** Alderman Greenwood (update City of Plantersville contact information)

**Second:** Alderman Mallard

**Voting:** Unanimous

**Final Resolution:** Motion carries

15. Discuss/Consider/Approve: City Office move in, purchases, and particulars

Discussion: Various items will need to be purchased prior to move-in

**Motion to Approve:** Alderman Greenwood moved to purchase necessary items, not to exceed budgeted amount

**Second:** Alderman Allphin

**Voting:** Unanimous

**Final Resolution:** Motion carries

16. Discuss/Consider/Approve: allocate funds for investment in interest bearing account

Discussion: Is there an amount—Alderman Greenwood suggested keeping $150,000-$200,000 in local account and move the remainder to the investment account. The Mayor was previously authorized to transfer the funds to the investment account; therefore, no further action needed.

17. Discuss/Consider/Approve:  road maintenance

Discussion: Nothing to bring forth

18. Discuss/Consider/Approve:  pamphlet for citizens

Discussion: No final copy has been presented; therefore, nothing on which to vote. Address proposed pamphlet at next meeting.

19. Discuss/Consider/Approve: city/community meeting schedule

Discussion: Postpone discussion until December meeting.

20. Discuss/Consider/Approve: Municipal Court formation

Discussion: Research needed; Todd Mission ~~does~~ not seem to be an option; no other cities are contiguous.

23. Items of community interest (no action may be discussed, except to put on an agenda)

November 21—Stoneham Bunch Dinner

November 22—Plantersville Town Hall Christmas Gift of Lights; Santa and Mrs. Claus— 6-7 p.m.; Lighting Ceremony-7 p.m.

December 7—Plantersville Christmas Parade

December 7—PSVFD Christmas Dinner at 5:00 p.m.

**Closed Session**

24.  The Aldermen may meet in closed session pursuant to the Texas Government Code Chapter 551\*\* **See Item 10**

**Open Session**

25**.** Return to open meeting:  take action on items discussed in closed session

**See Item 10** There was no action taken concerning the Executive/Closed Session.

26. Mayor Hale adjourned the meeting at 10:33 pm

Approved: Attest:

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Karen Hale, Mayor Marilyn Bettes, Secretary

Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_