

Meeting Minutes - Corrected
January 13, 2020

The Board of Alderman of the City of Plantersville, Grimes County, Texas, met in regular session on Monday, January 13, 2020 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

Alderman – Frank Dean

Alderman – Marilyn Bettes

Alderman – Otis Greenwood, Jr.

Absent - Mayor Pro – Tem – Kristina Keyser Mayton

Thus, constituting a quorum:

Visitors: Mrs. Delisa Greenwood and Grimes County Commissioner David Dobyanski

1. Mayor Karen Hale called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Invocation by Alderman Kimberly Allphin and Pledge of Allegiance recited.
2. The minutes from December 9, 2019 were approved as presented.
3. Public Comments – No Public Comments
4. Grimes County Commissioner David Dobyanski provided an update with the current and future projects for the county. This includes the initiating a Road & Bridge Department for the county with an office location in Iola. There will be personnel at that location to better serve the northern portion of the county. Also, Grimes County purchased acreage on FM 2445 and will be moving the Road & Bridge Department that is currently in Stoneham to the FM 2445 location as it is much bigger and allows for additional equipment and materials to be stored there. This project should be complete with the new building and facilities in June 2020. Commissioner Dobyanski advised that training crews with the University of Texas out of Arlington are providing instruction and techniques in water drainage to the Road & Bridge Department. This is provided without fee to better train the Road & Bridge workers. The construction of the new Grimes County Justice and Business Center broke ground recently. Construction should begin within the near future and the budget is 10.455 Million dollars. The funds for this project are already secured so there will be no tax to the county residents. The facility should be fully paid for with the budget in place. Collier Construction from Brenham was awarded the contract. The county completed additional road paving in 2019 and are planning to continue this pattern in 2020. An outside company was hired to pave the county roads to the Navasota Industrial Park. The paving required and necessary is outside the scope of the county equipment (to provide secure roadways for the 18 wheelers, heavier traffic loads, and so on). Commissioner Dobyanski stated that he had spoken with the TxDOT Supervisor on the SH249/FM174 Project and that it is on schedule for the eastern portion to be completed by mid-summer 2020. Currently, they are working on 4 bridges (there will be 17 bridges in all). The projection date for completion to Hwy 105 is 2023. The county plans to review the Strategic Plan with a workshop next week, it has been 5 years since the prior Strategic Plan. There have been many projects completed such as the 800 Radio System for all law and fire departments in the county. This allows a single dedicated line of communication in case of a disaster and/or wildfire situation. Regarding high speed internet service, the BBCog is still working to provide rural service in the county areas and Synergy has reached out to its customer base to possibly offer internet. Commissioner Dobyanski advised that a satellite type of internet with towers are being constructed and installed with one at the county Road & Bridge Department on FM2445

location. It will possibly broadcast for 5 miles and one on the water tower on High Point Rd – CR 309. This internet service works very well and is reliable. He announced that the grant was not issued for the BVCog expansion to High Point Elementary, however, this is still being pursued and possibly approved this year. In other matters, additional Hurricane Harvey grants were obtained to allow additional roadwork on County Roads 202 and 201. County Commissioner Dobyanski advised he is working with TxDOT to have access to SH249 that will allow another egress and ingress to these areas in case of emergency, flood, etc. There is new construction of residential homes, approximately 200 built in 2019. Also, the county is working with the Chamber of Commerce to attract more industrial and business operations, this would increase the county tax base and be an economic gain for the entire county. Mayor Hale inquired about the animal control/dog pound issue. There is a group of volunteers that have obtained a 501C and is working with Shelter Planners of America to ascertain the best construction design and needs assessment. The site will be next to City Hall in Anderson, easily accessible and a nice building with adequate kennels and housing. This is a privately funded operation and the land will be leased from Grimes County with a 10-year lease and has an additional option to lease again for a 10-year period. Grimes County Sheriff, Don Sowell has agreed to allow inmates to assist with the care and cleaning of the animals. It is anticipated that it will be beneficial to both the shelter and the inmates. Mayor Hale thanked Commissioner Dobyanski for providing the updates and information. It is greatly appreciated and thanked him for his service.

5. Mayor Hale advised there were no invoices or payables due at this time.
6. Alderman Kimberly Allphin reported that she had emailed the Texas Municipal League Insurance Risk Pool again for an insurance proposal for the city. This matter is being pursued with TML Insurance Risk Pool as they offer insurance coverage for smaller municipalities. Alderman Allphin will continue to research. Mayor Hale will also contact the TML offices to follow up on this matter.
7. Mayor Hale stated that there had been no news on TxDOT SH 249/FM 1774 or TxDOT SH105/FM 1774.
8. Mayor Hale advised that the cemetery sign project for FM 1774 has been researched and TxDOT Chad Bohne sent the company names to her that are recommended and widely used in this area. The exact wording is required to request a bid from each of the companies with discussion held as to how to list the cemetery name. Alderman Kimberly Allphin made the motion that we obtain and purchase a road sign with the complete name of the cemetery “Plantersville Cemetery”. Alderman Bettes seconded the motion. Motion carried.
9. Mayor Hale advised the City Officer Elections will be held May 2, 2020. The officer terms that are up for re-election are Marilyn Bettes, Frank Dean and Kristina Keyser Mayton. The notice has been posted as required for the opportunity to register for the city election on the City website and on the City bulletin board. Mayor Hale explained that the ballot is a plurality vote with the top 3 candidates receiving the most votes win the position. The dates are January 15, 2020 to February 14, 2020 to remit application for placement on City of Plantersville Ballot. All contact information is posted with addresses, dates and additional information. The applications for city officer ballot are available on the Secretary of State website and at the office of Grimes County Election Administrator in Anderson. This can be completed and returned to the Grimes County Election Administrator Office in Anderson or by appointment with Mayor Hale. If no other no additional elections at this time the election expense will be entirely the City of Plantersville. The approximate cost is \$5,000.
10. Alderman Greenwood moved to approve the resolution designating The Navasota Examiner as the official newspaper for the fiscal year 2020. Alderman Bettes seconded. Motion carried. Mayor Hale prepared Resolution 0720 in accordance.

11. Alderman Mayton was absent so there was no discussion on the ID cards for city officials currently.
12. Mayor Hale had received information from TxDOT Chad Bohne regarding the electronic signage and the companies recommended. Mayor Hale emailed these companies for additional information and cost associated. She mentioned that Mr. Bohne encouraged signage and stated that it assists in slowing traffic and making the roadways safer. The approval must be obtained from TxDOT for the entire installation of the signage. The city is required to purchase and TxDOT installs per the required guidelines.
13. Mayor Hale reported researching of the City of Plantersville current website at Go-Daddy and compliance with the ADA Web Contents Accessibility rules. Mayor Hale has discovered the current provider does appear to comply. Mayor Hale plans to attend available workshops that provide additional information for compliance and cyber security issues. She will continue to research and report additional findings at next meeting.
14. Community Interest Items – #1 Alderman Allphin inquired if the actual sales tax such as an Amazon online purchase is received by the City of Plantersville from the comptroller's office? Currently there is no tracking of "who" is paying the sales tax. Mayor Hale advised that Alderman Mayton was actively researching with the reports available with the State of Texas Comptrollers Office. #2 Alderman Bettes advised she had received notice from her waste service that additional customers had been added and her service fees were being reduced. She can provide the contact information if anyone is interested. #3 Alderman Greenwood asked for input on community interest for a local community church that he pastors. The church allowed an easement to a landowner to access their purchased property. That party is attempting to install fencing and entry which would divide the church yard and church parking area. This landowner is land locked and the church was allowing the access to this landowner. The church community is seeking input and suggestions as to proceed in this matter. Some possible options were discussed that might aid the church in their endeavors.
15. No executive Session/Closed Meeting Needed
16. No Action Necessary
17. Meeting Adjourned at meeting at 8:11 p.m.