

Regular Meeting Minutes – City of Plantersville  
November 9, 2020

The Board of Alderman of the City of Plantersville, Grimes County, Texas, met in regular session on Monday, November 9, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. in the Plantersville Town Hall, 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

Members Absent:

Visitors present: Roy Johnson, Letha Kurten, Julee Kuta, Sandra Kuta and Victor Enmon.

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: Meeting Minutes from October 12, 2020

**Motion to Approve:** Alderman Bettes

**Second:** Alderman Mayton

**Voting Yes:** Unanimous

**Final Resolution:** Motion carries

Budget Hearing Meeting Minutes from September 14, 2020

**Motion to Approve:** Alderman Mayton

**Second:** Alderman Allphin

**Voting Yes:** Unanimous

**Final Resolution:** Motion carries

3. Public Comments: None

**\*\*Motion to move Agenda Items 7 and 8 from Item 4 to allow Mr. Enmon to provide information without attending the whole meeting.**

**Motion:** Alderman Marilyn Bettes

**Second:** Alderman Greenwood

**Voting Yes:** Unanimous

**Final Resolution:** Motion carries

7. Entergy transmission line: oppose the "Option C" "Proposed Alternative Substation Site and Site Boundary" at 1774 and 249 intersection (see above entries)  
Mr. Enmon was of Entergy provided information but was unable to provide the video presentation of The Castle 230-kV Transmission Line and Substation Project due to technical issues. He reviewed the printed literature provided with the substation south of the City of Plantersville. The multiple routes of transmission lines Entergy are considering with this project is in infancy with a 3-to-4-year build time

frame. The Public Commission determines the location after extensive research and input from landowners, businesses and residents.

**Discussion:**

Mayor Hale and Aldermen asked for additional information regarding the proposed location that seems to indicate FM 1774 at the SH 249 intersection on the literature. This location to build a substation would not be in the best interest of the citizens. The real estate in non-residential area is expected to grow as a prime location for businesses and commercial opportunities. The build at that location could be harmful to the progress of the city as it continues to grow. The site in the Dobbin area is off the main highway and is not located on the main SH 105, which has allowed commercial and business growth along that area. Mr. Enmon advised all avenues of transmission routes are being investigated and analyzed at this time. He also stated that there have been no land acquisitions at this time as it is still in the early planning states. The Entergy website has additional information regarding the project, map projections, routes of transmission lines, etc.

**Action:** None

8. Entergy Notice of Intent to File Application for New Backup Electric Service Rate  
Mr. Enmon presented information on the Entergy Notice of Intent to File Application for New Backup Electric Service Rate. Entergy has a project "Solar Panel Project" is specifically located in the Dayton area and the goal is to provide greener and renewable electricity. The rates are presented to the Public Utility Commission and final determination of rate factors are decided by the PUC. All municipalities were provided correspondence on this notice that are located in the grid area of Entergy service. However, this project affects the Dayton area only. No action required by the City of Plantersville.  
**Action:** None
  
4. Invoices and items currently due and payable:  
Mayor Hale presented financial statement of all currently due and payable for the City of Plantersville to Aldermen.  
Discussion: Review of Texas Municipal League Annual Member Service Fee \$591.00; United States Postal Service Annual PO Box Rental \$76.00; Kimberly Allphin Reimbursement of Go Daddy Paid Receipt for Annual Website Email Fees \$359.78. Alderman Bettes requested clarification of postal fee, yes, it is annual.  
**Motion to Approve:** Alderman Kristina Mayton moved to pay all outstanding invoices and items.  
**Second:** Alderman Otis Greenwood, Jr.  
**Voting Yes:** Unanimous  
**Final Resolution:** Motion carries
  
5. Public Information Request Pricing Ordinance #17-20:  
Discussion: Mayor Hale confirmed that all Aldermen had received the draft of ordinance with all attachments for review that was emailed to each alderman. Alderman Dean inquired about response time of request. Acknowledgement will be sent within 3 business days of emailed request. All response to PIA requests will follow the State of Texas PIA guidelines. Mayor Hale advised that the current City Procedure Ordinance does list that timely response is the goal, however, the US mail and email with internet issues may delay.  
**Motion to Approve:** Alderman Marilyn Bettes moved to accept and issue the Public Information  
**Second:** Alderman Kristina Mayton  
**Voting:** Yes: Unanimous  
**Final Resolution:** Motion Carries
  
6. Board Committee on Business and Peddler Permits Report:  
**Discussion:** Mayor Hale provided update on the committee meetings held since the last monthly city meeting. She advised that the initial plan is to continue with thoughtful consideration of the value of

permits with the negative and positive aspects. Also, the State of Texas statutes in this area of what is allowed and/or not allowed, and to explore if these permits should be pursued. This matter will be handled with care and diligence with reports to the board. The committee is continually reviewing input from the citizens of Plantersville regarding this issue and want to do our best for the City of Plantersville as that is the goal with any matter concerning the city. The citizen interest and advisement are always welcome possible additional meetings such as a Town Hall Meeting, Workshop or both when we progress further.

**Action:** None

7. "Entergy transmission line: oppose the "Option C" "Proposed Alternative Substation Site and Site Boundary at 1774 and 249 intersection (see above entries)
8. Entergy Notice of Intent to File Application for New Backup Electric Service Rate (see above entries)
9. Transfer of Allocation of CRF Fund to Grimes County  
**Discussion:** Mayor Hale provided information on the Transfer of Allocation of CRF Funds to Grimes County COVID19 Relief. These funds were allocated without notice of the allocation until the last date to file. A Zoom Conference call with Grimes County Judge Joe Fauth and other Grimes County Cities from the Cares Relief Fund State Coordinator and staff. In order to qualify specific emergency services expenditures were required and no expenses that the City of Plantersville could substantiate. The funds could be transferred to Grimes County as they had legitimate expenses. The allocation transferred and the City of Plantersville proceeds provided \$51,590.00 to the county.  
**Action:** None
10. Lawsuit Against High Speed Rail Project  
**Discussion:** Mayor Hale advised that an email was received from Mr. Johnson regarding the lawsuit to be filed by Texans Against the High-Speed Rail Project. Mayor Hale spoke with representative of the TAHSR, Desi Porter and the attorney for the lawsuit, Patrick McShan with the *law firm of Blake Beckman Group representing the plaintiffs*. The information provided advised that joining the lawsuit as a plaintiff requires no action on the part of the city except to support the lawsuit with a diverse group that includes private landowners, businessowners, residents, municipalities, counties and communities indicating their position of being against the High Speed Rail Project. In joining, the city has no expense, no discovery and no exposure to additional requirements. The City of Plantersville has been asked to join as a plaintiff in name only, there would be no financial risk, no attorney fees and no burden placed on the city. Mayor Hale called on Mr. Johnson to provide additional information regarding those current plaintiffs. Mr. Johnson stated that several counties, county organizations and historical societies, cities and towns, landowners and residents have signed on as plaintiffs. He knew of Grimes County, Waller County, Madison County and Madison Historical Society.  
**Discussion:** Mayor Hale advised the city had filed a resolution previously against the High-Speed Rail Project. Alderman Dean advised that he is not voting to join Lawsuit Against High Speed Rail. He expressed abstinence. Mayor Hale reviewed Rules of Procedure regarding the voting on every matter brought before the board and abstaining is not permitted. It must be a yes or no vote.  
**Action: Motion to join the lawsuit** Alderman Bettes  
**Second:** Alderman Greenwood seconded the motion.  
**Voting Yes:** Mayor Hale, Alderman Bettes, Alderman Greenwood, Alderman Mayton, Alderman Allphin  
**Voting No:** Alderman Dean  
**Final Resolution:** Motion Carries

11. Grants:

**Discussion:** Mayor Hale reported on information regarding possible grants available to assist in flood mitigation including roads, culverts, ditches, and road conditions. Also, there is a program that provide affordable financial aid that the city may qualify for as they mention infrastructure in rural areas. BVCOG forwarded information about several grants and Mayor Hale was following up with them later in the week. She will report at next meeting.

**Action:** None

12. Posting local events on City Website – Possible guidelines, ideas, etc.

**Discussion:** Mayor Hale asked for input from the board considering an event page on website. The board members discussed the need to further investigate and research such as the organizations and the legitimate causes, the community happenings and community interest. The board discussed guidelines to formulate and research with additional confirmation of the security protocols with possible links to events of local organizations. Alderman Allphin volunteered to research and present findings to the board at next meeting.

**Action:** Poll of board members on pursuing with additional research. Board unanimous with agreement to pursue investigation and research.

13. TML Data Summary Updates

**Discussion:** Inquiry received from Texas Mutual League to update all city officials contact information, email, address, telephone and term of office. Mayor Hale asked all board members to review and make any necessary corrections.

**Action:** Inquiry sheet provided for Alderman review and correction if needed.

14. Community Interest:

Local events – Christmas Parade in Plantersville is scheduled for Saturday, December 5<sup>th</sup> and will begin and end at the PS Fire Department. Food distribution is available at the Relay Station for persons in need. It is income based and provided by the Brazos Food Bank with distribution by The Lighthouse Sober Living organization.

15. Executive Session/Closed Meeting: None required

16. No Action Taken

17. Mayor Hale adjourned the meeting at 8:34 p.m.

Approved,

Karen Hale, Mayor  
12-14-2020

Attest

Kimberly Allphin, Secretary  
12-14-2020

\*Corrected minutes – Item 10 adding law firm of Blake Beckman Group representing plaintiffs.