



City of Wimberley

221 Stillwater, Wimberley, Texas 78676

REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING

WIMBERLEY CITY HALL – CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
221 STILLWATER, WIMBERLEY, TEXAS 78676

THURSDAY, MAY 2, 2024 - 6:00 PM

MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER May 2, 2024, at 6:00 PM

Mayor Gina Fulkerson called the regular meeting of the City Council to order at 6:00 p.m.

2. CALL OF ROLL

City Council Members Present:

Gina Fulkerson, Mayor
Rebecca Minnick, Place 1
Teresa Shell, Place 2
Chris Sheffield, Place 3
Jim Chiles, Place 4
David Cohen, Place 5

City Staff Present:

Tim Patek, City Administrator
Tammy Heller, City Secretary
Evan Fry, City Attorney

3. INVOCATION

Jim Denham, Chapel in the Hills

4. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/SALUTE TO THE TEXAS FLAG

Mayor Fulkerson led the pledges of allegiance.

5. CITIZENS COMMUNICATIONS

No citizen comments this evening.

6. CONSENT AGENDA

- 6.1. Consider approval of minutes from the April 18, 2024 Regular City Council Meeting. (*Tammy Heller, City Secretary*)

A motion was made by Council Member Cohen, seconded by Council Member Sheffield to approve the consent agenda. The motion carried unanimously (5-0).

7. PRESENTATION

- 7.1. Receive a presentation from a member of the Point-In-Time Committee related to the Point-In-Time Count Survey Data in Hays County. (*Rebecca Minnick, Place 1*)

Nancy Heintz, of the Point-In-Time Committee, and Stephanie Norris, of Hays Consolidated Independent School District, provided a presentation related to the survey data from the recent point-in-time count that was completed. The count was held on Thursday, January 25, 2024. This count is for people experiencing homelessness, both sheltered and unsheltered on a single night. It is a snapshot of homelessness in the county at a moment in time. The count can tell approximately how many people are homeless on one particular night, the trends over time in homelessness and insights into the effectiveness of the county's housing programs and homeless services. Ms. Heintz explained the four types of homelessness including, Hidden or Invisible, Transitional, Episodic, and Chronic. The counts from 2020 to 2024 were presented in 2024, illustrating an increase in unsheltered people from previous years. Other items presented included additional populations that were surveyed, the number of unsheltered and sheltered people, and the "housing first" solution, as several studies indicate that compared to the "treatment first" model, housing first offers greater long term housing stability. Research also suggests that housing first successfully helps people with intersecting vulnerability, such as veterans, people with a history of substance abuse or mental illness challenges, domestic violence and chronic medical conditions.

Stephanie Norris, provided a brief update on the Point-In-Time Count for Hays County School Districts and provided the data report as a handout to City Council. There was a slight increase in students from last year here in Wimberley, but the district does a good job of assisting these students. Ms. Norris stated the community needs to keep supporting the businesses and organizations that are in Wimberley and continue advocating for public education.

The committee would like to have a participant from Council to serve on the facilitated round-table sessions with other key leadership within the county to assess the resources required to prevent and end homelessness in Hays County. Upon completion of the presentation and discussion, Council Member Chiles stated that a member would be selected to serve after the election. An item will be placed on a future agenda and a nominee will be presented.

8. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION

- 8.1. Discuss and consider approval of Resolution No. 06-2024 supporting innovative "One Water" strategies and exploring such strategies in public and private development projects. (Gina Fulkerson, Mayor)

Mayor Gina Fulkerson read the "One Water" resolution into the record.

Nick Dornak, expressed his appreciation for this resolution. He stated no other community in the Hill Country has done as much as the City of Wimberley. He said more needs to be done to see sustainable water in the future. Mayor Fulkerson asked what the city can do with the limited authority we have. Mr. Dornak stated we must get the community educated, there should be language in pre-planning for developments, so they are aware of water concerns, and continue to provide leadership.

David Baker, of the Watershed Association, expressed his appreciation for this resolution. He stated protecting groundwater has been the focus for many years. He stated water is the economic engine for the entire Wimberley Valley. He thinks the school district stepping out and doing something innovative took courage and the one water system at Blue Hole Primary used 50% less water than Jacobs Well and they have more students. He stated we need to do more, this sets intention and will influence other communities to do the same thing. He said we need to educate, incentivize, and enforce science-based regulations for our residents.

Council Member Cohen, asked about the rule of capture, and if there may be legislative changes. Mr. Baker stated the best thing we can do is to have a production fee in order to pump water. Mr. Baker stated a "reasonable use doctrine" would be need to be implemented which basically states take what you take what you need as long as you don't harm your neighbor. He stated this resolution is a big step, but he is willing to work with the City if we want to look at legislation. The ILA with the watershed, Meadows Center, County, and Woodcreek was also an important step in the process.

Mayor Fulkerson expressed her appreciation for the assistance in drafting this resolution.

Leah Cuddeback, of the Hill Country Alliance, expressed her appreciation. She is grateful for all the partnerships involved in this process. She stated there will be upcoming opportunities for engagement through the Hill County Alliance that will be sent out soon. She spoke on the new edition of the "Leading by Example" book, and stated this highlights many existing ordinances throughout Texas, but mostly tailored to Hill Country cities and there are some specifically for water wise landscaping. She will share this with council when it is launched.

Upon completion of discussion, a motion was made by Council Member Minnick, seconded by Council Member Cohen, to approve Resolution No. 06-2024, as presented and discussed. The motion carried unanimously (5-0).

8.2. Discuss and consider possible action related to the city's wastewater system. (Gina Fulkerson, Mayor)

Mayor Fulkerson, introduced this item, to pass information along and ensure things are handled in the transition of mayor and council members. This ensures all members have the same information in relation to our wastewater system.

Tim Patek, City Administrator, introduced Tim Middleton of Zone Industries to provide some information on the updates that need to be made to the wastewater system. There are some bolts, pumps, and conduit pipes that may need some repairs.

Tim Middleton, of zone industries, stated they are working on the lift station, and stated, although this is not an old lift station, there are some parts that are subpar. There is a need for replacement of bolts, and he noted the pumps do not hold prime. He stated pump #2 has been fixed, now pump #1 will need to be worked on. He stated the pumps are self-priming, so they work off a vacuum. There is a small leak on the suction side and the piping needs to be replaced from the pump to the wetwell. A bypass will need to be set up and a re-pipe will be installed from bottom to top, and he thinks doing both at the same time due to the cost of setting up the bypass would be more efficient. He will provide a cost estimate for the city administrator.

Questions were posed about the cause of the leak, if parts were subpar and if any of these are under warranty. Others asked if this is common for a lift station, and what types of pumps could be used.

Mr. Middleton stated submersible pumps should have been installed initially and not self-priming pumps. Mr. Middleton stated we have a backflow prevention but it doesn't close properly, so hydrogen sulfate is increased.

Mr. Middleton explained some of the work that has been done to remedy the current situations.

Upon completion of discussion, direction was to continue communication in the future and discuss at the goals/visioning session and to ensure we look at budgetary constraints.

8.3. Discuss and consider possible action regarding Council Member David Cohen's request to miss three consecutive Regular City Council Meetings in August and September 2024. (Place Five - Council Member David Cohen)

Council Member Cohen recused himself from discussion and a vote. A motion was made by Council Member Sheffield, seconded by Council Member Chiles, to approve Council Member Cohen's request to miss three consecutive meetings in August and September 2024. The motion carried unanimously (4-0-1).

9. CITY COUNCIL REPORTS

9.1. Announcements

The following announcements were made:

1. Election Day - Saturday, May 4
2. Election Canvass Meeting next Friday, May 10th at 3:30PM
3. May the 4th event at Blue Hole
4. Outgoing Council Member Reception at Waters Point, Friday, May 10th at 5PM
5. TxDOT Procurement Meeting for the Sidewalks - Tim and Nathan will be attending
6. TML Leadership Academy - Tim will be attending the second session
7. Pre-Con Meeting for Sidewalk Crosswalk and Trails Project next week with Engineers
8. The Welcome Center - Demo began
9. FM3237/RR12 paving and striping is nearly complete
10. Council expressed their appreciation to Mayor Gina Fulkerson and Council Member Teresa Shell.

9.2. Future Agenda Items

No items added this evening.

10. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Council Member Cohen, seconded by Council Member Sheffield, to adjourn the regular meeting at 7:40 p.m. The motion carried unanimously (5-0).

RECORDED BY:

Tammy Heller, City Secretary

APPROVED BY:

Jim Chiles, Mayor

