



**MINUTES
CITY WATER COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2019, 6:00 P.M.**

Commissioners Present:

Chair David Heier
Commissioner Keven Harshbarger
Commissioner Jesse Valdez
Commissioner Joseph Haltaman
Mayor Larry Thompson, Ex-officio

Commissioners Absent:

Vice-Chair Richard Holloway (Voluntary Announced Absence)
Commissioner Andre Bullard (Voluntary Announced Absence)

City Staff Present:

Nancy Cain, City Administrator
Jacob Parsons, Water Manager
Kat Balbi, Assistant City Secretary
Denise Bissell, Utility Clerk

Other Appointed or Elected Officials in Attendance: None.

1. Call to Order

With a quorum of the City Water Commission present, Chair Heier called the regular meeting of the Garden Ridge City Water Commission to order at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, September 24, 2019, in the City Council Chambers of the Garden Ridge City Hall, 9400 Municipal Parkway, Garden Ridge, Texas 78266.

2. Roll Call: See above.

3. Pledge of Allegiance: Chair Heier led the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. Citizen Comment Period – limited to 30 minutes total

Shelby Trial, 21657 Forest Waters Circle, thanked Chair Heier for his service on the Water Commission.

Rick Cross, 20637 Wahl Lane, thanked the Water Commission for their service and requested the Water Commission consider special water rates for residents putting in new sod/landscaping.

5. Business Items

The following items are for discussion, consideration, and/or action.

a) Education/Training Sessions. (Limited to 5 minutes)

1. Receive Watersaver Landscape Design” proposal from Patricia Hartley, Coordinator for Gardening Volunteers of South Texas.

Patricia Hartley explained the classes offered by the Gardening Volunteers of South Texas and would like to hold a class for the residents of Garden Ridge.

b) Discussions/Reports/Updates

i. Water Manager Monthly Activity Report.

1. Water Pumping/usage from City wells, Water system infrastructure maintenance, repairs and/or projects, and Water and/or Drought Management (current Watering Stage).

Jacob Parsons, Water Manager, reviewed the Water Department Monthly Activity Report. He stated the Lead and Copper samples were turned in and the City is waiting for the results. He stated several water meters were tested with no discrepancies and all results were in favor of the customer. He also stated the Water Department had completed 108 laptop reads, analyzed 86 of them, and found 23 potential leaks.

ii. Items discussed at the September 4, 2019, City Council Regular Meeting and September 10, 2019 City Council Special Meeting.

Chair Heier stated the City Council approved the reappointment of Commissioner Harshbarger, the appointment of Commissioner Mueller, and the amendment to Ordinance 61. He reviewed the changes to the water rates from the Special City Council Meeting.

iii. Discussion on IPerl Meters.

1. Receive IPerl Meters Presentation from Sensus Representatives: Scott Kohan and Craig Collins, Territory Managers; David Overfield, Manager of Technical Services.

David Overfield, Manager of Technical Services of Sensus, presented information regarding IPerl meters and answered questions from the Water Commission.

iv. Discussion Water Rate Structure.

1. Discuss and make possible recommendation to City Council.

Chair Heier stated the Water Commission need to review the water rates and make a recommendation by November. He explained his thoughts with the rate structure and the Commissioner need to compare it to the rate structure prepared by Water Markets, LLC. Commissioner Harshbarger stated the rate increase was still too high and the Water Commission should review with more detail the Water Rate Study that was conducted.

Motion: A motion was made by Chair Heier, seconded by Commissioner Haltaman, to review the proposal of the water rates for another month. The Commission voted three (3) for and none (0) opposed. The motion carried unanimously.

Motion: A motion was made by Commissioner Harshbarger, seconded by Commissioner Haltaman, to create a Water Rate Committee with Commissioner Valdez and Commissioner Harshbarger. The Commission voted three (3) for and none (0) opposed. The motion carried unanimously.

v. Discussion on electronic billing enhancements.

Kat Balbi, Assistant City Secretary, presented a sample bill with the proposed water usage graph enhancements and explained the annual fee would break down to .17 cents per customer.

Chair Heier recommended providing an explanation to customers on the City's website.

Motion: A motion was made by Commissioner Valdez, seconded by Commissioner Haltaman, to implement the purchase of the electronic billing enhancements. The Commission voted three (3) for and none (0) opposed. The motion carried unanimously.

vi. Ordinance No. 210-022018 An Ordinance of the City Council of the City of Garden Ridge adopting board and commission policy and procedures; providing that this Ordinance shall be cumulative of all Ordinances; providing a severability clause; providing a savings clause; and providing an effective date.

1. Receive recommendations and consideration of appointment of Water Commission Chair and Vice-Chair for a one-year term effective October 1, 2019.

Chair Heier stated Vice-Chair Holloway and himself would no longer be on the Commission.

Motion: A motion was made by Commissioner Haltaman, seconded by Commissioner Valdez, to appointment Commissioner Harshbarger as Vice-Chair for a one-year term effective October 1, 2019. The Commission voted three (3) for and none (0) opposed. The motion carried unanimously.

Motion: A motion was made by Commissioner Harshbarger, seconded by Commissioner Haltaman, to appointment Commissioner Valdez as Chair for a one-year term effective October 1, 2019. The Commission voted three (3) for and none (0) opposed. The motion carried unanimously.

2. Discuss and make recommendations related to application of Ordinance provisions to Commission members, if needed.

Chair Heier stated there was no update.

c) Future Agenda Items.

i. Commissioner’s input on agenda items.

Commissioner Haltaman requested the minutes from August and September be on the next agenda.

Commissioner Valdez requested an educational class on water conservation.

Commissioner Harshbarger requested consideration for rate adjustments for landscaping installation.

Chair Heier requested the drought management plan be reviewed.

ii. Announce date, time, and location for next regular meeting (Tuesday, October 22 2019, at 6:00 p.m. at City Hall – City Council Chambers).

Chair Heier announced the next Water Commission Regular Meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 22, 2019, at 6:00 p.m. at City Hall – City Council Chambers.

6. Citizen Comment Period – limited to 20 minutes total

Sharon Stripling, 21729 Forest Waters Circle, spoke regarding the water rate structure.

Rick Cross, 20637 Wahl Lane, spoke regarding the water rate structure and water usage.

Stephen Demory, 9497 Cinchona Trail, spoke regarding the water rate structure, water usage, and the meters.

7. Adjournment

Motion: A motion was made by Commissioner Valdez, seconded by Commissioner Haltaman, to adjourn. The Commission voted three (3) for and none (0) opposed. The motion carried unanimously. There being no further business, the Tuesday, September 24, 2019, Water Commission Regular Meeting was adjourned at 7:28 p.m. by Chair Heier.

David Heier
Chair

ATTEST:

Kat Balbi
Assistant City Secretary