

STATE OF TEXAS

COUNTY OF BRAZORIA

CITY OF LAKE JACKSON

BE IT KNOWN that the City Council of Lake Jackson met on Monday, January 22, 2024, at 6:30 p.m. in Regular Session at 25 Oak Drive, Lake Jackson, Texas, Lake Jackson City Hall in the Alice Rodgers Council Chambers with the following in attendance:

Gerald Roznovsky, Mayor
Matt Broaddus, Councilmember
Jon "J.B." Baker, Councilmember
Rhonda Seth, Councilmember
Vinay Singhania, Councilmember

Modesto Mundo, City Manager
Riazul Mia, Assistant City Manager
Sally Villarreal, City Secretary
Sherri Russell, City Attorney
Sal Aguirre, City Engineer
Milford John-Williams, Asst. to the City Manager
James Bryson, Finance Director
Debra Webb, Interim Public Works Director
Robin Hyden, Parks Director
Paul Kibodeaux, Police Chief
Lora-Marie Bernard, Public Information Officer

ABSENT: Chase Blanchard, Mayor Pro-Tem

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Councilmember Broaddus led the pledges.

INVOCATION

Mayor Roznovsky led the invocation.

VISITOR COMMENTS

There were none.

DECLARATION OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

There were none.

CONSENT AGENDA

1. Approval of minutes – January 8, 2024
2. Approve the donation of PD Unit # 1221, a 2019 Chevy Tahoe, to the City of Sweeny.

On motion by Councilmember Baker, seconded by Councilmember Singhania with all present members voting "aye," the consent agenda was approved as follows:

1. Approval of minutes – January 8, 2024 - **approved**
2. Approve the donation of PD Unit # 1221, a 2019 Chevy Tahoe, to the City of Sweeny - **approved**

CONSIDER RESOLUTION NO. 939 SUPPORTING BRAZORIA COUNTY'S OPPOSITION TO THE CONSTRUCTION OF A NON-HUMAN PRIMATE ANIMAL LABORATORY IN BRAZORIA COUNTY AND REQUEST THAT THE FEDERAL AND STATE GOVERNMENTS NOT ISSUE PERMITS FOR THE LABORATORY

Brazoria County Commissioner David Linder was present to speak on this item.

Mr. Linder thanked the city council for considering the resolution supporting Brazoria County.

Mr. Linder said the proposed facility location is in the west area of the county, just west of West Columbia, off of FM 1301. He shared that he is not against research but is concerned with the proposed location. All the water that goes through this area goes directly into the San Bernard River. The impact of something going wrong is significant because of the flooding in the area.

Mr. Mundo read the resolution caption.

On a motion by Councilmember Singhanian, seconded by Councilmember Seth with all present members voting "aye," Resolution No. 939 supporting Brazoria County's opposition to the construction of a non-human primate animal laboratory in Brazoria County and request that the federal and state governments not issue permits for the laboratory was approved.

DISCUSS AND CONSIDER THE FIRST READING OF ORDINANCE NO. 2281, ESTABLISHING THE INTERSECTION OF AZALEA AT CENTER WAY AS A ONE-WAY STOP

Mr. Mundo read the ordinance caption.

Mr. Aguirre explained where the stop sign would be placed and stated the city was ready to open the street. He also noted that the opposite side of the street, intersecting with Circle Way, already has an ordinance for the stop sign.

On a motion by Councilmember Seth, seconded by Councilmember Broaddus with all present members voting "aye," the first reading of Ordinance No. 2281, establishing the intersection of Azalea at Center Way as a one-way stop was approved on the first reading.

DISCUSS AMENDING THE CHARTER TO DEFINE AN EFFECTIVE DATE FOR LAWS THAT ARE PASSED BY INITIATIVE

Ms. Russell explained the Early Voting Ballot Board's (EVBB) duty to count all the overseas and provisional ballots. This must be completed before the city council canvases the votes. The best solution is to become law upon the city council, canvassing the votes during the canvassing period.

Councilmember Singhanian expressed concerns regarding enforcing a new law/ordinance and how it would be communicated with the public.

Mayor Roznovsky noted the city would use the same avenues currently used when ordinances are passed. There would also be a grace period for public education before any penalties would be imposed.

On a motion by Councilmember Broaddus, seconded by Councilmember Seth with all present members voting “aye,” the effective date for new laws passed by the initiative will be upon the city council canvassing the votes.

At the next meeting, Ms. Russell will bring the ballot language for all recommended items.

CONSIDER RESOLUTION NO. 940 AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO REPRESENT THE CITY OF LAKE JACKSON IN ITS APPLICATION FOR A GRANT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$8,869,835, INCLUDING \$2,217,458.75 AS A LOCAL MATCH FROM THE TEXAS DEVELOPMENT WATER BOARD (TWDB) FOR FLOOD MITIGATION ASSISTANCE (FMA); AND COMMITTING MATCHING FUNDS FROM THE FY23-24 BUDGET

Mr. Mia stated this is the Moss/Chestnut bond project being worked on. He noted we will be short on money because of the cost. The hope is to apply for this grant, and if funding is awarded, the city can provide the 25% match, and the grant will provide about \$6.7 million. This is the consultant city council approved to hire on November 20, 2023.

Councilmember Singhania asked if the \$19,740 was for the grant application. Regardless of whether the grant is awarded, the application cost remains.

Mr. Mia replied and noted that following the procurement process if the grant is awarded, there is a possibility the grant will cover the \$19,740.

Mr. Mundo read the resolution caption.

On motion by Councilmember Singhania, seconded by Councilmember Baker with all present members voting “aye,” Resolution No. 940 authorizing the City Manager to represent the City of Lake Jackson in its application for a grant for \$8,869,835, including \$2,217,458.75 as a local match from the Texas Development Water Board (TWDB) for Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA), and committing matching funds from the FY23-24 budget was approved.

AWARD A PROFESSIONAL SERVICES CONTRACT TO CIVITAS ENGINEERING GROUP IN THE AMOUNT OF \$276,000 AND AUTHORIZE THE CITY MANAGER TO SIGN THE CONTRACT UNDER RFQ NO. 001-2023 FOR THE CITY OF LAKE JACKSON’S WASTEWATER MASTER PLAN. – RIAZUL MIA

Mr. Mia stated this is the second part of the WWMP. This includes the Wastewater Master Plan and the rate study.

On October 2, 2023, the City Council approved the selection of consultant Civitas Engineering Group and authorized the City Manager to negotiate a contract for Wastewater Master Plan.

The project includes consulting services to prepare the City's Wastewater Master Plan for the next 25 years. The scope of work includes:

- Project management and meetings.
- Data collection and review.
- Wastewater flow projections.
- Wastewater system performance.
- Develop projects and phased capital improvement programs.
- Water and Wastewater rate study.
- Prepare a Wastewater Master Plan with recommendations.

The study will include, but is not limited to:

- Cost of service recovery
- Revenue stability
- Affordability / Equity
- Ease of administration
- Regional competitive position
- Conservation
- Economic Development

The Civitas team will conduct stakeholder interviews with diverse stakeholders to take the public's pulse on the value of services and rates/fees. A questionnaire will be developed that will be approved by the city for citizen's input.

Civitas representatives were present and gave an overview of the work they had completed with the City.

Mayor Roznovsky asked if the team will be kept on retainer to maintain the model or if the model is not giving the expected results if someone is brought back. Ms. Webb noted they are currently on retainer.

Councilmember Singhania asked if there was any chance during the study to reduce the number of Lift Stations by consolidating or upsizing. Ms. Webb noted it is already in the plans to eliminate one station.

On a motion by Councilmember Seth, seconded by Councilmember Singhania with all present members voting "aye," the City Manager was authorized to award a professional services contract to Civitas Engineering Group for \$276,000 under RFQ No. 001-2023 for the City of Lake Jackson's Wastewater Master Plan.

FIRST QUARTER FINANCIAL REPORT – JAMES BRYSON

Mr. Bryson reviewed the financial reports with the city council. The Christmas sales tax numbers will be available in February. He did note the format of the reports may change in the future.

STAFF UPDATES

City Manager

- Mr. Mundo updated the council about the GLO mid-mod grant application (Harvey grant). He noted the benefit area for the grant may have to be modified. The initial area has shrunk. The consultant has advised re-survey the homes to see if at least 51% are low to moderate income. This will be completed before a new project is suggested.

Council meeting action item summary

- The February 5th council meeting will begin with a workshop at 5:30 p.m. Dinner will be provided.

CONSTRUCTION/DEVELOPMENT UPDATES

Councilmember Singhania noted that on Azalea Street, where it intersects with Center Way, the bricks were in the wrong place by the sidewalk. He wanted to make sure the job was repaired and completed correctly. Mr. Aguirre stated the job was completed well.

Mr. Aguirre gave a construction and development update. He noted the weather has not cooperated for any of the construction projects. There has not been much progress due to the weather.

Councilmember Seth asked if the contractors would be cleaning up the lay-down yard on Circle Way. Mr. Aguirre noted it would be cleaned up.

Ms. Webb noted the Beechwood project is making progress with delivery of equipment this week with installation if weather permits. According to the contractor, the electrical is moving along with 100% completion by the end of the month.

Mr. Aguirre gave an update on the Town Hall meeting and noted it was not well attended by the public.

Street panel replacements will begin on February 1st.

Mr. Aguirre also noted engineering will be opening bids for the Best Western chamber project.

The city hall restrooms are near completion; we are just waiting on the partitions and accessories. The Fire Station restroom renovations and repiping should begin on January 24th.

Ms. Hyden updated council on upcoming programs.

ITEMS OF COMMUNITY INTEREST

- Councilmember Seth shared that she attended the Town Hall meeting and noted that Mr. Aguirre and Mr. Herrera did a great job. Councilmember Seth asked if the phases of projects can be added as a regular part of the council agenda going forward. Mr. Mundo stated it will be added to the project updates.
- Mr. Mundo reported that TML approved the Civic Center electrical panel claim.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:17 p.m.
These minutes were approved on the 5th day of February 2024.

Sally Villarreal, City Secretary

Gerald Roznovsky, Mayor