

**BURLESON CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING
AUGUST 15, 2024
DRAFT MINUTES**

ROLL CALL

COUNCIL PRESENT:

Victoria Johnson
Phil Anderson
Alexa Boedeker
Chris Fletcher
Larry Scott
Dan McClendon

COUNCIL ABSENT:

Adam Russell

Staff present

Tommy Ludwig, City Manager
Harlan Jefferson, Deputy City Manager
Amanda Campos, City Secretary
Monica Solko, Deputy City Secretary
Matt Ribitzki, Deputy City Attorney
Janalea Hembree, Assistant to the City Manager

1. CALL TO ORDER – 1:00 p.m.

Mayor Fletcher called the meeting to order. **Time: 1:02 p.m.**

2. CITIZEN APPEARANCES

- None.

3. REPORTS AND PRESENTATIONS

A. Receive a report, hold a discussion, and provide staff direction regarding the City's legislative program. (Staff Contact: Janalea Hembree, Assistant to the City Manager)

Janalea Hembree, Assistant to the City Manager, introduced Brandon Aghamalian with Focused Advocacy to discuss the strategy and development of the city's legislative program.

Discussion included 89th legislative session timeline, building relationships with state representatives, bill statistics, framework for a legislative program, bills to advocate for/against, active involvement during session (testimony, letters, phone calls to delegation office, visits to Austin), anticipated issues (property taxes, debt, land use, water preemption, TMRS), and council priorities (roads, economic development projects, or button issues).

Mr. Aghamalian spoke on qualified hotel project (QHP) could be used as a public finance tool. Cities can receive a rebate for the state hotel and some state sales taxes

for 10 years collected at the new hotel. Examples of QHP that have been successfully used to finance several convention center/hotels are Omni Fort Worth and Dallas, Irving Westin, Grand Prairie Conference Center and Frisco PGA. To qualify for a QHP tax rebate, the city must pass a bill. Council was in favor of moving forward with the convention center hotels.

Other recommendations from Mr. Aghamalian:

- Adopt a position to “seek introduction and passage” of QHP and to limit the definition of an “agricultural operation” (multi-family or size of lot exemption)
- Adopt a flexible position to explore additional funds for transportation improvements
- “Support” cities to reduce speed limit in residential areas
- Monitor the Texas Fire Chiefs Association agenda and re-visit

After a brief discussion and questions, council was in a favor of the following:

1. The approval of a qualified hotel project bill, as authorized under Chapter 351 of the Tax Code.
2. That ensures comparable workers' compensation coverage for firefighters and EMTs deployed through Texas Intrastate Fire Mutual Aid System (TIFMAS) and Texas Task Force 1 and 2 for state deployments.
3. That strengthens protections for firefighters and EMTs by recognizing presumptive cancers as job-related illnesses or injuries. This includes ensuring that these conditions are covered under workers' compensation, extending coverage for up to five years post-employment. Additionally, support the establishment of statewide or federal registries for research and documentation of work-related injuries and illnesses, specifically those associated with presumptive cancers, to better understand and address these risks.

4. RECESS INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION

In accordance with Chapter 551 of the Texas Government Code, the City Council may convene in Executive Session in the City Council Workroom in City Hall to conduct a closed meeting to discuss any item listed on this Agenda. The City Council may reconvene into open session and take action on posted items.

A. Pending or contemplated litigation or to seek the advice of the City Attorney pursuant to Section 551.071, Texas Government Code

- No executive session was needed.

6. ADJOURNMENT

Motion made by Alexa Boedeker and seconded by Victoria Johnson to adjourn.

Mayor Fletcher adjourned the meeting. **Time: 2:49 p.m.**

Monica Solko
Deputy City Secretary