



TOWN COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING

Wednesday, August 16, 2023 at 6:00 PM
Fulton Council Chambers, 201 N. 7th Street

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

PRESENT

Mayor Kelli Cole
Mayor Pro Tem Robert Loflin
Place 2 Chris Garis
Place 3 MaryAnn Pahmiyer
Place 4 Margo Nielsen
Place 5 Laura McCorkle

STAFF PRESENT

Stephanie Garcia, City Secretary
Matt Olenick, Director of Operations
Steven Robertson, Comptroller
Johnny Davis, Building Official
Hal George, Town Attorney
Ty Gerstenberger, Police Chief

Mayor Cole called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – U.S. Flag and Texas Flag

Mayor Cole led everyone in the pledges.

OBSERVE A MOMENT OF SILENCE/PRAAYER

Mayor Cole led everyone in a moment of silence.

CITIZENS TO BE HEARD (PUBLIC FORUM)

Public participation is valued and at this time, comments limited to three (3) minutes will be taken from persons who have signed the Speaker's Card located on the table inside the Council Chambers and delivered to the City Secretary before the meeting begins. Written comments received by submission to the City Secretary in person or emailed to citysec@fultontexas.org by 3:00 p.m. on the day of the meeting, on any subject matter that is not on the agenda, will be read and summarized in the minutes of the meeting. Persons wishing to address the Council and who have registered using the Speaker's Card will have up to three (3) minutes to speak. In accordance with the Open Meetings Act, Council may not discuss or take action on any item that has not been posted on the agenda. While civil public criticism is not prohibited; disorderly conduct or disturbance of the peace as prohibited by law shall be cause for the chair to terminate the offender's time to speak.

Mary Clare Kane: Mrs. Kane introduced herself and referenced last Saturday's paper regarding the utility rate increase with the City of Rockport. She gave examples of the increase in fees. Mrs. Kane asked that the Fulton Mayor and Council take steps to stop the increase. She further discussed her feelings on the increases.

Toby Kernan: Mr. Kernan discussed his feelings regarding the utility rate increase from the City of Rockport. He asked for the Town to help with the stopping of the increases.

CONSENT AGENDA

All consent agenda items listed are considered to be routine by the Town Council and will be enacted by one motion. There will be no separate discussion of these items unless a council Member so requests, in which event the item will be removed from the Consent Agenda and considered in its normal sequence on the agenda.

- 1. Discuss/Approve/Disapprove** minutes of the Special Budget Workshop Meeting held on August 7, 2023.

Motion made by Mayor Pro Tem Loflin, Seconded by Place 4 Nielsen to approve the Consent Agenda item as presented.

Voting Yea: Mayor Pro Tem Loflin, Place 2 Garis, Place 3 Pahmiyer, Place 4 Nielsen, Place 5 McCorkle

ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

- 2. Discuss/Approve/Disapprove** a Resolution authorizing the publication of delinquent taxpayers' names in local newspapers in September 2023.

Mayor Cole read the item description and referenced the information provided by Linebarger Goggan Blair & Sampson, LLP. There were no questions from the Council.

Motion made by Place 3 Pahmiyer, Seconded by Place 5 McCorkle.

Voting Yea: Mayor Pro Tem Loflin, Place 2 Garis, Place 3 Pahmiyer, Place 4 Nielsen, Place 5 McCorkle

- 3. Discuss/Approve/Disapprove** request by Phil Salemi for a five (5) foot variance on the rear and side boundary lines of 1008 Dehausa.

Mayor Cole read the item description and asked Phil Salemi to elaborate on the request. Mr. Salemi discussed the reason for the request of the variance. Alderwoman McCorkle mentioned her concerns and inquiries to Mr. Salemi regarding the use of the property in the future and what would be built on the property. Mr. Salemi answered her questions and gave further details.

Motion made by Mayor Pro Tem Loflin, Seconded by Place 5 McCorkle.

Voting Yea: Mayor Pro Tem Loflin, Place 2 Garis, Place 3 Pahmiyer, Place 4 Nielsen, Place 5 McCorkle

- 4. Discuss/Approve/Disapprove** a three percent (3%) raise for the Town of Fulton employees in Fiscal Year 2023 - 2024.

Mayor Cole read the item description and noted this is a cost-of-living adjustment. There were no questions from the Council.

Motion made by Mayor Pro Tem Loflin, Seconded by Place 4 Nielsen.

Voting Yea: Mayor Pro Tem Loflin, Place 2 Garis, Place 3 Pahmiyer, Place 4 Nielsen, Place 5 McCorkle

- 5. Discuss/Approve/Disapprove** Engagement Letter - Single Audit with Belt Harris Pechacek for the year ending September 31, 2023.

Mayor Cole read the item description and noted that this is an annual occurrence.

Motion made by Place 5 McCorkle, Seconded by Place 2 Garis.

Voting Yea: Mayor Pro Tem Loflin, Place 2 Garis, Place 3 Pahmiyer, Place 4 Nielsen, Place 5 McCorkle

- 6. Discuss/Approve/Disapprove** hiring of a Chief of Police for the Town of Fulton Police Department.

Mayor Cole read the item description. There were no questions from the Council.

Motion made by Mayor Pro Tem Loflin, Seconded by Place 2 Garis.

Voting Yea: Mayor Pro Tem Loflin, Place 2 Garis, Place 3 Pahmiyer, Place 4 Nielsen, Place 5 McCorkle

- 7. Discuss/Approve/Disapprove** hiring of a police officer for the Town of Fulton Police Department.

Mayor Cole read the item description and noted that the hiring is to bring the Fulton Police Department back to a two-man department.

Motion made by Place 5 McCorkle, Seconded by Place 3 Pahmiyer.

Voting Yea: Mayor Pro Tem Loflin, Place 2 Garis, Place 3 Pahmiyer, Place 4 Nielsen, Place 5 McCorkle

CLOSED SESSION

The Town Council may elect to go into closed session pursuant to Chapter 551, Government Code on any Agenda item where appropriate and particularly Sections 551.071 (consultation with attorney) and 551.074 (personnel matters), Government Code.

Council did not convene into Closed Session.

OPEN SESSION

Discuss/Approve/Disapprove any and all action necessary with regard to the preceding matter(s).

ANNOUNCEMENTS

8. Mayor's Update.

Maintenance: Mayor Cole noted that the school year has begun and our maintenance department along with the police department have helped with the car lines. Matt Olenick, Director of Operations discussed the necessity for the new pick up and drop off route for Fulton Learning Center. Mayor Cole also noted that the work on Prairie Road is in the beginning stages and the larger project will be focusing on Myrtle Street..

Administration: A new administrative assistant will start on August 28, 2023.

Fulton Convention Center: The new outdoor signs will be up soon.

Police Dept.: Officer Gerstenberger thanked everyone for appointing him Interim and introduced his family. He reviewed calls, recent warrants, and referenced a stolen golf cart. Officer Gerstenberger noted that Rockport Police Department has been helping, they are gifting the Town a 2018 Tahoe, and will be helping implement a report writing software. Lastly, he mentioned that code enforcement issues on Mesquite Street will be looked into.

9. The next Regular Fulton Town Council Meeting will be held Wednesday, September 6, 2023, beginning at 6:00 pm.

Mayor Cole announced the next meeting date and time.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Mayor Cole entertained a motion to adjourn.

Motion made by Mayor Pro Tem Loflin, Seconded by Place 2 Garis to adjourn the meeting.
Voting Yea: Mayor Pro Tem Loflin, Place 2 Garis, Place 3 Pahmiyer, Place 4 Nielsen, Place 5 McCorkle

The meeting was adjourned at 6:22 p.m.

Kelli Cole, Mayor

Stephanie Garcia, City Secretary