



# TOWN COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING

Wednesday, June 21, 2023 at 6:00 PM  
Fulton Council Chambers, 201 N. 7th Street

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## MINUTES

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### 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  
Hal George, Town Attorney  
Matt Olenick, Director of Operations  
Steven Robertson, Comptroller  
John Harrell, Police Chief  
Ty Gerstenberger, Police Officer

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](mailto: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 Claire Kane: Mrs. Kane Introduced herself and stated she was very pleased to see item #3, Ordinance No. 311 enacting the homestead tax limitation, on the agenda along with the starting year being 2022. She also thanked everyone for their work on this and for the new website.

Lynn Blumenfeld: Mrs. Blumenfeld introduced herself and congratulated Mayor Cole for being appointed as a director on the RF Chamber of Commerce. She discussed the Governmental Affairs Council that is part of the Chamber and requested that the Town Council appoint someone to act as the representative on the Governmental Affairs Council.

## **PRESENTATION**

1. Certificate of Appreciation to Kevin Jennings and Dwayne Eineen.

Chief Harrell presented Kevin Jennings and Dwayne Eineen with plaques of appreciation for helping with a lost child that was found in the roadway in Fulton, Texas. These gentlemen tended to the child until someone could come and help.

## **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.*

2. **Discuss/Approve/Disapprove** minutes of the Regular Fulton Town Council Meeting held on June 7, 2023.

Motion made by Mayor Pro Tem Loflin, Seconded by Place 2 Garis to approve the Consent Agenda items as presented.

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

## **ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION**

3. **Discuss/Approve/Disapprove** Ordinance No. 311 an Ordinance Enacting a Residence Homestead Tax Limitation for Elderly or Disabled Individuals; Repealing Ordinances in Conflict; and Providing for Severance and shall remain in effect for the valuations beginning January 1, 2022, and for each successive tax year.

Mayor Cole briefly discussed the agenda item and informed the Council that much research was put into the decision for the homestead tax limitation.

Motion made by Mayor Pro Tem Loflin, Seconded by Place 5 McCorkle to approve Ordinance No. 311 an Ordinance Enacting a Residence Homestead Tax Limitation for Elderly or Disabled Individuals; Repealing Ordinances in Conflict; and Providing for Severance and shall remain in effect for the valuations beginning January 1, 2022, and for each successive tax year.

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

- 4. Discuss/Approve/Disapprove** Ordinance 310, an Ordinance Increasing the Texas Municipal Retirement Services Rate from 6% to 7%; Repealing Ordinances and Resolutions in Conflict.

Mayor Cole read the agenda item. Alderwoman Nielsen asked for an explanation of the rate increase. Steven Robertson, Comptroller explained that TMRS is the entity in which the Town employees' retirement is held and that the Town contributes two dollars (\$2) to every one dollar (\$1) of the employees' contribution.

Motion made by Place 3 Pahmiyer, Seconded by Place 5 McCorkle to approve Ordinance 310, an Ordinance Increasing the Texas Municipal Retirement Services Rate from 6% to 7%; Repealing Ordinances and Resolutions in Conflict.

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

- 5. Discuss/Approve/Disapprove** transfer of the 2017 Ford F250 VIN ending in 4272 from the Sewer fund to the General fund to be used as a maintenance vehicle.

Mayor Cole read the agenda item.

Motion made by Mayor Pro Tem Loflin, Seconded by Place 4 Nielsen to approve the transfer of the 2017 Ford F250 VIN ending in 4272 from the Sewer fund to the General fund to be used as a maintenance vehicle.

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

- 6. Discuss/Approve/Disapprove** the purchase of a truck for the Sewer fund not to exceed \$35,000.

Mayor Cole read the agenda item.

Motion made by Place 2 Garis, Seconded by Place 5 McCorkle to approve the purchase of a truck for the Sewer fund not to exceed \$35,000.

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

### 7. Mayor's Update.

**Maintenance:** Mayor Cole mentioned that the smaller road project on Prairie Road from HWY 35 to FBR will begin mid-July and that the larger drainage and street is still in progress – paving Lonestar and ditch work on Chaparral.

**Pier:** Mayor Cole mentioned that the Fulton Fishing Pier has been very busy and that the security cameras have been installed and are running.

**Police Department:** Chief introduced Ty Gerstenberger and gave a brief background of Officer Gerstenberger's career. He mentioned how busy the month has been and that they are out checking on the Town's residents. Chief Harrell also stated to the Council and audience that if there is a resident that is in need of being checked on, to let him know. Chief Harrell informed the Council that Melissa Pina, the Fulton Convention Center Coordinator has been helpful in catching multiple juveniles that have vandalized the convention center. Chief Harrell and Officer Gerstenberger will continue to patrol and be seen especially during the Fourth of July holiday.

### 8. The next Regular Fulton Town Council Meeting will be held Wednesday, July 5, 2023, beginning at 6:00 pm.

Mayor Cole announced the next meeting to be held Wednesday, July 5, 2023 beginning at 6:00 pm.

## ADJOURNMENT

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

Motion made by Place 2 Garis, Seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Loflin 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 6:16 p.m.

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Kelli Cole, Mayor

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Stephanie Garcia, City Secretary