

**City Council Regular Meeting
MINUTES**

November 08, 2022, at 6:00 PM

CALL TO ORDER

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

Present:	Byron Sanford	Mayor
	Carol Langley	City Council Place #1
	Cheryl Fox	City Council Place #4
	Patricia Easley	City Council Place #5
Absent:	Casey Olson	City Council Place #2
	T.J. Wilkerson	City Council Place #3
Also Present:	Dave McCorquodale	Assistant City Administrator& Planning Development
	Nici Browe	City Secretary & Director of Administrative Services

INVOCATION

Mayor Byron Sanford gave the Invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO FLAGS

VISITOR/CITIZENS FORUM:

Citizens are invited to speak for three (3) minutes on matters relating to City Government that relate to agenda or non-agenda items. Prior to speaking, each speaker must be recognized by the Presiding Officer. All speakers should approach the podium to address Council and give their name and address before sharing their comments. City Council may not discuss or take any action on an item but may place the issue on a future agenda.

James Langley – 1002 College Street, Montgomery. Mr. Langley addressed Council

Arnette Easley – 15275 N. Liberty, Montgomery. Mr. Easley addressed Council

Alisa McCorquodale – 661 Old Plantersville, Montgomery. Ms. McCorquodale addressed Council.

CONSENT AGENDA:

1. Consideration and approval of the following:

Minutes of the Regular City Council meeting 10-25-2022

Ms. Browe pointed out that the council were provided with an updated copy as there was a typo on 2nd page. Did make a material change of the facts.

Councilmember Carol Langley moved to approve the minutes with corrections as indicated by the City Secretary. Councilmember Cheryl Fox seconded the motion. Motion passed (3-0).

CONSIDERATION AND POSSIBLE ACTION:

2. Consideration and Possible Action to accept a donation from Charlie Diggs, Wade Nelson, and Robert Kluna of a fully equipped Command Center to the Montgomery Police Department.

Police Chief, Anthony Solomon presented this item and spoke about the donation and the command trailer and its intended use. He explained that he is bringing it to Council for a resolution to formerly accept the donation, per the personnel policy 6.07.

Councilmember Cheryl Fox moved to accept the Resolution for the donation as presented. Councilmember Patricia Easley seconded the motion. Motion passed (3-0).

3. Presentation and acceptance of the Meadow Ridge Feasibility Study (Dev. No. 2213).

Ms. Katherine Vu, City Engineers provided a comprehensive overview of the Feasibility Study that was conducted on Meadow Ridge, a 28-acre tract. She went into specific details about Waste water capacity now and within a year on, impact fees, and a proposed valuation at full build out, along with projected tax revenues. Ms. Vu also discussed the type of Sanitary Sewer system that would be required based on the topography of the area.

Mayor Sanford requested that the engineers contact the county as he has some concerns on the lighting on that part of West 105.

Ms. Vu responded that the project needs MCTX approval and would make sure that lighting was a consideration.

Councilmember Patricia Easley moved to accept the Feasibility study as presented. Councilmember Cheryl Fox seconded the motion. Motion passed (3-0).

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Adjourn into Closed Session in compliance with Section §551.001 etseq. Texas Government Code, to wit:

1. Section 551.074 Personnel matters - Interim City Administrator; and

- City Secretary & Director of Administrative Services.

Alan Petrov, Attorney for the City informed council that both Mr. McCorquodale and Ms. Browe have just handed him letters requesting their items be heard in open session.

Mayor Byron Sanford stated that he will oblige. Mayor Byron Sanford began his presentation by stating that he had been in contact with Legal and that it was determined that an internal investigation as to the performance and conduct of Mr. McCorquodale should take place. He (Mayor) then instructed the Police Chief to conduct the investigation. He went on to state that it was evident in late summer when the budget workshop took place that there was some tension between Mr. McCorquodale and the Police Chief, there were some exchanges of email where it became very clear about the frustrations of the Chief, comments made to the Code Enforcement Officer.

Mayor Sanford continued to speak for several minutes about the issues that were raised that led him to believe there was more going on and wanted it resolved. He also read from various documents with him at the dais.

He then confirmed that witnesses had provided audio, written and video interviews.

[the video footage of the council meeting will provide specific factual statements]

Police Chief addressed Council to clarify and confirm a misstatement by the Mayor. He wanted it to be known that he did not say certain things the mayor was stating. He also wanted it known that he advised the mayor that Mr. McCorquodale should have been issued a copy of the investigation report.

Mayor Sanford and Police Chief exchanged a few words regarding this topic.

Each Councilmember provided a brief statement, being thankful that there was no criminal activity going on. Councilmember Cheryl Fox read out a statement/letter from the School Board.

Councilmember Carol Langley made an emotional statement and applauded Mr. McCorquodale for volunteering to take on the role of Interim City Administrator and knows that during this time he has wore many hats.

Mayor conferred with legal counsel as to how to get a copy of the investigation report to Mr. McCorquodale and how to allow a response or recommendation from him.

Mayor asked if he should take a motion to adjourn Executive Session.

Alan Petrov Attorney advised that they did not go into executive Session as it was requested the item be addressed in open session.

Ms. Browe requested that she be recognized as she would like to read a statement.

Mayor Sanford recognized her.

Ms., Browe read a statement addressing retaliation and her concerns regarding unethical processes by Mayor Sanford.

At the conclusion of her statement Mayor Sanford vehemently denied her accusations and proceeded to berate her for speaking out in such manner. He then stated if she continued, she would be removed.

Ms. Browe was escorted from the meeting by the Police Chief.

Mayor Sanford inquired with legal if they could go into Executive Session to discuss the actions tonight.

Alan Petrov stated that they could not but could discuss the items on the agenda in open session.

POSSIBLE ACTION FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION:

No action taken other than acknowledge that Mr. McCorquodale will be provided a copy of the investigation report.

COUNCIL INQUIRY:

Councilmember Langley stated that she had gone to San Marcos as a representative of City of Montgomery for some Economic Development information.

Councilmember Easley requested that Council discuss at a future meeting permitting as there is a problem with permitting.

Councilmember Langley felt that it should be a closed session discussion as there is a new permit tech.

ADJOURNMENT

Councilmember Cheryl Fox moved to adjourn the meeting. Councilmember Carol Langley seconded the motion. Motion passed (3-0).

ADJOURNED: 7:30 PM

Submitted by: _____

Date Approved: _____

Nici Browe, City Secretary

Byron Sanford, Mayor