

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING  
OF THE SWEENEY CITY COUNCIL  
TUESDAY, JUNE 15, 2021  
6:00 PM**

A regular meeting of the City Council was held at Sweeny City Hall on Tuesday, June 15, 2021, at 6:00 p.m.

**CALL TO ORDER**

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

**1. ROLL CALL**

Council Position 1. Sandra Blaine  
Council Position 2. Bill Hayes  
Council Position 3. Brian Brooks  
Council Position 4. John Rambo  
Council Position 5. Tim Pettigrew was absent.

**STAFF**

Reese Cook, City Manager  
Reatta Minshew, City Secretary  
Charlie Stevenson, City Attorney.

**2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**American Flag**

**Texas Flag**

The pledge was led by Councilman Brian Brooks.

**INVOCATION**

The invocation was given by Charlie Stevenson.

**3. VISTORS COMMENTS**

Neal Bess Jr. addressed council about moving a city pump from Cedar Street (that was removing water from a resident's ditch) to the cemetery to remove water there. Also Mr. Bess was concerned about the contractor that is installing the new water line.

Pat Ritter introduced himself. Mr. Ritter is running for judge for Brazoria County.

**5. PRESENTAIONS:**

**A. Commendations**

**B. Proclamation**

**C. Fire Department Report – Chief Roger Barton gave the report.**

**D. City Manager Report – Reese Cook**

Mr. Cook stated that the library rehab has started. Estimated time is about 6 weeks. With the grant received the library will have new furnishings and new façade.

Mr. Cook also stated that phase 4 of the water project has started, Camellia, Azalea, Forest Park Ct. City workers have been cleaning out culverts for better drainage said Mr. Cook and finally road repair will start soon with the \$190,000.00 Brazoria County Interlocal Agreement.

**E. SEDC Report – Michelle Medina gave the report.**

**6. CONSENT AGENDA**

**A. Bills in the amount of \$42,547.53**

**B. Minutes from Regular Session:**

**a. May 18, 2021**

Sandra Blaine made a motion to approve the bills in the amount of \$42,547.53. The minutes from May 18, 2021. John Rambo seconded. All were in favor. Motion carried.

**7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

**A.**

**8. NEW BUSINESS**

**A. Discuss/ Take Action BTEL Expansion in Sweeny**

Dennis Payne with BTEL talked to council about expanding in Sweeny. BTEL has split up our town in little “fiber-hoods”. BTEL has mailed each resident a mailer with the information where they can sign up for service if they are interested in fiber network.

No Action

**B. Discuss/ Take Action on Mary Susan Salyer: Replat 5 acers out of 50+ acers on County Road 409 in Rainbow Ridge Subdivision in Sweeny ETJ.**

Brian Brooks made a motion to table for next month. John Rambo seconded. All were in favor. Motion carried.

**C. Discuss/ Take Action from Mary Lou Nairn: Open/cleanout easement behind home at 102 N. Francis for drainage.**

Ms. Nairn was not present at the time of her agenda item. (She arrived at 6:50 pm). Mr. Cook stated he has given this request to code enforcement to address a fence that is in the easement. Once code enforcement gets approval to remove the fence back then public works can remove the restrictions such as leaves vines and rubbish which will help with drainage.

No Action

**D. Discuss/ Take Action from Milton R. Burrell: Requesting variance to sign ordinance, pertaining to size.**

Mr. Burrell with Sweeny Head Start Program addressed council asking for a sign variance. They are upgrading Sweeny Head Start and are replacing the existing wooden sign with a new larger (5 x 8) electronic sign. This sign is a little larger than our ordinance allows.

Brian Brooks made a motion to approve the variance to the sign ordinance as presented. Bill

Hayes seconded. All were in favor. Motion carried.

**E. Discuss/ Take Action from Neal Bess Jr.: Share the plans for the \$4,020,000.00 CO 2019 balance for the new water line.**

Mr. Bess addressed council and stated that he called several on council and asked them questions about the water line going in on the southside of Ashley Wilson Rd instead of the northside. He did not get any answers so he would like to know the plan. Mr. Cook explained to him the original plan was to go on the northside. The reason we went on the southside is on the northside we currently have the new sewer line (from 2 years ago), the old (abandon in place) sewer lines, the current water line we are replacing and 3 gas lines. City Manager Mr. Cook got with our engineer at Strand and the contractor, and they all decided to go on the southside.

NO ACTION

**F. Discuss/ Take Action on from Sweeny EDC: 2021-2022 EDC Budget**

Nina Christie presented the Sweeny EDC Budget.

Brian Brooks made a motion to approve the EDC 2021-2022 Budget as presented. Bill Hayes seconded. All were in favor. Motion carried.

**G. Discuss/ Take Action Sweeny EDC: Chapter 93, Section 93.01 Variance for fireworks for 4<sup>th</sup> of July on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July at Sweeny Elementary School and trial run to verify viewing capacity weekend of June 18<sup>th</sup>.**

Wayman Hutchings addressed the council and stated the same plan is in place as was for the Pride Day Fireworks plan. Dr. Hill is on board for them to go off at the Sweeny Elementary School with the safety radiance in place. Mr. Hutchings would like to have a trial run on Thursday or this coming weekend to make sure you can see the fireworks from Backyard Park. Brian Brooks made a motion to approve the variance for fireworks on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July and trial run the weekend of June 18<sup>th</sup>. Sandra Blaine seconded. All were in favor. Motion carried.

**H. Discuss/ Take Action from Sweeny EDC: Block grant for Business Revitalization.**

Nina Christie addressed the council about a \$50,000.00 block grant (from EDC) for businesses on Main Street. This grant would be for exterior only, such as painting, landscaping, new signage etc. With council's approval Sweeny EDC will start applications for businesses. EDC would like to give \$10,000.00 to five businesses or 10 businesses at \$5000.00. Michelle Medina stated there are specifics that our ordinance addresses such as exterior colors.

Brian Brooks made a motion to approve the block grant as presented. Bill Hayes seconded. All were in favor. Motion carried.

6:50 pm

Ms. Mary Lou Nairn arrived. Mr. Cook took a few minutes to update her on what council talked about.

**I. Discuss/ Take Action on Building Code adoption for the city of Sweeny.**

Mr. Cook addressed council and stated that at some point the 2015-16 time frame the adoption of the 2015 building and residential code was put into effect, however there was never a decision

made by council to adopt the new code. Currently our ordinance states we adopt the 2000 international building code. What was adopted was the fire code was adopted to always automatically adopt the most current code that comes out, from our Fire Marshall Devin Lemon. Mr. Cook feels like that request kind of bleed over the other codes such as building, electrical, plumbing, residential, etc. but that is not what our ordinance states. So, this agenda item is to officially adopt the requirements to the 2015 international building code, plumbing code, mechanical code, energy code and fuel gas code. Also, the 2014 international electrical code. Brian Brooks made a motion to adopt the minimum requirements for the 2015 international building code, plumbing code, mechanical code, energy code and fuel gas code and the 2014 international electrical code. John Rambo seconded. All were in favor. Motion carried.

**J. Discuss/ Take Action Cleaning Requirements for Sweeny Senior Center.**

Mr. Cook reiterated to council that we had closed the Senior Center during Covid. Then we opened it to only to Seniors in the morning and voted to clean it every day due to Covid regulations. Then we reopened to all organizations to use with no restrictions. The cleaning service is finding it difficult to clean everyday now and would like direction on when to clean. Mr. Cooks recommendation is once a week, with funds adjusted to how many cleanings. Councilman Rambo suggested two times a week nonconsecutive. Brian Books made a motion to update the Sweeny Senior Center cleaning contract to two times a week nonconsecutive. Bill Hayes seconded. All were in favor. Motion carried.

**K. Discus/ Take Action July 4<sup>th</sup> holiday change from July 2<sup>nd</sup> to July 5<sup>th</sup> for City Personnel and City Hall closure.**

Brian Brooks made a motion to approve the 4<sup>th</sup> of July holiday from July 2<sup>nd</sup> to July 5<sup>th</sup>. Sandra Blaine seconded. All were in favor. Motion carried.

**L. Discuss Take Action on donated services for the City of Sweeny**

Mr. Cook explained to council that he has found in his year and half here as City Manager that there are several “verbal agreements” on some donated services. Mr. Cook wants the council to be aware of them and seeks council’s approval if he is to continue or to stop. He would like to have contracts made for each donated service. Currently the donated services are: 1) Water, sewer and electricity to two power poles at the Bennet-Outlar Ball Park. 2). Two water meters at the Sweeny Cemetery. 3). Water and Sewer at the Girl Scout House. 4). Water and Sewer at the Boy Scout House. 5). A dumpster at Marsh Vet (in exchange for euthanizing cats and dogs). These services totals are approximately \$13,000.00 a year for donated services. Attorney Charlie Stevenson stated the city cannot donate services to a private property. However, we can if it is for public purpose. Most of these are for public purpose.

Brain Brooks made a motion to have city manager make agreements for Babe Ruth, Bennett Outlar, two cemetery accounts and Marsh Veterinary Clinic. John Rambo seconded. All were in favor. Motion carried.

**Close Regular Session: 7:26 pm**

**EXECUTIVE SESSION IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE TEXAS GOVERNMENT  
CODE SECTION §551.071, §511.072 AND §551.074:**

**A. To Discuss: Sweeny Chief of Police Appointment**


**RECONVENE TO REGULAR SESSION: 7:55 pm**

No Action

**9. ITEMS OF COMMUNITY INTEREST**

**10. ADJOURNMENT: 7:57 pm**

PASSED AND APPROVED THIS 20 DAY OF July 2021.



Reatta Minshew, City Secretary