

MINUTES
CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF UNIVERSAL CITY, TEXAS
Regular Meeting, Tuesday, 04 April 2023

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** Mayor John Williams at 6:32 P.M.
2. **QUORUM CHECK:** Kristin Mueller, City Clerk

Present:

Mayor John Williams
Councilmember Steven Buck
Councilmember Bear Goolsby
Councilmember Paul Najarian
Councilmember William Shelby
Councilmember Phil Vaughan

Staff Present:

Kim Turner, City Manager
Megan Santee, City Attorney
Kristin Mueller, City Clerk/Economic Dev. Director
Christina Blumenthal, Library Director
Maribel Garcia, Deputy City Clerk

Virtually Present:

Mayor Pro Tem Richard Neville

Mayor Williams noted a quorum was present.

3. **INVOCATION and PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:**

Councilmember Goolsby gave the invocation. The Pledge of Allegiance to both the United States and Texas flags were led by Mayor Williams.

4. **VOTE TO CONSIDER THE EXCUSE OF ABSENT MAYOR/COUNCILMEMBERS:**

No action was necessary; all councilmembers were present.

5. **AWARDS/PROCLAMATION/INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS:**

Mayor Williams recognized the businesses featured in San Antonio Express-News' "Best of SA" Awards; Gather Brewery, Greener Grooming, and Olympia Hills Golf Course were all top three awardees. He acknowledged the loss of Bryan Hayden who he noted was a spokesman for the CDC and worked closely with his community. Mayor Williams stated the CDC recognized Mr. Hayden's work in the paper.

Cathy Talbert from the Friends of the Library presented a plaque in honor of Doc Roberts who was instrumental in starting the Universal City Library. The Friends of the Library also presented a check for \$27,500 which represented several improvements done by the organization to improve the Library.

Ms. Blumenthal thanked the Friends of the Library for their dedication and expressed appreciation on behalf of herself and the Library staff.

6. **CONSENT AGENDA:**

Mayor Pro Tem Neville motioned to approve the minutes of the March 07, 2023 meeting. Councilmember Shelby seconded the motion.

Vote: Yeas: Neville, Shelby, Buck, Goolsby, Najarian, Vaughan

Nays: None.

Motion to approve carried.

7. CITIZENS TO BE HEARD:

- Bernard Rubal, 635 Balboa Drive, reported that he visited and spoke with business in Northlake Business Park which expressed positive feedback for City developments. He also reported that in speaking with residents, common concerns included speeding in neighborhoods and traffic. He believed posted radars would not help and expressed support for a dedicated traffic officer as well as addressing traffic concerns with more education on solutions.
- Christina Fitzpatrick, 206 Quill Drive, informed Council and the public of developments in her work as the Citizen's Police Academy Special Projects Coordinator. She worked with the Police Chief to create a Junior Citizens Police Academy Heroes Camp where young teens will be able to get practical experience and come out with certificates in CPR and Stop the Bleed. She also said the children would be able to demonstrate what they learned to their parents at the end of the program. She announced it would take place from June 6th through the 10th from 9 A.M. to 4 P.M. The program is limited to twenty kids, targeting kids ages twelve to fourteen. She noted first responders were excited for this program.

8. BUSINESS:

- B. Discuss and Consider Resolution 878-C-2023: A resolution regarding the application of Centerpoint Energy Resources Corp., South Texas Division, to increase rates under the Gas Reliability Infrastructure Program; suspending Centerpoint's proposed effective date for forty-five days; authorizing the City's continued participation in a coalition of cities known as the "Alliance of Centerpoint Municipalities;" determining that the meeting at which the resolution was adopted complied with the Texas Open Meetings Act; making such other findings and provisions related to the subject; and declaring an effective date.**

Mrs. Turner explained that private gas companies, unlike public utilities corporations, can increase fees by either conducting a gas rate study through the Railroad Commission or by conducting a GRIP, which the City would call capital improvements. She said Centerpoint has made capital improvements across their wide jurisdiction and the GRIP is essentially refunding them for the capital improvements they have made to their infrastructure. The GRIP does not go through the Railroad Commission and is a 45-day delay of rate increases for residents. For cities who do not pass this Resolution, the rate increase starts immediately. She noted that the Resolution is created through pro bono legal work, which is why the Resolution looks the same as other cities in the Alliance. She also said this is done every time the opportunity arises.

Councilmember Buck asked how many communities in the Centerpoint service area are taking this delay of rate increases.

Mrs. Turner responded she does not know because the 87 communities they serve are expansive but that she knows several communities in the surrounding area are taking the delay.

Councilmember Buck asked if there was any historical evidence of other communities doing this.

Mrs. Turner said according to the attorneys who drafted the Resolution, most cities do this.

Councilmember Buck asked about history of any Alliance members finding errors in rate

increases by Centerpoint after doing their own reviews, resulting in a change in rates presented to municipalities.

Mrs. Turner answered yes but for the GRIP, attorneys review the paperwork and process for errors. She explained the rate study will occur later the following year, at which time the attorney will not work pro bono but will have a maximum of \$25,000 they can charge each consortium for doing the study. In 2019, Universal City only paid approximately \$1,700 of the \$25,000. Mrs. Turner emphasized that they try to ensure minimal impact on cities. She said she and other municipalities hope legislation will pass requiring companies to reimburse cities for money spent on these verification processes.

Councilmember Buck asked if there were any other benefits of being a part of the Alliance.

Mrs. Turner stated the only benefits were the GRIP and the rate study.

Councilmember Shelby moved to approve Resolution 878-C-2023. Councilmember Najarian seconded the motion.

**Vote: Yeas: Shelby, Najarian, Neville, Buck, Goolsby, Vaughan
Nays: None.**

Motion to approve carried.

C. Discuss and Consider a TexPool Resolution authorizing Council to update the Authorized Representatives on the City's TexPool account.

Mrs. Turner reminded Council of the City's TexPool account and that two members who previously had access to do TexPool work are no longer with the City. She listed those who would have authorization according to the Resolution. She explained the reason for the amount of people who have access to the account being the need for checks and balances.

Mayor Williams noted that Christine Green, the new Finance Director, has a wealth of experience.

Councilmember Najarian moved to pass the TexPool Resolution. Councilmember Shelby seconded the motion.

**Vote: Yeas: Najarian, Shelby, Neville, Buck, Goolsby, Vaughan
Nays: None.**

Motion to approve carried.

9. CITY MANAGER COMMENTS:

Mrs. Turner shared details of the Easter Egg Hunt, Spring Clean-Up, and an update on the recent Brush Clean-Up and future Brush Clean-Up starting April 24th. She said the Splashpad would open April 20th and be a precursor to summer Library activities, which would have some adult programs this year. She informed Council of an upcoming item involving renewal of the Schertz EMS contract. She also addressed the Gateway delay concerns, citing supply chain issues with printing and paper, and a slowdown caused by printing companies being short staffed. She shared the City is exploring alternatives. She informed Council that in March, the golf course had its highest number of rounds since opening and noted that the high attendance rates and lack of rain are leading to wear in grass.

She stated that Olympia Hills Golf Course was beat out by TPC Golf Course and Brackenridge Park Golf Course, leaving third place a prestigious award. She reported that Cimarron Park and Veterans Park have made significant progress and are almost finished.

10. COUNCILMEMBER COMMENTS:

Mayor Pro Tem Neville wished he could physically be in attendance for the meeting but cited lasting effects of COVID-19. He hoped to be able to attend the April 11th Venue Tax Workshop.

Councilmember Goolsby wished everyone a Happy Easter.

Councilmember Buck gave history of March 1983 in which the City established its first Animal Shelter, March 1990 which marked the fluoridization of City water, and March 1991 which started golf course creation discussions. He congratulated the golf course for their award, stating third place was honorable considering the top two. He also stated in 1992 around this time, the City established their recycling waste disposal contract. He thanked the Friends of the Library for their support of the Library. He agreed with Mr. Rubal about speeding concerns and would like an investigation into solutions considering the pertinence of citizen concern. He reminded everyone of the Easter Egg Hunt stating he would be in attendance to guard the eggs. He informed everyone of the Fiesta Happy Hour on April 20th and the April 29th Creek Clean-Up at 9 A.M. at Veterans Park.

Councilmember Najarian recognized the passing of his father, John Najarian, who was a retired Sargent of the Air Force and former proud resident of Universal City. He stated his father was 90 years old when he passed peacefully. He informed everyone of his father funeral on Thursday, April 6th, 2023. He also announced he got engaged and would be at the Egg Hunt with her.

Councilmember Vaughan reminded everyone of the April 11th Venue Tax Workshop and encouraged citizen input.

11. MAYORAL COMMENTS:

Mayor Williams reiterated the April 11th meeting reminder and added it would be from 6 P.M. to 9 P.M to include discussion only. He stated there would be a Citizens to be Heard section. He also informed the public CPS Energy is making meter updates, and that he and Mrs. Turner would be attending State Legislative Session with the Northeast Partnership to express concerns and support on city-related bills. He listed legislators they would speak with and noted that 46 people would be in attendance as part of the Northeast Partnership, which would make an impact. He also recognized all the people who participated in the voting process for the San Antonio Express-News Best of SA awards and said the City should be proud of their awards as a result of public input.

12. ADJOURNMENT: Mayor Williams adjourned the meeting at 7:15 P.M.

APPROVED:

Attest:

John Williams, Mayor

Kristin Mueller, City Clerk