

THE LEVELLAND CITY COUNCIL MET IN REGULAR SESSION ON MONDAY, THE 20TH OF JANUARY 2020 AT LEVELLAND CITY HALL, R. O. DENNIS COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 1709 AVENUE H, WITH THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS PRESENT:

Barbra Pinner	Honorable Mayor	Present
Jim Myatt	Councilmember	Present
Max Ledesma	Mayor Pro-Tem	Present
Breann Buxkemper	Councilmember	Present
Joe Bill Vardeman	Councilmember	Present
Matt Wade	City Attorney	Present
Erik Rejino	City Manager	Present
Beth A. Walls	City Secretary	Present

Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation was given by Mayor Pinner and Chief Albert Garcia.

Statements by Citizens: Several citizens addressed Council

FIRST ITEM OF BUSINESS:

Consider and take necessary action to approve the minutes of the January 6, 2020 meeting.

Motion by Breann Buxkemper

Seconded by Jim Myatt

To approve minutes of the January 6, 2020 meeting.

Motion carried unanimously.

SECOND ITEM OF BUSINESS:

Receive presentation from students participating in Destination Imagination at Levelland Intermediate School regarding bike lanes on city streets.

Mr. Jon Matthews, a teacher at Levelland Intermediate School, reached out to the City about getting on the City Council agenda. He is leading a team of young leaders in Destination Imagination and they have been tasked with doing a community project. Four students came before the City Council to request that a bike lane be painted on a city street.

No Council Action Required.

THIRD ITEM OF BUSINESS:

Consider and take necessary action on Resolution 2020-01 to order and establish procedure for the May 2020, City of Levelland General City Election.

The City of Levelland general election date will be Saturday, May 2, 2020.

Resolution No. 2020-1 calls for a General Election for one Council member from District A and one from District C. The resolution also addresses the filing dates for the candidates, early voting, designated polling place, dates and times.

Motion by Breann Buxkemper

Seconded by Max Ledesma

To approve Resolution 2020-01 to order and establish procedure for the May 2020, City of Levelland General City Election.

Motion carried unanimously.

FOURTH ITEM OF BUSINESS:

Consider and take necessary action on the quarterly investment report for the quarter ending on December 31, 2019.

Motion by Joe Bill Vardeman

Seconded by Breann Buxkemper

To approve the quarterly investment report for quarter ending on December 31, 2019.

Motion carried unanimously.

FIFTH ITEM OF BUSINESS:

Consider and take necessary action on Resolution 2020-02 authorizing the submission of a grant application for funding through the Economic Development Administration.

The LEDC board met earlier this week to consider making a recommendation to the City Council regarding the submission of an Economic Development Administration Grant through the U.S. Department of Commerce.

The LEDC would like to make additional infrastructure improvements including water, sewer, and road improvements on the north side of the rail park. Accordingly, the LEDC is recommending that the City submit a grant application to the EDA for funding to help with the additional infrastructure improvements. The grant program requires a dollar for dollar match which the LEDC is willing to provide if the City applies and receives a grant. These infrastructure improvements will not only help EnviroTech, which will be located on the north part of the rail park, but they will also help bring additional lots online on the north part of the rail park making them “shovel ready” for future projects.

Also, as Council knows, the City and LEDC recently received a Texas Capital Fund Grant in the amount of \$625,000 to assist with building a rail spur for EnviroTech in the Levelland Industrial Rail Park. The grant for this project can be used as match for the EDA grant which reduces the amount of the actual local match for the LEDC. This is another reason to move forward with an EDA grant at this time.

Motion by Joe Bill Vardeman
Seconded by Breann Buxkemper
To approve Resolution 2020-02
Motion carried unanimously.

SIXTH ITEM OF BUSINESS:

Advising City Council on Mayor’s appointments to the Levelland Housing Authority Board.

The Levelland Housing Authority Board consists of five members appointed by the Mayor for two year terms. The purpose of this board is to oversee the Levelland Housing Authority (LHA) and assure that there are safe and sanitary dwelling accommodations for families of low income. The LHA operates public housing units funded through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. Current board members are as follows:

Board Member	Term Expires
Jody Rose	2021
Cindy Terzenbach	2021
Vacant	2020
Lisa Hanna	2020
Ray Pardo	2020

Billy Youngblood has resigned from the board and has left a vacancy on the board. Mayor Pinner has appointed Butch Wade to fill the unexpired term of Billy Youngblood which expires later this year.

No Council Action Required.

SEVENTH ITEM OF BUSINESS:

Consider and take necessary action on Resolution 2020-03 authorizing the establishment of an Animal Services Task Force.

At this time city staff is recommending that the City Council establish an Animal Services Task Force to assist the City with evaluating the policies and procedures of animal control and the animal shelter.

Following this memo is a copy of a resolution that would establish such a task force. Similar to our previous two task forces we are proposing seven (7) members.

In the resolution the Animal Services Task Force is proposed to be made up of the following individuals.

- Two members from two separate animal welfare organizations.
- One member from a licensed veterinarian.
- One member from the Levelland City Council.
- Two members that are residents of the City of Levelland and are not affiliated with any animal rescue or animal humane organizations.
- One member that lives outside the municipal boundaries of the City of Levelland but within Hockley -County.

In addition, the resolution also specifies that they shall help the City review policies and procedures in the following areas:

- The City's Animal Control Division
- The City's Animal Shelter
- The use of volunteers and non-profit animal rescue/welfare organizations in support of the City's animal control responsibilities.
- Any other function or duty as requested or directed by the City Council or deemed advisable by the City Manager relating to the City's Animal Control Division.

The first step is to consider establishing the Animal Services Task Force. The next step would then be to appoint members to the task force, likely at the next meeting.

Motion by Breann Buxkemper

Seconded by Jim Myatt

To approve Resolution 2020-03 authorizing the establishment of an Animal Services Task Force.

Motion carried unanimously.

EIGHTH ITEM OF BUSINESS:

Consider and take necessary action directing staff to take appropriate action securing solid waste utility service for the City including the authority to extend the current solid waste/garbage service contract or issue requests for proposals for solid waste utility service.

At the last meeting Council held work session to discuss the future of garbage service in Levelland. Since our last meeting I have issued additional supplemental information to Council regarding additional garbage providers as well as a copy of a revised extension offer from Republic. At this time City staff is asking Council to take action to authorize the next steps.

Council at this time has two options. One option is to extend the contract with Republic based on the terms they have outlined in their most recent offer. Another option that Council has is to proceed with issuing a request for proposals.

Motion by Breann Buxkemper

Seconded by Jim Myatt

To direct staff to seek requests for proposals for solid waste utility service.

Motion failed with Buxkemper and Myatt for; Vardeman and Ledesma against. Mayor Barbra Pinner decided the tie with a vote against.

Motion by Joe Bill Vardeman

Seconded by Max Ledesma

To direct staff to extend the contract with Republic based on the terms outlined in Republic's letter dated January 15, 2020.

Motion carried with Buxkemper and Myatt against; Vardeman and Ledesma for. Mayor Barbra Pinner decided the tie with a vote in favor.

NINTH ITEM OF BUSINESS:

Consider and take necessary action on Resolution 2020-04 denying Southwestern Public Service Company's proposed increase in rates.

On August 8th Southwestern Public Service (SPS) filed an application to increase its base revenues and on September 20th it updated the filing to reflect an increase in base revenue of approximately \$136.5 million which represents an increase in base revenue of 24.4 percent.

In August the City of Levelland along with other cities approved a resolution to suspend SPS's proposed rates to allow time to review their request.

As we have indicated before, the Alliance of Xcel Municipalities (AXM) is made up of approximately 80 cities across West Texas and the Panhandle that are in the Southwest Power Pool and served by SPS. These cities, including Levelland, have original jurisdiction within their City to set electric rates. The AXM Steering Committee is made up of approximately 12 cities which help guide the direction of and represent all AXM cities, particularly in rate cases and negotiations. Levelland has a seat on the AXM Steering Committee.

Since suspending SPS's request the AXM Steering Committee has worked with legal counsel, Herrera & Boyle, PLLC, to assess and discuss the direction to take on SPS' recent application to increase rates. The AXM Steering Committee has not reached terms with SPS regarding their proposed rate increase and the suspension of the rates expires on January 25th.

At this time the AXM Steering Committee and its legal counsel is recommending that the City approve a resolution denying SPS's rate increase request. If the City denies the rate increase, SPS will appeal the decision to the Public Utility Commission which will then be the deciding factor on the rates.

Motion by Breann Buxkemper

Seconded by Jim Myatt

To approve Resolution 2020-04 denying Southwestern Public Service Company's proposed increase in rates.

Motion carried unanimously.

TENTH ITEM OF BUSINESS:

Convene into executive session in accordance with Texas Gov't Code, Section 551.087, to discuss or deliberate regarding commercial or financial information that the city council has received from a business prospect that the city council seeks to have locate, stay, or expand in or near the City of Levelland and with which the city council is conducting economic development negotiations; and to deliberate the offer of a financial or other incentive to such business prospect.

The mayor declared the meeting was going into executive session at 7:40 p.m.

Council returned to open session at 8:12 p.m.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 8:15p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Beth A Walls, TRMC, IPMA-SCP, CPM, City Secretary