

Minutes

City Council – Regular City Council Meeting

CITY OF SIMONTON

July 16, 2024

This is a true and correct copy of the Minutes of the City Council – Regular Meeting of the Simonton City Council held on July 16, 2024 at 6:31 p.m.

1. **Call to Order**

A quorum was present with the following City Councilmembers in attendance:

Laurie Boudreaux, Kelli Matula, Courtney Cox, Faith Haley, Justin Boudreau, and Burns Turner

City Staff present:

City Secretary Nanci Mohr

Consultant, Janie Willman

Olson and Olson Attorney Philip Boedeker

Public Present:

Dan McJunkin

2. **Invocation and Pledge**

Mayor Boudreaux gave the invocation.

Mayor Boudreaux led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. **Introduction of New City Secretary Nanci Mohr**

Mayor Boudreaux introduced new City Secretary Nanci Mohr, provided a summary of Mrs. Mohr's background, and welcomed her to the City.

4. **Acknowledgement and Thanks to Simonton Volunteers; Neighbors Helping Neighbors!**

Mayor Boudreaux thanked community members for their assistance during and after Hurricane Beryl. Mayor Boudreaux thanked "Skid" for delivering water and cutting tree limbs; Bubba Mullins and Brett Boudreaux transporting water from storage to City Hall for distribution to the community; Council Member Kelli Matula, Council Member Burns Turner, and Erica Molina for water distribution assistance; Council Member Justin Boudreau for performing damage surveys, assessments and advising of road conditions; and Tracy Harless for tree limb removal before Fort Bend County Road and Bridge arrived to assist.

5. **Public Comments**

In accordance with Texas Open Meetings Act and Texas Government Code 551.007, City Council may not discuss or take action on any item NOT listed on the Agenda. Each member of the public wishing to speak must sign-up prior to the meeting and is limited to 3 minutes.

There were no speakers to address the City Council.

6. **Consider and take action on the Consent Agenda**

Items listed under the Consent Agenda are considered routine and are generally enacted in one motion. The exception to this rule occurs when a Council Member requests one or more items removed from the Consent Agenda for separate discussion and action.

- a. Draft City Council Meeting Minutes of June 25, 2024 Special Session Meeting
Draft City Council Meeting Minutes of July 2, 2024 Regular Meeting
- b. Monthly Finance Reports for May 2024
Council Report, May 2024
Payment Report, May 2024
- c. Consider and take action approving the Certification of the Preliminary Tax Rolls Value for the City of Simonton from the Fort Bend County Appraisal District

Mayor Boudreaux removed items (a) and (c) from consideration because those items are not final. The City has not received all of the information from the Fort Bend County Appraisal District.

Motion by Council Member/Mayor Pro Tem Cox to table items pending revisions to the Finance Reports. Council Member Haley seconded the motion.

Ayes: Five

Noes: None

Motion was unanimously approved.

7. **New Business**

- a. Mayoral Extension of Emergency Declaration Arising from Hurricane Beryl.

A brief discussion ensued regarding whether the extension should be made to encompass it in the Fort Bend County Survey and whether the survey included items, for example, agriculture. City Attorney Boedeker spoke to why the extension was favorable, as it provides more time for outside (i.e., county) emergency response resources to the City of Simonton, as well as supporting the county in their operations and funding efforts.

Mayor Boudreaux read aloud Proposed Ordinance No. 2024-05 extending the Emergency Declaration Arising from Hurricane Beryl.

Ayes: Five

Noes: None

Motion was unanimously approved.

- b. Acknowledge Mayor's Report on City of Simonton Status related to Hurricane Beryl.

Mayor Boudreaux provided a status of the City's operations in the aftermath of Hurricane Beryl. Mayor Boudreaux stated that City Hall did not sustain damage, the power worked as expected, and we were able to support the community with bottled water needs. Mayor Boudreaux stated that Fort Bend County pick up had already started and that they will run on a longer schedule than they had originally anticipated. It is estimated that Fort Bend County will be back in two (2) weeks for another debris pick up.

- c. Receive Mayor's Report on City Hall ARPA Expansion Construction Work.

Mayor Boudreaux stated that the plumbing in the fire bay has been roughed in, and the earth inspection has been completed and passed. She stated that it is her understanding that concrete pouring will wait until the slab. Mayor Boudreaux thanked Interim City Secretary Janie Willman for her persistence in locating the appropriate AT&T technicians and personnel; LJA has been to

City Hall to assess rerouting of fiber optic cables, which has been completed and approved. Within two weeks, AT&T is expected to run a new fiber line from the road, along the west side of the driveway and through the back of the existing building. The line needs to be rerouted prior to the foundation digging and pouring for the building addition.

Mayor Boudreaux stated that the project will be five to six weeks behind schedule due to the delay in the foundation digging, but that the steel for the new building has been ordered and that schedule is on track. She stated that as soon as AT&T has completed their work and our connectivity is restored, then the project will be ready to commence.

- d. Consider and take action ratifying Service Upgrade with ATT Contract Related to Fiber Optic Cable Project required to continue with City Hall ARPA Expansion Construction Work.

Mayor Boudreaux referred Council to the proposed AT&T contract in their Council packets for review. She stated that AT&T will run a new line versus trying to splice a line at no cost to the city.

There was a brief discussion of additional communications services that the city continues to carry (i.e., T-Mobile Hotspot) and necessity of same under the Redundancy Plan, but we will look back at that at a later date. Mayor Boudreaux pointed out that the city will double its megabyte speed and port speed under AT&T's new quote. She stated that the city is upgrading to true VOIP telephone for approximately \$5 per month, versus the landline service we currently have in place.

Ayes: Five

Noes: None

Motion was unanimously approved/passed.

- e. Consider and take action on Board Appointments to Simonton Economic Development Corporation (EDC) Type A Board.

Mayor Boudreaux provided a brief introduction of this Item (e) and Item (f) below stating that Mr. Paul "Dub" Sabrsula, Jr. volunteered to be on the Economic Development Corporation (EDC) Board and that he would obtain other volunteers willing to serve on same. The list of Candidates was included in Council's packet and reviewed and read aloud. Mayor Boudreaux stated that we need to rely on the Boards to invest their time, effort and abilities to serve on the Boards, and to provide them with the support and training that they require.

Motion made by Council Member/Mayor Pro Tem Cox to table this item until the volunteers could be representative of themselves and to get EDC A "under our feet as it was just two months ago reestablished." Council Member/Mayor Pro Tem Cox stated that the Bylaws state that it is Council's responsibility, not Mr. Sabrsula's, to govern the EDC. Mayor Boudreaux requested City Attorney Boedeker to clarify the Bylaws with respect to Council's governance of the Boards.

City Attorney Boedeker reiterated that City Council is not required to serve as the EDC Board. Mayor Boudreaux reiterated that all Board volunteers either live in Simonton or have businesses in Simonton and that they are willing to serve.

Motion to table acknowledged. Motion died for lack of a second.

Motion to Pass by Council Member Matula; seconded by Council Member Burns.

Ayes: Three.

Noes: Two. Motion Passed.

- f. Consider and take action on Board Appointments to Simonton Economic Development Corporation (EDC) Type B Board.

Mayor Boudreaux read aloud the list of Possible EDC Board B Candidates and provided a summary of their ties to the community. Council Member/Mayor Pro Tem Cox questioned whether EDC B had active Articles of Incorporation; City Attorney Boedeker confirmed same.

Motion to Pass by Council Member Matula; seconded by Council Member Boudreau.

Ayes: Five

Noes: None

Motion unanimously passed.

- g. Consider and take action acknowledging return of the Planning Calendar provided by Fort Bend County for the adoption of the Tax Rate for the 2024-2025 Fiscal Year.

Mayor Boudreaux explained that the County provides the calendar and that the City completes the green highlighted boxes by working backwards when the budget is completed.

No formal action required. Receipt acknowledged for administrative purposes.

- h. Consider and take action acknowledging receipt of the Planning Calendar for the adoption of the City of Simonton's 2024-2025 Budget.

Review of proposed calendars. There was brief discussion of meeting dates. No formal action required. Receipt acknowledged.

- i. Receive City Council Meeting Schedule Update through September 30, 2024.

Mayor Boudreaux stated that a separate schedule was not prepared and therefore this Agenda Item (i) could be skipped.

- j. Receive Texas Pride Service Update, agenda item requested by Council Member Faith

Mayor Boudreaux explained the issues with the postal service affecting delivery of trash stickers. Council Member/Mayor Pro Tem Cox requested a new bid (RFP) or, in the alternative, that this issue be placed on a future agenda.

8. Adjourn to Executive Session

Executive Session Pursuant to Chapter 551 of the Texas Government Code for purposes of Consultation with Legal Counsel (551.071) regarding Personnel (Section 551.074) regarding the Appointment, Employment, and Duties of the City Administrator and City Secretary.

The City Council adjourned into Executive Session at 7:18 p.m.

9. Reconvene to Open Session

The City Council reconvened into Open Session at 7:43 p.m.

10. Consider and take action resulting from Executive Session

The City Council may take any action resulting from Executive Session related to Personnel (Section 551.074) regarding the Appointment, Employment, and Duties of the City Administrator and City Secretary.

It was announced that there was no action to be taken arising from the Executive Session at this time.

9. Reports

a. Mayor

a.1. Update on Election Cost

a.2. TML 2024 Conference Registration, <https://tmlconference.org>

a.3. Miscellaneous

b. City Staff

c. City Council

10. Next City Council Meeting is on August 6, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.

11. Adjournment

The Mayor adjourned the City Council Meeting at 7:47 p.m. without objection.

Respectfully submitted,



Mayor Laurie Boudreaux



Nanci Mohr, City Secretary

