

YOLANDA FORD
Mayor

VASHAUNDRA EDWARDS
Councilmember at Large Position No. 1

CHRIS PRESTON
Mayor Pro Tem
Councilmember at Large Position No. 2



CHERYL STERLING
Councilmember District A
JEFFREY L. BONEY
Councilmember District B
ANTHONY G. MAROULIS
Councilmember District C
FLOYD EMERY
Councilmember District D

CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

The City Council of the City of Missouri City, Texas, met in special session on **Monday, March 2, 2020**, at the City Hall, Council Chamber, 1522 Texas Parkway, Missouri City, Texas, 77489, at **5:30 p.m.** to consider the following:

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Ford called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

Those also present: Mayor Pro Tem Preston, Councilmembers Edwards, Sterling, Boney, Maroulis, and Emery; City Attorney Iyamu, City Secretary Jackson, Assistant City Manager Atkinson, Assistant City Manager Martel, Director of Public Works Kumar, Director of Financial Services Portis, Director of Human Resources and Organizational Development Russell, Director of Communications Walker, Media Specialist II Sanders, and Media Specialist II Kalimkootil. Also present: Mead Mitchell of TBG Partners.

2. DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE ACTION

(a) Discuss corridor enhancement/beautification project.

Director of Public Works Kumar presented on the Phase I Landscape Improvements along Texas Parkway and Cartwright, the Phase II Reader Signs, and the Phase III Red Carpet Run around the City Hall entrance at FM 2234. Kumar stated the original budgeted cost was \$2.5 million, and as of February 28, 2020, the current cost was \$2,369,155.00. Staff recommends moving forward with what we currently have.

Councilmember Sterling inquired about the location of the monument sign on Gregory Lane. Kumar explained where the signs were on Gregory Lane. Councilmember Emery asked if the area in front of Houston Community College would have an open ditch. Kumar stated they would keep the open ditch and would shift the walk path further west of the ditch. Emery asked who would maintain it. Kumar stated the City would have to maintain it as they were installing it. Councilmember Sterling asked if the project was initiated by the City. Kumar stated it was and the concept was approved by City Council in June 2017.

Councilmember Boney asked if the trees that would be removed would be rerouted to another area. Kumar noted the project was managed by TX DOT and he would reach out to them to see if the option exists. Boney stated he would like to know if the option exists as he has areas that have expressed interest. Mead Mitchell stated it was determined that the trees removed had reached their maximum life span. Councilmember Emery asked Director of Communications Walker how the public would be notified of the removal of trees. Director Walker stated a news release was being prepared and would be sent out tomorrow. Kumar noted they had sent out information to the public in early January. Councilmember Maroulis requested that the total amount of trees planted last year be included in the news release.

(b) Discuss civil service process and frequently asked questions.

Assistant City Manager Atkinson presented an overview on the civil service proposition. Director of Financial Services Portis presented financial information regarding question number 9 on the FAQ document placed

in the agenda packet. She noted that civil service would have an impact on the City's budget. Councilmember Maroulis asked if the current chain of command for the Police Department would stay the same or if they would hire a new Assistant Police Chief. City Attorney Iyamu noted it would depend on the number of chiefs the City had in 1984 which would determine a need for another Assistant Police Chief. Councilmember Emery asked if line of duty illness and injuries would receive up to one year of paid leave. Portis stated that was correct and with workman's compensation, the employee would receive their full salary and the City would be reimbursed. Councilmember Maroulis asked if more equipment would be required under civil service. City Attorney Iyamu stated there would not be.

- (c) Discuss the procurement of executive search firm services.

Director of Human Resources and Organizational Development Russell presented on the process for an RFP to select the next City Manager. He noted he had received one executive search firm proposal, which amounted up to \$16,000, and he would know within the next two weeks the amount of firms available for Council to review. City Council then would decide which firms would present their proposals. Mayor Ford asked if they would be provided with a spreadsheet of each of the firm's costs. Russell stated he would.

Councilmember Sterling asked if the Human Resources Department was capable of doing the search. Russell stated they would be able to advertise for the position, but for the in-depth process, the department would not be able to capture all the in-depth resources. Sterling asked if they could reach out to City Manager organizations or research some of those organizations. Mayor Ford stated that perhaps a portion of the search could be done in house and have the background check be done by a firm. Russell noted the department did not have media resources capabilities.

Councilmember Emery asked if past search firms would be used as well. Russell stated the proposal was sent out to seven search firms last week and those proposals would be presented before City Council for review and consideration. He added that the RFP would be extended to more than the seven firms he reached out to. Councilmember Emery asked if they were limiting to search within the state of Texas only. Russell stated the search would be nationwide.

Councilmember Sterling stated that she believed the City should still reach out to organizations. Russell noted they utilize Neogov for employee recruitment. Assistant City Manager Atkinson noted many of the firms that do the searches provide a guarantee of two years in the event that one of their candidates does not work out, they would do the next search free. Ford asked how long would the proposal would be posted. Russell stated the RFP would be posted for two weeks. Emery asked if City Council would establish the timeframe and/or schedule. Russell stated it would determine by the Council.

3. CLOSED EXECUTIVE SESSION

After proper notice was given pursuant to the Texas Open Meetings Act, the City Council went into Executive Session at 6:05 p.m.

Texas Government Code, Section 551.071 – Consultation with attorney to seek or receive legal advice regarding pending or contemplated litigation, a settlement offer, or on a matter which the duty of the attorney to the City under the Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct of the State Bar of Texas clearly conflicts with Texas Open Meetings Act: March 2, 2020 Regular meeting agenda item 7(a)(2) relating to a proposed specific use permit for a place of assembly.

Texas Government Code, Section 551.074 – Deliberations concerning the appointment, employment, evaluation, reassignment, duties, discipline or dismissal of a public officer or employee: the city manager.

4. RECONVENE

At 6:51 p.m., City Council reconvened into open session.

Councilmember Boney moved to select Bill Atkinson as Interim City Manager until a City Manager was hired. Councilmember Sterling seconded. **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

5. ADJOURN

The special City Council meeting adjourned at 6:52 p.m.

Minutes PASSED AND APPROVED this the _____ day of _____ 2020.

Maria Jackson, City Secretary