

ROBIN J. ELACKATT
Mayor

VASHAUNDRA EDWARDS
Councilmember at Large Position No. 1

LYNN CLOUSER
Councilmember at Large Position No. 2



CHERYL STERLING
Councilmember District A
JEFFREY L. BONEY
Councilmember District B
ANTHONY G. MAROULIS
Mayor Pro Tem
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, April 12, 2021**, at the City Hall, Council Chamber, 2nd Floor, 1522 Texas Parkway, Missouri City, Texas, 77489, at **5:30 p.m.** to consider the following:

Due to the COVID 19 Disaster and the Center for Disease Control's recommendation regarding social distancing measures, the Mayor, City Council, City Staff members, and members of the public were not physically present during this meeting. The meeting was made possible through the cloud-based video conferencing platform Zoom.

1. ROLL CALL

Mayor Pro Tem Maroulis called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

Those also present: Councilmembers Edwards, Clouser, Sterling, Boney, and Emery; City Manager Jones, City Attorney Iyamu, City Secretary Jackson, Assistant City Manager Atkinson, Assistant City Manager Martel, Director of Communications Walker, Fire Chief Partida and Director of Financial Services Portis. Mayor Elackatt arrived at 6:14 p.m.

2. DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE ACTION

(a) Discuss the proposed 2021 bond election measures, process, and citizen committee.

Assistant City Manager Atkinson presented on the proposed 2021 bond election measures, process, and citizen committee. Atkinson noted the latest date they could call the election would be August 16, 2021.

Councilmember Boney asked if they were to appoint members at the April 19, 2021 City Council meeting and if the City had solicited applications. Atkinson stated they had not and were seeking feedback from Council. He noted they still had a week or two to do so. Boney inquired how many members of the bond committee were slated and who it consisted of. Atkinson explained the process from 2014, such as the Mayor and At-Large City Councilmembers recommended four candidates each and the District City Councilmembers recommended three candidates each for consideration. Boney believes they could not do this by next Monday and suggested Council come up with a process. Councilmember Emery agreed that timing might not work and suggested talking points for when they contact potential members.

Councilmember Clouser asked if Council thought 22 members were needed on the committee. Boney felt it would be a good representation of the City. Councilmember Sterling agreed with Boney. Mayor Pro Tem Maroulis thought the number was fine in case there were absences. Maroulis asked if the committee would meet in person or over Zoom. Atkinson stated they would take lead from Council. Sterling asked to have a Plan B for the June 10 Bond Committee open house due to COVID. She also suggested they include HOAs in the open house.

Councilmember Edwards asked about the new avenues chosen to disseminate information. Emery asked if they could consider running live meetings so that residents could be included. City Manager Jones suggested making appointments at the May 3 City Council meeting. He suggested marketing through all their media outlets that way they provide citizens several weeks of notice. Jones stated they would also

bring back a new proposed schedule and could have a virtual meeting to include citizens in the open house. Edwards suggested that MCTV video the meetings so that residents could be aware of what they would be voting on. Jones added they could also do a news release. Boney suggested having multiple open houses. Jones stated they could add a virtual open house. Edwards suggested having a Frequently Asked Questions document. Emery stated they should also consider having the open houses on different sides of Missouri City. Boney requested talking points in order to provide details of the bond committee. Jones stated they would provide it to Council through their dropbox. Atkinson clarified they would bring the item back for appointments at the May 3 City Council meeting.

Councilmember Boney moved to move forward with the proposed 2021 bond election measures, process, and citizen committee. Councilmember Emery seconded. **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Ayes: Mayor Pro Tem Maroulis, Councilmember Edwards, Councilmember Clouser, Councilmember Sterling, Councilmember Boney, and Councilmember Emery
Nays: None
Absent: Mayor Elackatt

- (b) Discuss a request for a working relationship between the City of Missouri City and the Fort Bend Houston Super Neighborhood No. 41 Council.

City Attorney Iyamu presented on the Fort Bend Houston Super Neighborhood No. 41 Council. Councilmember Boney stated the individual who reached out was no longer president and this may be a mute conversation. He added there was a larger governing body and he does not know if they could come to the City and make this request. Boney stated that he considers this was for the City of Houston; and, noted the interests of Missouri City and Houston were different. He believes it was his understanding they would not move forward. Iyamu stated the request came through the president of the neighborhood and that the person who holds the title could make the request.

Jacquelyn Pipkins, 15110 Steeplechase, stated it was a transition period for Fort Bend County/Houston Super Neighborhood No. 41 Council and noted this was not the time to consider. Pipkins stated no one person could speak on behalf of the whole organization.

Councilmember Edwards stated they were making a decision based on what was presented to them. Edwards thanked Ms. Pipkins and Councilmember Boney for their comments.

- (c) Discuss a proposed ordinance establishing a council notification process for significant incidents.

City Attorney Iyamu noted the item was requested by Councilmember Sterling and that the proposed ordinance would establish a specific timeline for appointed officials to provide City Council with information regarding certain incidents. She added that per the Personnel Policy, Council had instituted a requirement by which appointed officials were to notify the Mayor within 24 hours and City Council by the next posted City Council meeting of any incidents that relate to personnel matters. Iyamu stated this item would add a new rule in Chapter 2 of the Missouri City Code requiring the City Secretary, City Manager and City Attorney to provide similar notification for significant incidents including potential litigation and potential conflict with members of Council.

Iyamu asked what they would like to see in the ordinance as it relates to the level of "significant incidents." Councilmember Sterling stated policies would assist them in making informed decisions and thanked Iyamu for working on this item.

At 6:14 p.m., Mayor Elackatt arrived at the meeting.

Councilmember Clouser asked if Iyamu could inform them of what she found from other cities. Iyamu stated she only found a few cities with such policies that mostly related to Public Safety events requiring the City Manager to make the notification, while others require the Director of Public Safety to make the notification to Council. City Manager Jones stated he was fine with the proposed language. Councilmember Edwards did not see how this policy could harm City Council. She spoke about what neighboring cities were not doing and that they should make the first step.

Mayor Elackatt asked if they had a policy in place on when staff notifies City Council of potential litigation. Iyamu stated pending litigation was brought before Council once a quarter. Councilmember Boney suggested removing Section 4, Penalty. Iyamu states she would remove the language.

Councilmember Sterling stated the ordinance was to request anything that affects the Council body should be alerted ahead of time. Elackatt stated they should provide appointed officials clarity on what items should be brought to Council. Councilmember Edwards listed items such as being informed of major news conferences, emergency, ethical issues, budget management and public safety incident. She noted it should not have to pertain to a personal issue as long as it was not affiliated with the City. Boney thanked Edwards for her comments and added the ordinance needed more details. Elackatt stated the policy should be made so that it dictates how they operate. Jones proposed the consideration of an ethics commission for such items to be naturally flushed out. He added that having a commission would assist in evaluating the ordinance and submit recommendations. Clouser asked when Iyamu would have information pertaining to other cities policies. Iyamu stated she would have it within the next week or the May 3 City Council meeting.

3. ADJOURN

The special City Council meeting adjourned at 6:51 p.m.

Minutes PASSED AND APPROVED this the 3rd day of May 2021.

Maria Jackson, City Secretary